SAC Scenario 22

Victoria South Family of Schools

As Middle River School is unique and the Middle River School Community prides itself on developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning explore the option of establishing the Middle River School as a teaching center for multi-age instruction

AND

Examine the option of establishing Middle River School as the first green-powered elementary school in Nova Scotia that can serve as a model for educational facility sustainability in rural Nova Scotia

AND

Consistent with the entrepreneurial skills and practices that characterize Nova Scotia communities like Middle River, examine the option of developing and implementing an entrepreneurial skills curriculum unit to promote entrepreneurial skills development at an early age in rural communities to enable school children to make choices with respect to life in rural communities.

Considerations

Middle River School was constructed in 1960. It serves students from Hunter’s Mountain to Lake O’ Law along the Cabot Trail and on the west side of Middle River. The school enjoys funding as a small rural school receiving $150,000 annually.

As a longstanding multi-age facility that has embraced the multi-age pedagogy, the school fosters cooperation, independent learning, mentorship opportunities for students, social/emotional development, high academic standards and respect for learners as individuals in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. These elements could form the basis of a model to support multi-age instruction in practice as part of a model Teacher’s Center.
As a Green School whose garden program is now in the eighth year, Middle River is at the forefront of exploring and adopting green technologies and approaches. Not only is the school, its staff and the community striving to set a good example for the students, creative ways of reducing costs and sustaining rural schools are being explored.

As a community challenged by rural decline, the Middle River community is seeking its own solutions and giving its children a broader sense of what is possible in rural Cape Breton. These experiences could form the basis of an elementary school entrepreneurial curriculum unit that would not only satisfy existing outcomes but could also impact a change in rural culture.