Examine the option of transferring the Junior High student population from Donkin Complex to Oceanview Education Center and consolidate the Primary to grade 6 students from Donkin and Gowrie Elementary Schools at Gowrie Elementary School.

Considerations

Donkin-Gowrie Complex is a single administrative unit operating from two school buildings. The Gowrie Elementary School building was constructed in 1960 and was expanded with an addition in 1974. The facility has 13164 sq. ft. of space with 9 classrooms. Over time, enrolment has declined (118 in 1996 to 37 in 2012) and classroom spaces were converted to provide a library, music room and lunch room. While Gowrie Elementary School is situated in a rural community, it does not qualify for either the isolated school or the small school grant under the Hogg Funding Formula.

The Donkin Elementary /Junior High School was constructed in 1964 as a Primary to grade 12 facility. In the early 1990’s the high school students were transferred to Glace Bay High School and portions of the old Donkin school building were demolished. In 2007, the gymnasium was replaced. The 51,508 sq. ft. facility has a capacity of 325 students. In 2012-13 ninety-five (95) students attended the Donkin Elementary /Junior High School. As the Donkin facility was in need of refurbishment, the school board applied for and was granted a capital funding project of one million dollars to improve the facility. The project is underway during the 2013-14 school year.

Currently, Donkin Elementary School students are being instructed in multi-graded classrooms as are their grade level counterparts at Gowrie Elementary School.

An opportunity exists to put the two elementary school student populations together at Gowrie Elementary and transfer the Junior High School students from Donkin to Oceanview Education Center.

To realize this scenario, a school capital construction project would need to be generated to refurbish the Gowrie Elementary School facility and add program spaces including a gym, cafeteria, music room and educational resource spaces.

Donkin Elementary /Junior High School would need to be identified for a future school review process.