Examine the option of creating Riverside Elementary School as a French Immersion Center housing an Early French Immersion Program and Late French Immersion Program in a primary to grade 8/grade 9 setting (depending on Board direction for grade configuration).

**Considerations**

The Riverside Elementary School is a primary to grade six elementary school built in 2000 under the P3 program. The school has 46,785 square feet of space and is strategically located off route 22. It has a student capacity of 350 students with an enrolment in 2013-2014 of 184.

In addition to the core French program offered in grades 4 to 6 at the school, an extended core program pilot was instituted at Riverside for several years. This program was highly successful and resulted in a number of students from Albert Bridge, Catalone, and Main-a-Dieu entering the Late French Immersion Program at Malcolm Munroe Junior High School.

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. While Riverside does not have the capacity to handle either the Malcolm Munroe French Immersion student population or the Whitney Pier French Immersion student population, (along with its existing P-6 student population), an opportunity exists to consider establishing an early French Immersion Program that could evolve into an initiative that would support the sustainability of French Immersion at the Riverside School.

If this scenario were implemented the Board would need to ensure that Riverside is part of the facility complement of the Board in 2020 (end of initial lease) and that program space modifications are requested through a school capital construction project to provide equity of learning opportunity for
junior high students who would be attending Riverside as part of the late French Immersion Program initiative as it would evolve.