Examine the option of creating George D. Lewis as a French Immersion Center housing an Early Immersion and Late Immersion program in a primary to grade nine setting.

Considerations
This primary to grade nine facility was built in 1968 and has a capacity to accommodate 300 students in 29,465 square feet of space. In 2012-2013, 56 grade primary to six students and 57 grade seven to nine students attend George D. Lewis School. Enrolment at the junior high level ranges from 15 to 27.
Louisbourg has enjoyed a French presence since the founding of the French colonies in the 1600's. Today the Fortress of Louisbourg stands as a testimony to that presence and to the contributions of the French in the areas of language and culture on our island. The proximity of the fortress to G. D. Lewis School and the availability of personnel, artifacts, and the opportunity for cultural experiences position the school well to serve as an Immersion Center.
The Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board has maintained a long standing commitment to offering students the option at the junior high school level of receiving instruction in the late French Immersion Program. The uptake of this option in the Riverview Family of Schools and Sydney Family of Schools has been such that the initial program for late French Immersion Program established at Malcolm Munroe Junior high has been expanded to Whitney Pier Memorial Junior High. Between the two instructional settings there are seventeen (17) classes of late immersion in place involving 164 grade7’s, 144 grade 8’s, and 119 grade 9's.
The capacity of the George D. Lewis School is 300. If the English student body from P-9 was to be retained, G. D. Lewis would be in a position to house an additional six classes of French immersion. This capacity issue would not enable G. D. Lewis to accommodate the existing population in French Immersion currently at Malcolm Munroe.
If the objective is to begin an early immersion program at this site and continue it into the junior high school setting consideration would have to be given to realignment of feeder schools so that Route 22 students would attend late immersion at G. D. Lewis rather than Malcolm Munroe. Distance from the center of population density may need to be considered.

G. D. Lewis would require a capital retrofit if it was to be sustained as an Early/Late French Immersion Center.