

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Thursday) | x | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: February 9, 2021

Subject: Request for Letter – Proposed Eastern Shore School Location

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council request that the Mayor send a letter to the Minister of Education on behalf of Halifax Regional Council to reconsider the proposed location of the new consolidated Junior High/High School for the Eastern Shore and to further consult with HRM and the public on other potential location(s) that better align with HRM's objective to plan and build healthy, livable and sustainable communities.

Reason:

The Minister of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia has announced that a new combined Junior High and Senior High School will replace the aged Gaetz Brook Junior High School and the Eastern Shore District High School. The proposed location for this new school is within the East Chezzetcook Industrial Park.

The siting of such important social infrastructure should be strategically placed in a location that helps create and support community-building. The proposed location is within an isolated industrial park that has absolutely no connectivity at all to any community. The municipality, through its Regional Plan promotes Local District Centres for its rural communities. Musquodoboit Harbour and Porters Lake are designated as such.

The High School has been an institution in Musquodoboit Harbour for over half a century. This village has been the traditional hub for various government services such as the hospital, senior care centre, senior apartments, post office, arena, library, RCMP detachment, gas stations, churches and many other commercial entities and attractions. The community of Porters Lake has become a major commercial core with its shopping centre and other services.

The placement of a new school in such an isolated, disconnected location is contrary to our aims and objectives of trying to plan and build livable vibrant communities. There are other potential sites in either community that should be considered instead.

Outcome Sought:

That the Mayor write a letter on behalf of Halifax Regional Council requesting that the Minister of Education reconsider the proposed location of the new consolidated Eastern Shore Junior High and High School and to further consult with HRM and the public on other potential locations which better align with HRM’s objective to build healthy, livable, and sustainable communities.

Councillor Hendsbee

District 2