Examine the option of converting Memorial High School from a grade 10-12 school to a Grade 9-12 school.

Examine the option of constructing a new 'Middle School' comprised of grades 6-8 to replace Thompson Junior High School and Sydney Mines Junior High School and transferring grade 6 students from Seton, Ferrisview, Jubilee and St. Joseph's to the new facility along with grades 7 and 8 from Thompson and Sydney Mines.

Reconfigure Dr. T. L. Sullivan Junior High to a primary to grade 8 school facility to include all primary to grade 8 students from Florence as well as Grades 6-8 students from Bras d'Or and Boularderie.

After defining school boundaries for Boularderie and Bras d'Or and enforcing school boundaries for these areas, reconfigure Boularderie and Bras d'Or into primary to grade 5 schools.

Examine the option of establishing St. Joseph's Elementary as the primary to grade 5 school for the town of Sydney Mines.

Examine the option of housing all primary to grade 5 students within the town of North Sydney at either Ferrisview Elementary School or Seton Elementary School.

**Considerations**

This scenario is an attempt to address facility needs for all of the schools within the Northside Family of Schools with a new grade level configuration predominantly of P-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

Memorial High School – Kids and Learning First identified grade 9 as a critical transition year that if redesigned could better prepare students for high school. Memorial High School is positioned to welcome grade 9 students into a newly configured facility. If such a configuration were to occur for the 2014-15 school year, it is estimated that there would be 1025 students which is still about 325 students below the estimated capacity for Memorial High School. This portion of the scenario parallels Looking Inward scenario 6 from a grade 9-12 grade level configuration perspective.

A New Grade 6-8 Middle School - A consulting engineer's report completed for the Board in the fall of 2012 compared the estimated costs associated with conducting capital repairs on the Junior High Schools in Sydney Mines, North Sydney and Bras d'Or. The estimates for upgrades to Thompson and Sydney Mines Junior High Schools were in excess of 10 million dollars each to provide safe, secure instructionally appropriate learning environments for several generations of school students in the future.

An opportunity exists to identify a school capital construction project (a new Middle School) for the students of North Sydney and Sydney Mines. In the process, two of the ten oldest buildings in the board would be replaced. If the school was constructed on the basis of the 2014-15 student population the new facility would be built to house 400 students. The Board would need to consider whether the Late French Immersion Program would be housed at Dr. T.L. Sullivan or at the new facility. This portion of SAC scenario 18 parallels Scenario 8 from Looking Inward.
Reconfigure Dr. T.L. Sullivan to a primary to grade 8 school facility – With the inclusion of a scenario to construct a new Middle School for the Northside (grades 6-8) excess space will continue to exist at Dr. T.L. Sullivan. An opportunity exists to reconfigure Dr. T.L. Sullivan from a grade 7-9 school to a primary to grade 8 facility to house the Florence Elementary students as well as the grade 6-8 students from the Bras d’Or School and Boularderie School catchment areas.

Estimated enrolment for a primary to grade 8 school at Dr. T.L. Sullivan for 2014-15 would be 322 students. Consideration to include Florence in a newly configured school at Dr. T.L. Sullivan would result in the need to identify Florence Elementary for inclusion in a future school review process.

Bras d’Or and Boularderie Schools – Upon the closure of the Mill Creek School many students in that catchment area opted to attend Bras d’Or Elementary School. Some students from the Millville area also elected to attend Bras d’Or school. This portion of the Northside Family of Schools SAC scenario 18 calls for a clarification of and an enforcement of school boundaries for Boularderie and Bras d’Or Elementary Schools. Both Boularderie and Bras d’Or would then be reconfigured into primary to grade 5 schools. For the 2014-15 school year if this scenario were implemented, Boularderie School would have approximately 70 students while Bras d’Or would house approximately 240 students in grades Primary to grade 5.

St. Joseph’s Elementary School in Sydney Mines – In this portion of the scenario St. Joseph’s Elementary School is identified as the preferred location to house grade primary to grade 5 elementary school students in the town of Sydney Mines. By 2014-15 the P-5 enrolment is projected to be 342 if Jubilee and St. Joseph’s students were housed under one roof.

In 1989 the front section of St. Joseph’s was fully reconstructed creating a new administration area, gymnasium, library and the development of several excellent Special Education facilities. There is a large safe drop off area, extra land for future development and a newly constructed playground valued at in excess of $100,000. Adoption of this portion of the scenario would mean that Jubilee would be surplus to the long term facility requirements of the Board and a decision with respect to the lease would be required.

North Sydney Elementary Schools- Ferrisview and Seton – This SAC scenario suggests that either Seton Elementary or Ferrisview Elementary could be utilized as a P-5 facility to house students from these North Sydney schools in a newly configured P-5 instructional environment.

While Seton has 17 classroom spaces spread throughout the 1950 and 1975 wings only 12 classrooms are identified in calculating the capacity of this school facility. If the school was to be utilized as the P-5 school facility for all North Sydney P-5 students in 2014-15 329 students would require accommodation exceeding the existing capacity. Consideration would have to be given to requesting a school capital construction project to provide improved support service spaces including a cafeteria, library, learning resource and technology centers. A general refurbishment of the 1975 wing should also be a consideration along with the dismantling of the 1950's wing.

Ferrisview Elementary constructed in 2010 has all modern and appropriate instructional and support spaces to accommodate 300 students in 12 academic classrooms. Given the proposed change in grade level configuration to P-5, Ferrisview would be positioned to accommodate the P-5 student population for Seton and Ferrisview if a Provincial Class Cap is not extended to the end of the elementary school years and if the enrolment decline continues at its previous pace for these schools.
While the concern relating to the identification and enforcement of school boundaries is articulated in Looking Inward scenario 11 with respect to Boularderie and Bras d'Or, there is a recognition that boundary identification and enforcement is deemed to be important to other school communities within the Northside Family of Schools and should be addressed as the Looking Inward process evolves.