Examine the option to develop Middle River School as a Teaching Center for Multi-Age Instruction.

**Consideration**

The Middle River School constructed in 1960 serves a primary to grade 6 student population of 23 students (Sept 2013) from Hunter's Mountain to Lake O'Law along the Cabot Trail on both sides of Middle River. The building is 5348 square feet in size.

Over the years the Middle river School has functioned as a facility where multi-age instruction in multi-aged groupings was the norm.

As declining enrollments continue to affect student populations in the CBVRSB, multi-age classrooms will become more common. The CBVRSB has already recognized the importance of specialized training in multi-age instruction by offering sabbatical opportunities to teachers pursuing further education in this area. Middle River School has long been a multi-age school, and its teachers have embraced and developed this form of teaching and learning whole-heartedly. Unlike many communities that express fear and concern when classrooms shift to multiple grades, Middle River families value this approach and have chosen it over single grade configurations by virtue of enrolling their children at Middle River School. Middle River School would provide an ideal "learning laboratory" for teachers throughout the Board who wish to learn hands-on skills in effective multi-age instruction.

Middle River School continues to enjoy resource support under the Hogg Funding Formula ($150,000) designed to support the retention of this facility as a small rural school.