

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Thursday) | <input 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 Meeting: September 12, 2023; September 26, 2023

Subject: Emergency preparedness for CSAP and HRCE schools in HRM

Motion for Consideration:

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report and return to Council with details on and recommendations for emergency preparedness for CSAP and HRCE schools in HRM including:

- 1/ emergency evacuation plans or timeline to deliver evacuation plans for each school;
- 2/ roles, responsibilities, and resources expected of HRM to implement and support those plans;
- 3/ timeline for tabletop exercises and Command Post/Full Scale exercises and training for evacuation involving students and staff leaving school property and relocating; and,
- 4/ school community communications plans.

Reason:

On Sunday afternoon, May 28, 2023, the wildfire that swept through Upper Tantallon and Hammonds Plains threatened the Hammonds Plains Consolidated Elementary School and Madeline Symonds Middle School. Had the fire started and spread during a school day, the situation would have led to chaos due to the lack of communications, planning, or evacuation strategy.

HRCE and CSAP may need to rely on Halifax Transit to transport children and staff away from the school, however, there have limited plans communicated to families, staff, or HRM.

The 2023 Upper Tantallon-Hammonds Plains wildfire must be the catalyst for real change.

References:

Holland Road Elementary School Emergency Procedures:

<https://hre.hrce.ca/hre/general-information/school-emergency-procedures>

LeMarchant-St. Thomas Elementary Lockdown and Hold & Secure Drills:

<https://lmt.hrce.ca/lmt/policies-procedures/lockdown-and-hold-secure-drills>

Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre Relocation Letter:

https://muc.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/muc.hrce.ca/basic-page/2021/05/relocation_letter.pdf

Provincial Education Department Emergency Planning Guide (2008):

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/emp-planningguideweb.pdf>

Provincial Guidelines: Emergency Management for Nova Scotia Schools (2013)

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialguidelines.pdf>

Outcome Sought:

Staff report on emergency preparedness for CSAP and HRCE schools in HRM.

Moved by

Councillor Pam Lovelace

District

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