Building on, but modifying, scenario 32, examine the option of combining Tompkins Elementary School population with MacDonld Elementary School population at the Tompkins site

and

accommodate the Bridgeport students (P-6) at St. Anne's and (7-9) at Oceanview Education Center

and

leave J. B. Croak as it is - a P-6 facility.

In this scenario the school review process would need to be initiated for Bridgeport School.

Considerations

All four schools, J. B. Croak, Bridgeport, Tompkins, and MacDonald Elementary are among the oldest school facilities operating within the Board. An operational review conducted by the Board in 2010 indicates that all of these facilities require major capital expenditures if the buildings are to be sustained as school facilities in the future. In addition, MacDonald Elementary currently has no gymnasium.

The Board commissioned an engineering study in 2012 to examine the existing facilities and to identify costs and other considerations associated with the repair and/or replacement of these facilities.

Appendix 8, page 84 of Looking inward provides a cost summary associated with the renovated space and the costs associated with the provision of new space if the outcome of decisions was to have two new schools of 275 or one new school of 550 to serve students presently being served by the four schools. Any option referenced in Appendix 8 would require approval for funding by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Cost estimates to realize the consolidation of Tompkins and MacDonald students at the Tompkins site – renovated and with an addition – were $5,566,000 for 275 students.
Cost estimates emanating from the 2012 engineering study to refurbish only and not add to J. B. Croak were $1,288,000.

The proposal to house primary to grade 6 students at St. Anne's would not involve any additional cost (with the exception of transportation) at St. Anne's has recently undergone a refurbishment project and is in position to accommodate the Bridgeport elementary student population. Ample space exists within Oceanview Education Center to accommodate the grade 7-9 student population currently being served at Bridgeport. Transportation costs would have to be included if this aspect of this scenario was implemented.

The Board recognizes that each of these schools is located in a distinct community or area within the Glace Bay Family of Schools and that each school is valued by each respective community. It is also recognized that closure of any of these schools would result in the last remaining school in that community being lost to that community.