



SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Judith Sullivan-Corney
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March 21, 2012

Ms. Elaine Wagner
Chief Clerk of the Board
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Re: Utility and Review Board Application

Dear Ms. Wagner,

Please find attached the application for your consideration to change the boundaries and number of elected members of the electoral districts for the South Shore Regional School Board (SSRSB).

As the Board, the recommendations contained in this application resulted from research, public input, changes in school configuration, population, voter parity, current boundaries, communities of interest, geography, and the research audit of the SSRSB.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Sullivan-Corney', is written in a cursive style.

Judith Sullivan-Corney
South Shore Regional School Board



**South Shore Regional School Board District Review
Utility and Review Board Application**

March 20, 2012

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NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: An application pursuant to the **EDUCATION ACT**

The South Shore Regional School Board makes application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to change the boundaries of the electoral districts.

1. Current Number of Elected Districts

Prior to the dissolution of the elected board, there were twelve (12) seats on the South Shore Regional School Board. The African Nova Scotian representative is elected at-large by entitled voters. The First Nations representative is appointed by the Minister of Education. The remaining ten seats are elected by voters in ten (10) designated electoral districts.

2. Principal Language of Instruction

The principal language of instruction of the school board is English and the principal language of the school population under its jurisdiction throughout the region is also English. Those whose first language is French, or whose ancestry includes those whose first language is French, are entitled to public education in which the principal language of instruction is French. These students are not represented by the South Shore Regional School Board, they are represented instead by *Le Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* (CSAP), which operates École de la Rive-Sud, in Cookville, Lunenburg County.

3. Current Electoral Districts

The South Shore Regional School Board reviewed the number and boundaries of its electoral districts, pursuant to Section 43 of The Education Act, in 2008. The current review is precipitated by independent action by municipal units in the region to alter their electoral districts, the ‘building blocks’ of school board districts.

The following is a brief outline of each of the ten current electoral districts, approved in 2008:

African Canadian Representation is provided by election of a Member to the South Shore Regional School Board by eligible voters in the Municipality of the District of Chester, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Mahone Bay, the Town of Lunenburg, the Town of Bridgewater, the Region of Queens Municipality, and Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County.

First Nations’ Representation is provided by the appointment of a Member by the Minister of Education to serve on the South Shore Regional School Board.

District 1 Boundaries: Polling Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Region of Queens Municipality.

District 2 Boundaries: Polling Districts 4, 6 and 7 in the Region of Queens Municipality.

District 3 Boundaries: Polling District 5, 8 and 9 in the Region of Queens Municipality and the Maitland Bridge Area of Annapolis County Polling District 8.

District 4 Boundaries: Town of Bridgewater

District 5 (*identified by UaRB as District 7*) Boundaries: Polling Districts 7, 8 and 9 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

District 6 Boundaries: Polling Districts 3, 5 and 6 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Mahone Bay.

District 7 (*identified by UaRB as District 5*) Boundaries: Polling Districts 1 and 2 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg.

District 8 Boundaries: Polling Districts 10, 11 and 12 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg.

District 9 Boundaries: Polling Districts 4, 5 and 6 in the Municipality of the District of Chester and Polling District 4 of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

District 10 Boundaries: Polling Districts 1, 2, 3 and 7 in the Municipality of the District of Chester.

4. Population and Elector Statistics of 2008 Electoral Districts

Populations of municipal units within the South Shore Regional School Board in 2008 (at the last review) were as follows:

Region of Queens Municipality <i>in total</i> :	11,739
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg <i>in total</i> :	25,164
Municipality of the District of Chester <i>in total</i> :	10,741
Town of Bridgewater:	7,944
Town of Lunenburg:	2,317
<u>Town of Mahone Bay:</u>	<u>904</u>
Total Population, SSRSB:	58,809

Total Population: 58,809

Total Number of Electors: 43,369

Average Number of Electors per Electoral District: 4337

The following table shows an estimate of the population and voter statistics at the time of the last school board boundary review. School enrolment is presented as Appendix A. Since then, school enrolment has decreased by over 10%.

Electoral District	Population Estimates	School-age Population	# of Electors	% of Total Electors	Amount < or > Average (beyond 10% variance in bold)	
					#	%
1	See note	Appendix A	3056	7.0%	-1281	-29.5%
2	See note	Appendix A	2987	6.9%	-1350	-31.1%
3	See note	Appendix A	2789	6.4%	-1548	-35.7%
4	See note	Appendix A	5942	13.7%	+1605	+37%
5	See note	Appendix A	4836	11.2%	+499	+11.5%
6	See note	Appendix A	4950	11.4%	+613	+14.1%
7	See note	Appendix A	4505	10.4%	+168	+3.9%
8	See note	Appendix A	4454	10.3%	+117	+2.7%
9	See note	Appendix A	5240	12.1%	+903	+20.8%
10	See note	Appendix A	4610	10.6%	+273	+6.3%

5. Current Population and Elector Statistics

The total population within the south Shore Regional School Board has declined since 2008. Elector numbers, however, have increased. Census information depicts the general population decline. Latest known elector numbers were provided by area municipalities:

Municipality	2011 pop.	Electors	2006 pop.	% change
Town of Bridgewater (TOB)	8,241	5,942	7,944	+3.7
Town of Mahone Bay	943	652	904	+4.3
Town of Lunenburg	2,313	1,777	2,317	- 0.2
Mun. of Dist. Of Lunenburg	25,118	19,891	25,104	- 0.2
Mun. of Dist. Of Chester	10,599	8,286	10,741	- 1.3
Region of Queens	10,917	8,271	11,177	- 2.3
Total Population, SSRSB:	58,131	44,819	58,809	- 0.1
Total Number of Electors:	44,819			

The total number of electors has increased, based on municipal figures, from 43,369 in 2008 to 44,819 in 2012. In the same period, the school population has declined by over 10%, from 7882 in 2008 to 7071 in 2012. The slope of decline in school population is steeper than the decline of the general population.

6. Process of Developing Application for Boundary Changes

Board Boundary Review Committee

On January 28, 2012, the Board authorized a contract for an outside consultant to develop and present options for alteration in the number and boundaries of school board electoral districts.

Municipalities in the region generously provided maps, population and elector data, and other information of value to the consultant. Populations for incorporated towns were drawn from 2006 Statistics Canada census update data, and recently-released summary population estimates from the 2011 Census.

Two of the six municipal units – Region of Queens Municipality and Municipality of the District of Lunenburg – were able to provide current elector population information by district, as they had recently undertaken reviews of their own. For the remaining four municipal units – Municipality of the District of Chester, Town of Bridgewater, Town of Lunenburg, and Town of Mahone Bay – figures from the 2008 African Nova Scotian member by-election were used, as these were the most recent available figures.

The consultant noted several issues:

- (a) The school board defines its electoral boundaries in terms of existing municipal electoral districts. Municipalities conduct school board elections at the same time as municipal elections. Symmetry of district boundaries eases ballot preparation, polling location and other election management challenges.
- (b) Two of the six municipal units within the South Shore Regional School Board recently altered their electoral district boundaries, and in one case, district numbers. These municipal changes, alone, necessitate some change of school board boundaries from the current definition.
- (c) The school region consists of six municipal units over a land area of 5250 square kilometers. Twenty elementary or elementary-middle schools feed directly or indirectly to six high schools, through nine schools offering middle level programs (some in combined elementary-middle or junior-senior high configurations). In between, there are schools of varying configurations: P-9, 6-9, 7-9, 7-12, and 10-12. Administration recognizes three chief levels: Elementary, Middle and Senior within the 27 public schools. In addition, the Board offers alternate programs and also operates an Adult High School in both Lunenburg and Queens Counties.
- (d) Board By-Laws direct Board Members to act, in effect, as Members-at-Large, considering the best interests of the region and the school system in their decision-making. This may contrast with a constituency-based approach to elected representation typical of governments, and by extension, may impact public conceptions of what is an appropriate balance between voter parity and community of interest in regard to a school board.

Considering these issues, seeking to meet the standard the Utility and Review Board has set regarding voter parity, and to fulfill the Board-directed mandate, the consultant developed several options. A 10-district option effectively transferred the existing board configuration to the revised municipal electoral district maps. In addition, a range of district options were developed, specifically, 9-district, 8-district, 7-district, 6-district and 5-district options. For clarity, the two at-large seats are constants, thus a 5-district option is a seven-member board

consisting of two at-large members and five regional representatives elected from separate and specific districts.

Options for Public Comment

Options for various configurations were developed and considered, primarily for variance in elector distribution, and secondly, for continuity of communities of interest, as evidenced by previous configurations.

Specifically, options included configurations with varying numbers of district seats as well as differing boundaries. Six options were presented for public consideration, each with a different number of electoral districts, from ten to five, inclusive. These six options were drawn from over twenty potential configurations developed and reviewed by the consultant with concern for voter parity and community of interest.

Options were presented for public comment and consideration in Bridgewater on February 20, 2012, in Chester on February 22, 2012, and in Liverpool on February 23, 2012. Options were also presented on the Board’s website, with comments accepted by the Board until March 2, 2012.

Options identified potential school board electoral districts by their municipal components, using the abbreviation for the municipality followed by the numbers of its electoral district/s included in the school board district. The tables below show elector numbers for each district, and their variance from the average in elector numbers and percentages. Maps for these tables may be found in Appendix B.

Municipalities are abbreviated as follows:

- TOB** =Town of Bridgewater
- TOMB**=Town of Mahone Bay
- TOL** =Town of Lunenburg
- MODC**=Municipality of the District of Chester
- MODL**= Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
- ROQ** =Region of Queens Municipality

10-Seat Option = 12 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ 1,2,3			3523	8%	-959	21%
2	ROQ 4,5,6			3469	8%	1013	23%
3	MBAC,ROQ7,MODL8	ROQ=10917		3100	7%	1382	31%
4	TOB	TOB=8241		5942	13%	1460	33%
5	MODL 6,7,9			4789	11%	307	7%
6	MODL 10,11,12			5059	11%	577	13%
7	TOL, MODL 1,2	TOL=2313		5129	11%	647	14%
8	MODL 3,4,5	MODL=25118		4870	11%	388	9%
9	TOMB, MODC 4,5,6			4328	10%	-154	-3%
10	MODC 1,2,3,7	C+MB=11542		4610	10%	128	3%
	TOTAL 10-seat option	58131	7071	44819	100%		

9-Seat Option = 11 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ 1,2,3,4			4659	10%	-321	-6%
2	ROQ 5,6,7 MODL 12			5270	12%	290	6%
3	MODL 1,2, TOL			5129	11%	149	3%
4	MODL 3,5, TOMB			3839	8%	1141	-23%
5	TOB	8241		5942	13%	962	19%
6	MODL 6,7,9			4789	11%	-191	-4%
7	MODL 8,10,11			5222	11%	242	5%
8	MODC 1,2,3,7			4610	10%	-370	-7%
9	MODC 4,5,6 MODL 4			5359	12%	379	8%
	TOTAL 9-seat option	58131	7071	44819	99%		

8-Seat Option = 10 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ 1,2,3,4			4659	10%	-943	-17%
2	ROQ 5,6,7 MODL 12			5270	12%	-332	-6%
3	MODL 1,2,3 TOL			6661	15%	1059	19%
4	MODL 5, 10, 11			5056	11%	-546	-10%
5	TOB	8241		5942	13%	340	6%
6	MODL 6,7,8,9			6610	15%	1008	18%
7	MODC 1,2,3,7 TOMB			5262	12%	-340	-6%
8	MODC4,5,6 MODL 4			5359	12%	-243	-4%
	TOTAL 8-seat option	58131	7071	44819	100%		

7A - 7-Seat Option = 9 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ 1,2,3,4,5			5809	13%	-594	-9%
2	ROQ 6,7 MODL 8, 12			5941	13%	-462	-7%
3	MODL 6,7,9,10,11			8190	18%	1787	28%
4	TOB	8241		5942	13%	-461	-7%
5	MODL 2,3,5 TOL			6496	14%	93	1%
6	MODC 1,2,3,7 MODL 1			6430	14%	27	0%
7	MODC 4,5,6 MODL 4, TOMB			6011	13%	-392	-6%
	TOTAL 7-seat option A	58131	7071	44819	100%		

7B - 7-Seat Option = 9 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ 1,2,3,4,5			5809	13%	-594	-9%
2	ROQ 6,7 MODL 8, 10, 12			7721	17%	1318	21%
3	MODL 6,7,9,11			6410	14%	7	0%
4	TOB	8241		5942	13%	-461	-7%
5	MODL 2,3,5 TOL			6496	14%	93	1%
6	MODC 1,2,3,7 MODL 1			6430	14%	27	0%
7	MODC 4,5,6 MODL 4, TOMB			6011	13%	-392	-6%
	TOTAL 7-seat option B	58131	7071	44819	100%		

6-Seat Option = 8 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ 1,2,3,4,5, MODL 12			7467	17%	-3	0%
2	ROQ 6,7, MODL 7,8, 10			7599	17%	129	2%
3	TOB	8241		5942	13%	1528	-20%
4	MODL 2,3,5,9,11			7894	18%	424	6%
5	MODC 1,2,3,7, MODL 1, TOL			8207	18%	737	10%
6	MODC 4,5,6 MODL 4, 6 TOMB			7710	17%	240	3%
	TOTAL 6-seat option	58131	7071	44819	100%		

5-Seat Option = 7 Member Board

<u>District</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>School Pop'n</u>	<u># of Electors</u>	<u>% Electors</u>	<u></> Amt</u>	<u></> %</u>
1	ROQ,MBAC	10917	~1370	8271	18%	-693	-8%
2	MODL 6,7,8,9,10,11	2+4=25118	2+4=3435	10011	22%	1047	12%
3	TOB, MODL 3,5	>8241	>909	9129	20%	165	2%
4	MODL 1,2,4,12, TOL, TOMB	2+4=25118	2+4=3435	9122	20%	158	2%
5	MODC	10599	~1357	8286	18%	-678	-8%
	TOTAL 5-seat option	58131	7071	44819	100%		

Public Consultation

Letters from the Board were distributed to staff, students, families, School Advisory Councils, Home & School Associations, and others in the community. Public consultation session dates and locations were posted on the school board website two weeks in advance of the first session. Responses were invited from local government, school communities, and the public.

Public consultations were held in Bridgewater on February 20, 2012, in Chester Basin on February 22, 2012, and in Liverpool on February 23, 2012. Options were also posted to the school board website, with comments, responses and other options accepted until March 2, 2012. In total, 18 members of the public provided feedback on the options presented.

Forty-three people attended public consultation, including twenty (20) at Bridgewater, fifteen (15) at Chester Basin and seven (7) in Liverpool. Public consultation revealed a number of general and specific concerns with the options presented.

Concerns in the current configuration include the distribution of districts relative to area municipalities and the wide range of disparity in voter numbers from district to district.

Currently, six of ten districts have elector numbers in excess of 10% variance from the average number of voters per district. Some disparities exceed 30%.

In the western third of the region, communities of interest have traditionally centred on the two high schools in Queens County. Options proposed adding Lunenburg's District 12, a portion of which is in the provincial constituency of Queens, to the northern Queens-based district to bolster voter numbers. Public comment was consistent in suggesting a more suitable community of interest is found by combining Lunenburg's District 7 with the North Queens area.

Similarly, there was not strong support for proposed configurations which mixed Municipality of the District of Lunenburg districts with those of the Municipality of the District of Chester, not least because the municipal boundary is a meaningful school boundary separating high school catchment areas.

There was general consensus that, while voter parity is important, it should not be so rigidly applied as to ignore established communities of interest. There was considerable support for board configurations which honour, to the best degree possible, existing sub-systems and high school catchment boundaries.

With one municipal council reducing its size, the question of board size was posed for public comment. There was no clear consensus. Most voiced support for reduction in board size, fewer for retention of the existing 10- district (12-member) option. At one meeting, five voiced support for enlarging the board to give better school-community-specific representation; however, this option had little-to-no support at the other two public meetings.

Certain configurations generated particular interest. The five-seat option, participants noted, divided districts by boundaries consistent with municipal boundaries and the perceived communities of interest; however, it provided for very few members. The board was urged to explore the possibility of multiple members per district, for example, two members elected from within the Region of Queens Municipality, using this five-district configuration.

Following the first public meeting, an option was suggested by a member of the public which depicted six districts, each essentially encompassing the catchment area of the region's six high schools. This option was presented at subsequent public meetings and earned some support. It was also made clear such a configuration is below the currently-legislated minimum complement of board members. This option we bring forward as one of our proposed reconfigurations.

Another member of the public suggested a nine-seat option which preserves the logic of the current configuration, but resolves many of the voter parity issues. With some adjustment for voter parity, this proposal is worthy of further consideration, and we bring it forward, as well.

Options for Board Consideration

Following the three public consultation sessions, the Board directed the consultant to amend and refine the number of options based on public feedback.

Four options were presented for final consideration by the Board. These included:

- A five-district option with multiple members per district, resulting in ten district representatives for a total complement, with at-large seats, of 12 members;
- A nine-district option which resolves the voter disparity that mars the current configuration;
- A seven-district option presented for public consultation as Option 7B
- A six-district option, for a total complement of eight, which reflects the catchment areas of the region's six high schools.

Option A: 5 Districts electing 10 members + 2 at-large members = 12 board members

This configuration identified 5 districts, with multiple members elected from most districts, as follows:

District	# of Members	Composition	#of electors	Community of Interest
1	2	Region of Queens	8,271	LRHS, NQCS systems
2	2	MODL 5,6,7,8,9	8,265	New Germany system
3	1	Town of Bridgewater	5,942	Bridgewater system
4	3	MODL 1,2,3,4,10, 11,12, TOL, TOMB	14,055	Park View system
5	2	MODC	8,286	Forest Heights system

Public support for the geography of this configuration was expressed at meetings, but many felt that five members were too few. At public meetings, support for multiple members per electoral district was also expressed.

Option B: 9 Districts electing 9 members + 2 at-large members = 11 board members

This configuration was configured in a one member-per-district array.

District	# of Members	Composition	#of electors	Community of Interest
1	1	ROQ 1,2,3,4	4659	LRHS system
2	1	ROQ 5,6,7 MODL 7	5148	NQCS system + NG
3	1	MODL 6, 8, 9	5074	New Germany system
4	1	Town of Bridgewater	5942	Bridgewater system
5	1	MODL 10,11, 12	5059	Park View system
6	1	MODL 1,2, TOL	5522	Park View system
7	1	MODL 3,4,5 TOMB	5129	Park View system
8	1	MODC 1,2,3,7	4610	FHCS system via CAMS
9	1	MODC 4,5,6	3676	FHCS system via NRCS

Recognizing the diminishing school population and the reduction of council size in the Region of Queens, this configuration removes one of what were formerly three Queens-based seats. Several members of the public submitted a very similar proposal in response to options presented at public meetings. This configuration differs from those only in that it better balances voter parity in the eastern portion of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. A nine-district board would preserve, for the most part, the configuration in place at the time of Board dissolution, adjusted for declining population.

Option C: 7 districts electing 7 members

This configuration was presented to the public as Option 7B. It was endorsed as the option-of-choice (of the options publicly presented) by the Town of Bridgewater. Current legislation does not permit a board this small. In this configuration, each district except the Town of Bridgewater crosses school sub-system boundaries, meaning that students in the district would attend more than one high school in the region. This is intentionally configured to ensure each Board members has an opportunity to become familiar with schools in different sub-systems (that is, which feed into separate high schools), in order to enhance their ability to act as regional members.

District	# of Members	Composition	#of electors	Community of Interest
1	1	ROQ 1-5	5809	South Queens
2	1	ROQ 6, 7 MODL8, 10, 12	7721	Queens, portion of PVEC
3	1	MODL 6, 7, 9, 11	6410	NG-PVEC west
4	1	TOB	5942	Bridgewater sub-system
5	1	MODL 2, 3, 5, TOL	6496	PVEC east
6	1	MODC1-3, 7 MODL1	6430	FHCS via CAMS
7	1	MODC 4, 5, 6 MODL 4, TOMB	6011	FHCS via NRCS, PVEC

Option D: 6 Districts electing 6 members + 2 at-large members = 8 board members

This option is worthy of consideration because it closely reflects the geography of the region's six high school catchment areas. It provides for one member for the two small high schools in Queens, one for the New Germany system, one for the Bridgewater system, two for the region's largest high school, Park View Education Centre, and one member for Forest Heights Community School, the high school in the Chester District. It is below the threshold of the current legislated minimum board complement. Areas with >+10% variance are shrinking in population; areas with <-10% variance are growing.

District	# of Members	Composition	#of electors	Community of Interest
1	1	Region of Queens	8271	Liverpool & North Queens
2	1	MODL 5,6,7,9	6444	New Germany system
3	1	Town of Bridgewater	5942	Bridgewater system
4	1	MODL 2, 8, 10, 11, 12	8412	Park View system (West)
5	1	MODL 1, 3, 4, TOL, TOMB	7464	Park View system (East)
6	1	MODC	8286	Forest Heights system

Board Decision

Options were presented to the Board at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. At that time, the Board resolved to propose three options, rank ordered by preference, to the Utilities and Review Board.

Two of the three options are below the current minimum number of board members established by legislation. Should the Province be prepared to consider permitting smaller school boards, and the UARB be prepared to approve one of these options, it would be the preference of the South Shore Regional School Board to reduce its size to six or seven electoral districts, plus two at-large members.

7. Board Decision-Making Priorities

The Board made its decision on the options presented during a Special Meeting on March 7, 2012. The board articulated the most important considerations in its decision-making, including:

- Voter parity;
- Regional representation;
- High school and feeder system alignment;
- *The Deloitte Report*¹ (direction for member to act as regional representative);
- Public comment and public input;
- Comparison with other boards

Voter Parity and Regional Representation

The Board accepts that the population density and municipal district boundaries cause at least one district in every potential array of school board districts to vary by greater than ten percent of the average.

At the geographic centre of the region is the Town of Bridgewater, a relatively small geographic footprint with a concentration of 5942 voters in one district. The town has no internal electoral districts. No other single district approaches this population. In addition, Bridgewater students currently attend a self-contained sub-system consisting of Bridgewater Elementary School and Bridgewater Junior/Senior High School.

Eighteen percent (18%) of the general population and nineteen percent (19%) of the student population reside in the Region of Queens. An equal proportion resides in the municipality of the District of Chester. Both have at least one self-contained sub-system – with two smaller sub-systems serving disparate populations in Queens County. A general goal, then, was to provide each of these areas with approximately twenty percent (20%) of the board complement.

¹ Report to the Minister of Education on the performance of the elected members of the South Shore Regional School Board, 2010. Following receipt of the report, the Minister dismissed the elected board and appointed a one-member board to serve until school board elections in October, 2012.

High School and Feeder System Alignment

Options presented to the Board approached school sub-systems in different ways, driven by the number of districts and the average voter density. When numbers forced expansion, beyond the boundaries of Queens County in the region's western third, original options matched them first with District 12 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, approximately half of which is part of the provincial riding of Queens. Public response was overwhelmingly opposed to this match, arguing a more authentic community of interest exists between North Queens County and the adjacent inland district of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

The six-district (8-member board) configuration identified by the Board as the preferred option reflects most closely the catchment areas of high school feeder systems –sometimes referred to as ‘sub-systems’. If the board had the freedom to place its boundaries where it best serves the school system, irrespective of municipal district boundaries, this configuration would closely approximate that map.

Because there is no effective way to balance voter parity in a seven-district (9-member) option, given the region's population density patterns and school-based communities of interest, the approach is to deliberately include more than one sub-system in a district area, where possible. This approach is validated by the expectation of regional representation explored in the *Deloitte Report* (see below).

In the third-ranked nine-district (11-member) configuration, existing communities of interest and general geographic regions are preserved from the 2008 configuration, with a one-seat reduction to account for the decline of ten percent (10%) in the region's student population since the last review.

The Deloitte Report

The Nova Scotia Department of Education engaged Deloitte Inc. consultants to review the performance of the regional school board elected in 2008. That report was critical of board members who acted more for local interests than for the interests of the school region at-large in certain mission-critical instances. This finding underscores the unique nature of school board members – elected from a specific district as regional trustees or stewards.

This critique occurs in a larger context challenging traditional approaches, expectations and communities of interest. The current regional school board, established by provincial legislation in 2004, is now the longest-enduring structure to govern public schools in the region in two decades. First, municipal school boards were consolidated into district boards. Then district boards were combined into regional boards. Early in the current century, the regional board in southwestern Nova Scotia was dissolved into two district school boards, with some anomalies in responsibility relative to other boards. Then, in 2004, the current regional school board structure was instituted in Lunenburg and Queens counties, together comprising six municipal units.

A consequence of this regular reformation of governing structure has been the need for parents, students and the general public to re-define their communities of interest and their expectations of elected school board members. An implication of the current review is the demand it places on the general public to re-evaluate their conception of communities of interest.

Public Comment and Public Input

The Board benefitted from the quantity, quality and depth of public comment. In total, 18 public input submissions were received. In addition, the nine-district (11-member) option presented below is drawn from submissions made by several members of the public.

Public comment supported the geographical configuration of a five-district model presented for public comment. At the same time, the comment largely expressed the view that such a number of district members is too few. An option presented to the board for consideration used this geographic configuration, suggesting multiple members in most districts. The Board rejected this option as the weakest, in part because of the potential for a given area, with a much larger region, to monopolize membership by enlisting the greatest number of candidates. This could be a deficit rather than a benefit to the region's school governance.

Public comment was, for the most part, supportive of a reduction in district members to facilitate more effective school system governance at the board table. In tandem with this comment was the observation that it would be most effective if the boundaries of the districts matched school sub-systems. This informs the selection of a six-district (8-member) option as the preferred choice. The board is confident this configuration is the best option for the region.

The Town of Bridgewater expressed written support for the seven-district (9-member) option as the best of those presented for public comment. That option is presented as our secondary preference. Its approach is deliberately regional, in response both to the formal critique for regional representation and the comments of those engaged in public consultation.

The presentation of a nine-district (11-member) option reflects public support for reduction in board complement and preservation of existing communities of interest pending the outcome of further processes in the region, including school review.

Board Comparison

The following chart compares school board complements in Nova Scotia. Notably, the board serving the largest number of students has the fewest members. A provincial francophone board and larger geographic regions tend to have more members. At barely 5250 square kilometers, the South Shore region has the smallest area of any school region in the province.

School Board	Board Complement
Annapolis Valley RSB	15
Cape-Breton-Victoria RSB	15
Chignecto-Central RSB	17
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial	17
Halifax RSB	10
Strait RSB	12
South Shore RSB	12
Tri-County RSB	11

The voluntary reduction in the size of council by the Region of Queens Municipality begs the question placed before the public for comment: how many members does the school board need to provide effective representation and governance to the region's English-language public schools?

8. Proposal to Alter the Number and Boundaries of Electoral Districts

8.1. Preferred Option

The following changes to the number and boundaries of the electoral districts are proposed as the preferred option of the South Shore Regional School Board:

A reduction from ten electoral districts (12-member) to six electoral districts (8-member), with each district containing the catchment area of one of the region's high schools.

This option was presented following the public presentation of options in Bridgewater on February 20, 2012. It was presented for public consideration in Chester and Liverpool on February 22 and 23, 2012, respectively, and earned praise from those in attendance.

The reasons for these proposed changes are as follows:

- i.** The South Shore Regional School Board defines its electoral districts in terms of municipal polling districts. Area municipalities have altered the boundaries, and in some cases, the number of their polling districts, necessitating changes by the school board.
- ii.** The Board proposed a reduction in its total number of seats, and several options for boundary realignment. Public comment expressed support for a configuration which provided a member for each destination high school in the region.

A brief outline of each proposed electoral district, including the names of the larger communities, the geographic size, any relevant geographic features, and any factors which establish a particular community of interest in the electoral district:

African Canadian Representation is provided by election of a Member to the South Shore Regional School Board by eligible voters in the Municipality of the District of Chester, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Mahone Bay, the Town of Lunenburg, the Town of Bridgewater, the Region of Queens Municipality, and Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County.

First Nations' Representation is provided by the appointment of a Member by the Minister of Education to serve on the South Shore Regional School Board.

Electoral District 1 = the Region of Queens

Elementary schools in this district include: Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy, Milton Centennial School, Mill Village Elementary School, Greenfield Elementary and North Queens Elementary. Middle Schools at North Queens

(where it is part of the high school) and South Queens feed, respectively, into North Queens and Liverpool Regional High Schools. This district contains all communities in the County of Queens as well as the Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County poll.

This district contains 8271 electors, varying by 11% from the average number of voters per district of 7470. The area has declined in population by 2.3% in four years, and continues to decline. Currently, the population is 10,817 (18%) of the region's total with 19% of the region's students attending school in this district.

Electoral District 2 = Districts 5, 6, 7 and 9 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

This district comprises the entire catchment areas of New Germany Elementary School and West Northfield Elementary School, the two schools which feed into New Germany Rural High School. As municipal boundaries do not neatly conform to school catchment areas, some students living in District 5 of the Municipality attend high school at Park View Education Centre, via Bayview Community School and the recently-opened Bluenose Academy.

Communities in this district include: Maitland, Farmville, Pine Grove, Cookville, Sweetland, Lower Northfield, West Northfield, Lower New Cornwall, Middle New Cornwall, Upper New Cornwall, Walden, Upper Northfield, Newburne, Elmwood, Union Square, Watford, Barss Corner, Scarsdale, Maplewood, Farmington, Stanburne, Parkdale, Franey Corner, Pinehurst, Stanley Section, Hemford, Colpton, New Germany, Simpsons Corner, Meisners Section, Pleasant River Lake, Cherryfield, Auburndale, Lower Branch, Midville Branch, Branch La Have, Wentzells Lake, Upper Branch, and New Canada.

There are 6444 electors in this district, varying by -14% from the average number of voters per district. It should be noted that areas of municipal district 5, in particular, are identified as growth areas by the municipality. This configuration preserves, however, the integrity of the New Germany sub-system.

Electoral District 3 = Town of Bridgewater

This district comprises the Town of Bridgewater. Schools in this district include Bridgewater Elementary School, Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School, and Park View Education Centre.

The Town of Bridgewater forms a distinct community of interest, in that school-aged students living within town limits attend a self-contained feeder system from grades Primary to 12, beginning at Bridgewater Elementary School (P-6) and continuing next door, at Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School (7-12). Park View primarily serves communities outside the town.

There are 5942 voters in this district, all within town limits. This varies from the average number of voters per district by -20%, however, Bridgewater was one of

few municipalities in the region to experience growth in the previous four years. Moreover, it is a distinct community-of-interest providing representation to a complete school sub-system.

Electoral District 4 = Districts 2, 8, 10, 11, and 12 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

This represents approximately one-half of the catchment area of the region's largest high school, Park View Education Centre. This district composes a community of interest on the west bank of the Lahave River, with students primarily attending Petite Riviere, Pentz, Newcombville and Hebbville Elementary Schools before attending Hebbville Academy for middle school and Park View Education Centre for high school. Students in municipal district 2 attend Bluenose Academy, then Park View.

Communities in this district include: Rose Point, Kingsburg, Upper Kingsburg, Lower Rose Bay, Lower La Have, Riverport, Rose Bay, Feltzen South, Bayport, Indian Path, East La Have, Middle La Have, Crouses Settlement, Grimms Settlement, Tanners Settlement, Back Centre, Front Centre, First South, Masons Beach, Corkums Island, Wileville, Newcombville, Waterloo, Baker Settlement, Chelsea, Upper Chelsea, Molega Lake, New Elm, West Clifford, East Clifford, Italy Cross, Middlewood, Camperdown, Hebbs Cross, Hebbville, Lapland, Pleasantville, Lake Centre, Conquerall Mills, Conquerall Bank, La Have Islands, Bush Island, Voglers Cove, Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Crescent Beach, West Dublin, Dublin Shore, La Have, Pentz, Mount Pleasant, Crousetown, New Cumberland, West La Have.

There are 8412 electors in this district, variant from the average by 13%. Many of the communities in this district are experiencing a declining population.

Electoral District 5 = Districts 1, 3 and 4 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Lunenburg and the Town of Mahone Bay

This district includes Big Tancook Elementary School, Bayview Community School, and Bluenose Academy. Bayview and Bluenose students attend high school at Park View. Big Tancook is in the Chester school sub-system. This district represents the eastern half of the catchment area of Park View Education Centre.

Communities in this district include: Little Tancook Island, Big Tancook Island, Blue Rocks, Stonehurst, Garden Lots, First Peninsula, Second Peninsula, Deans Corner, Lilydale, Centre, Big Lots, Northwest, Fauxburg, Martins Brook, Sunnybrook, Hermans Island, Maders Cove, Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, Spectacle Lakes, upper La Have, Rhodes Corner, Dayspring, Oakhill, Whycott's Settlement, Oakland, Martins River, Clearland, and Blockhouse.

There are 7464 electors in this district. The average number of voters per district is 7470.

Electoral District 6 = the Municipality of the District of Chester

All students in this district attend high school at Forest Heights Community School in Chester Grant. Students in the northern half of the district attend elementary and middle school at New Ross Consolidated School. Students in the southern half attend Gold River-Western Shore, Aspotogan Consolidated, and Chester District Elementary School, then middle school in Chester at Chester Area Middle School.

There are 8286 electors in this district, variant from the average by 11%. Like district 1, this area includes many communities experiencing declining population. This district also comprises an entire school sub-system (with the exception of the single-room Big Tancook Elementary in neighbouring Lunenburg County)

8.2 Secondary Option

The following changes to the number and boundaries of the electoral districts are proposed as the preferred option of the South Shore Regional School Board:

A reduction from ten electoral (12-member) districts to seven electoral (9-member) districts.

The reasons for these proposed changes are as follows:

- i.** The South Shore Regional School Board defines its electoral districts in terms of municipal polling districts. Area municipalities have altered the boundaries, and in some cases, the number of their polling districts, necessitating changes by the school board.
- ii.** The Board proposed a reduction in its total number of seats, and several options for boundary realignment. The Town of Bridgewater expressed endorsement for this option, presented as “Option 7B”

A brief outline of each proposed electoral district, including the names of the larger communities, the geographic size, any relevant geographic features, and any factors which establish a particular community of interest in the electoral district:

African Canadian Representation is provided by election of a Member to the South Shore Regional School Board by eligible voters in the Municipality of the District of Chester, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Mahone Bay, the Town of Lunenburg, the Town of Bridgewater, the Region of Queens Municipality, and Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County.

First Nations’ Representation is provided by the appointment of a Member by the Minister of Education to serve on the South Shore Regional School Board.

District 1 = Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Region of Queens Municipality.

Students in this district attend middle school at South Queens Junior High School, and high school at Liverpool Regional High School. Elementary schools in this district include Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy and Milton Centennial School. This district represents as much of the south queens sub-system as municipal boundaries permit, and constitutes a distinct community of interest.

Communities in this district include: East Port L'Hebert, Port Joli, Southwest Port Mouton, Central Port Mouton, Port Mouton, Summerville Centre, Hunts Point, White Point, Liverpool, Western Head, Mersey Point, Moose Harbor, Mount Pleasant, Brooklyn, Beach Meadows, Eagle Head, West Berlin, East Berlin, Beech Hill Farms, and Milton.

This district includes 5809 electors, a variance of -9% from the average number of 6403 electors per district.

District 2 = Districts 6 and 7 in the Region of Queens Municipality, the Maitland Bridge poll in Annapolis County, and Districts 8, 10, and 12 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

This district comprises the catchment area of the North Queens sub-system - Greenfield Elementary and North Queens Elementary, feeding into North Queens Community School at the middle level. Because of municipal boundary relocation, this district also includes Mill Village Elementary School, part of the South Queens system. The district also includes Newcombville, Hebbville, Petite Riviere and Pentz Elementary Schools in the Park View sub-system.

Communities in this district include: Port Medway, East Port Medway, Mill Village, Charleston, Danesville, Riverdale, Wentworth Lake, Middlefield, Bangs Falls, Greenfield, Buckfield, Pleasantfield, Labelle, Lake Rossignol, Whiteburn Mines, Hibernia, Molega North, Molega, Wildcat, South Brookfield, Pleasant River, North Brookfield, Westfield, Caledonia, Harmony Mills, West Caledonia, New Grafton, Kempt, Albany New, Northfield, Maitland Bridge (Annapolis Co.), Wileville, Newcombville, Waterloo, Baker Settlement, Chelsea, Upper Chelsea, Molega Lake, New Elm, West Clifford, East Clifford, Auburndale, Lower Branch, Midville Branch, Branch La Have, Wentzells Lake (in part), Upper Branch, New Canada, Italy Cross, Middlewood, Camperdown, Hebbs Cross, Hebbville, Lapland, La Have Islands, Bush Island, Voglers Cove, Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Crescent Beach, West Dublin, Dublin Shore, La Have, Pentz, Mount Pleasant, Crousetown, New Cumberland, West La Have (in part).

This district includes 7721 electors, a variance of 21% from the average.

District 3 = Districts 6, 7, 9, and 11 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

This district includes students attending New Germany Rural High School via West Northfield and New Germany Elementary Schools. Students in municipal district 11 attend Park View Education Centre via Pentz Elementary and Hebbville Academy.

Communities in this district include: Lower New Cornwall, Middle New Cornwall, Upper New Cornwall, Walden, Upper Northfield, Newburne, Elmwood, Union Square, Watford, Barss Corner, Scarsdale, Maplewood, Farmington, Stanburne, Parkdale, Franey Corner, Pinehurst, Stanley Section, Hemford, Colpton, New Germany, Simpsons Corner, Meisners Section, Pleasant River Lake, Cherryfield, Auburndale, Lower Branch, Midville Branch, Branch La Have, Wentzells Lake (in part), Upper Branch, New Canada, West La Have (in part), Pleasantville, Lake Centre, Conquerall Mills, and Conquerall Bank.

There are 6410 electors in this district. The average number of voters per district is 6403.

District 4 = Town of Bridgewater

This district comprises the Town of Bridgewater. Schools in this district include Bridgewater Elementary School, Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School, and Park View Education Centre.

The Town of Bridgewater forms a distinct community of interest, in that school-aged students living within town limits attend a self-contained feeder system from grades Primary to 12, beginning at Bridgewater Elementary School (P-6) and continuing next door, at Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School (7-12). Park View primarily serves communities outside the town.

There are 5942 voters in this district, all within town limits. This varies from the average number of voters per district by -7%.

District 5 = Districts 2, 3 and 5 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg

This district includes students who attend Park View Education Centre. Some students come via Bluenose Academy and others via Bayview Community School. Students in part of municipal district 5 attend West Northfield Elementary School, where they progress to New Germany Rural High School.

Communities in this district include: Rose Point, Kingsburg, Upper Kingsburg, Lower Rose Bay, Lower La Have, Riverport, Rose Bay, Feltzen South, Bayport, Indian Path, East La Have, Middle La Have, Crouses Settlement, Grimms Settlement, Tanners Settlement, Back Centre, Front Centre, First South, Masons Beach, Corkums Island, Spectacle Lakes, Upper La Have, Rhodes Corner, Dayspring, Oakhill, Whynott's Settlement, Oakland, Martins River, Clearland, Blockhouse, Maitland, Farmville, Pine Grove, Cookville, Sweetland, Lower Northfield, West Northfield, Wentzells Lake (in part), and Lunenburg.

There are 6496 electors in this district, a variant of 1% from the average.

District 6 = District 1 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, and Districts 1, 2, 3 and 7 in the Municipality of the District of Chester

Students in this district attend Big Tancook, Chester District Elementary and Aspotogan Consolidated, all of which feed into Chester Area Middle School and Forest Heights Community School. Students in Lunenburg's District 1 attend Bayview Community School, then Park View Education Centre.

Communities in this district include: Little Tancook Island, Big Tancook Island, Blue Rocks, Stonehurst, Garden Lots, First Peninsula, Second Peninsula, Deans Corner, Lilydale, Centre, Big Lots, Northwest, Fauxburg, Martins Brook, Sunnybrook, Hermans Island, Maders Cove, Bayswater, Blandford, East River, Squid Cove, Fox Point, Mill Cove, Chester, East Chester, Shoreham, Windsor Road, and Mariotts Cove

There are 6430 electors in this district, 27 more than the average number of electors per district of 6403.

District 7= District 4 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Mahone Bay, and Districts 4, 5 and 6 in the Municipality of the District of Chester

Students in the Lunenburg and Mahone Bay districts attend Bayview Community School, then Park View Education Centre. Students in the Chester Municipality attend Forest Heights Community School by way of New Ross Consolidated School, with the exception of students attending Gold River-Western Shore elementary, who progress to Forest Heights via Chester Area Middle School.

Communities in this district include: Mahone Bay, Oakland, Martins River, Clearland, Blockhouse, Chester Basin, Martins Point, Beech Hill, Gold River, Western Shore, New Ross, and The Forties.

There are 6011 electors in this district, variant from the average by -6%.

8.3 Tertiary Option

If the above options are not possible, the South Shore Regional School Board proposes the following: *A reduction from ten electoral (12-member) districts to nine electoral (11-member) districts.*

Although not the preferred or secondary option, the nine-electoral district option meets the requirements of the Education Act.

A brief outline of each proposed electoral district, including the names of the larger communities, the geographic size, any relevant geographic features, and any factors which establish a particular community of interest in the electoral district:

African Canadian Representation is provided by election of a Member to the South Shore Regional School Board by eligible voters in the Municipality of the District of Chester, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, the Town of Mahone Bay, the Town of Lunenburg, the Town of Bridgewater, the Region of Queens Municipality, and Maitland Bridge, Annapolis County.

First Nations' Representation is provided by the appointment of a Member by the Minister of Education to serve on the South Shore Regional School Board.

District 1 = Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Region of Queens Municipality

Students in this district attend Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy, then South Queens Junior High, then Liverpool Regional High School. The district represents a community of interest in South Queens.

Communities in this region include: East Port L'Hebert, Port Joli, Southwest Port Mouton, Central Port Mouton, Port Mouton, Summerville Centre, Hunts Point, White Point, Liverpool, Western Head, Mersey Point, Moose Harbor, Mount Pleasant, Brooklyn, Beach Meadows, Eagle Head, West Berlin, and East Berlin.

There are 4659 electors in the district, a variance of -6% from the average number of voters per district of 4980.

District 2 = District 5, 6 and 7 in the Region of Queens Municipality, the Maitland Bridge poll in Annapolis County, and District 7 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Students in the Region of Queens district 5 attend Milton Centennial School while those in the southern part of district 6 attend Mill Village Elementary School. Both groups then attend South Queens Junior High and Liverpool Regional High School. Students in the northern parts of districts 5 and 6 and in Queens district 7 attend school at Greenfield and North Queens Elementary Schools, both feeding into middle and high school levels at North Queens Community School. Students in Lunenburg district 7 attend New Germany Elementary and New Germany Rural High School.

Communities in this district include: Beech Hill Farms, Milton, Port Medway, East Port Medway, Mill Village, Charleston, Danesville, Riverdale, Wentworth Lake, Middlefield, Bangs Falls, Greenfield, Buckfield, Pleasantfield, Labelle, Lake Rossignol, Whiteburn Mines, Hibernia, Molega North, Molega, Wildcat, South Brookfield, Pleasant River, North Brookfield, Westfield, Caledonia, Harmony Mills, West Caledonia, New Grafton, Kempt, Albany New, Northfield, Maitland Bridge (Annapolis County), Pinehurst, Stanley Section, Hemford, Colpton, New Germany, Simpsons Corner, Meisners Section, Pleasant River Lake, and Cherryfield.

There are 5148 electors in the district, a variance of 3% from the average.

District 3 = Districts 6, 8 and 9 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Students in this district attend New Germany Elementary School and New Germany Rural High School. The district comprises the greatest portion of the catchment area of this sub-system. Students in the southwest of the district attend Newcombville Elementary, Hebbville Academy and Park View Education Centre.

Communities in this district include: Lower New Cornwall, Middle New Cornwall, Upper New Cornwall, Walden, Upper Northfield, Newburne, Elmwood, Union Square, Watford, Barss Corner, Scarsdale, Maplewood, Farmington, Stanburne, Parkdale, Franey Corner, Wileville, Newcombville, Waterloo, Baker Settlement, Chelsea, Upper Chelsea, Molega Lake, New Elm, West Clifford, East Clifford, Auburndale, Lower Branch, Midville Branch, Branch La Have, Wentzells Lake (in part), Upper Branch, and New Canada.

There are 5074 voters in this district, a variance of 2% from the average. Many of these communities are experiencing a decline in population.

District 4 = Town of Bridgewater

This district comprises the Town of Bridgewater. Schools in this district include Bridgewater Elementary School, Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School, and Park View Education Centre.

The Town of Bridgewater forms a distinct community of interest, in that school-aged students living within town limits attend a self-contained feeder system from grades Primary to 12, beginning at Bridgewater Elementary School (P-6) and continuing next door, at Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School (7-12). Park View primarily serves communities outside the town.

This district has 5942 voters, a variance of 19% from the average.

District 5 = Districts 10, 11, and 12 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Students in this district attend Hebbville, Petite Riviere and Pentz Elementary Schools, all of which feed into middle school at Hebbville Academy, and high school at Park View Education Centre.

Communities in this district include: Italy Cross, Middlewood, Camperdown, Hebbs Cross, Hebbville, Lapland, Pleasantville, Lake Centre, Conquerall Mills, Conquerall Bank, La Have Islands, Bush Island, Voglers Cove, Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Crescent Beach, West Dublin, Dublin Shore, La Have, Pentz, Mount Pleasant, Crousetown, New Cumberland, and West La Have.

There are 5059 electors in the district, a variance of 2% from the average.

District 6 = Districts 1 and 2 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town on Lunenburg

Most students in this district attend Bluenose Academy, then Park View Education Centre. The district composes a distinct community of interest surrounding the new Bluenose Academy. Students in the Northfields communities attend West Northfield Elementary, then New Germany Rural High School. Municipal district boundaries do not enable a clear division by catchment areas in all cases. The district also includes Big Tancook Elementary School, whose few students are part of the Chester sub-system.

Communities in this district include: Little Tancook Island, Big Tancook Island, Blue Rocks, Stonehurst, Garden Lots, First Peninsula, Second Peninsula, Deans Corner, Lilydale, Centre, Big Lots, Northwest, Fauxburg, Martins Brook, Sunnybrook, Hermans Island, Maders Cove, Rose Point, Kingsburg, Upper Kingsburg, Lower Rose Bay, Lower La Have, Riverport, Rose Bay, Felzen South, Bayport, Indian Path, East La Have, Middle La Have, Crouses Settlement, Grimms Settlement, Tanners Settlement , Back Centre, Front Centre, First South, Masons Beach, Corkums Island, and Lunenburg.

There are 5522 electors in the district, a variance of 11% from the average.

District 7 = Districts 3, 4, and 5 in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Mahone Bay

Students in the southern two-thirds of this district attend Bayview Community School and Park View Education Centre. Some students in municipal district 5 attend West Northfield Elementary School, then New Germany Rural High School.

Communities in this district include: Spectacle Lakes, Upper La Have, Rhodes Corner, Dayspring, Oakhill, Whynott's Settlement, Mahone Bay, Oakland, Martins River, Clearland, Blockhouse, Maitland, Farmville, Pine Grove, Cookville, Sweetland, Lower Northfield, West Northfield, and Wentzells Lake (in part).

There are 5129 electors in the district, a variance of 3% from the average.

District 8 = Districts 1, 2, 3 and 7 in the Municipality of the District of Chester

Students who attend Forest Heights Community School via Chester Area Middle School. Elementary Schools include Aspotogan and Chester District.

Communities in this district include: Bayswater, Blandford, East River, Squid Cove, Fox Point, Mill Cove, Chester, East Chester, Shoreham, Windsor Road, and Mariotts Cove.

There are 4610 electors in the region, a variance of -7% from the average.

Electoral District 9 = Districts 4, 5 and 6 in the Municipality of the District of Chester

Most students in this district attend Forest Heights Community School via New Ross Consolidated. Those in the Gold River-Western Shore communities attend Gold River-Western Shore Elementary, then Chester Area Middle School, before attending Forest Heights for high school.

Communities in this district include: Chester Basin, Martins Point, Beech Hill, Gold River, Western Shore, New Ross, and The Forties.

There are 3676 electors in this district, a variance of -26% from the average. This is a long-standing district that comprises a distinct community-of-interest, including as it does the entirety of the catchment area for New Ross Consolidated School, a P-9 school in the interior of the Chester district.

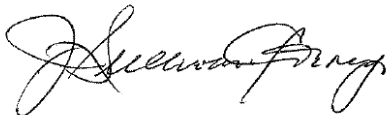
Population and elector statistics for the options presented above are attached as Appendix C.

9. Maps of Proposed Electoral Districts

Municipal units conduct school board elections, and determine the number and location of polling places.

Maps attached showing the boundaries of the electoral districts proposed in the three options presented above are labeled Appendix D.

DATED at Bridgewater, County of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia March 21, 2012.



Judith Sullivan-Corney
South Shore Regional School Board

APPENDIX A
SSRSB SCHOOL ENROLMENT

School		P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2011/ 2012	2010/ 2011	2009/ 2010	2008/ 2009
SSRSB Adult High School													24	27	51			
Alternate										2	3	8	21	19	53	32	33	31
Aspotogan		16	13	19	29	35	19								131	151	156	157
Bayview		25	39	42	38	40	45	37	57	51	41				415	426	431	434
Big Tancook			1	2	2		2								7	10	5	5
Bridgewater Elem.		58	53	68	81	59	67	71							457	478	519	500
Bridgewater Jr./Sr. High									79	88	71	71	82	61	452	472	465	445
Bridgewater VERGE														12	12	14	14	12
Centre		20	37	34	43	39	52	30	61	60	78				454	500	416	453
Chester Area Middle								93	83	79	82				337	326	330	338
Chester Dist.		28	25	30	50	32	41								206	212	231	230
Dr. J.C. Wickwire				61	74	57	79	83							354	359	378	404
Forest Heights												97	91	111	299	352	364	386
Gold River/W. Shore		15	25	9	15	21	15								100	104	99	108
Greenfield		5	5	7	6	5	2	6							36	31	36	33
Hebbville		24	28	28	40	31	29	67	83	103	105				538	559	545	578
Liverpool Reg.												118	101	95	314	314	323	309
Lunenburg Acad.		18	16	18	19	11	17	17							116	112	99	105
Lunenburg High	CLOSED																92	160
Mill Village		10	3	8	9	8	6	10							54	50	55	54
Milton		52	62												114	123	131	131
New Germany Elem.		28	21	22	38	31	30	29							199	199	212	226
New Germany High									56	65	63	51	71	51	357	358	374	381
New Ross		15	7	12	15	10	11	12	14	18	18				132	126	143	145
Newcombville		21	25	31	23	29	31								160	167	174	171
North Queens Elem.		11	16	16	27	17	11	18							116	127	129	131
North Queens High									24	22	18	16	18	25	123	132	140	155
Park View												284	265	298	847	863	881	840
Pentz		13	11	15	17	7	17	18							98	99	98	102
Petite Riviere		11	9	14	17	17	9	11							88	85	84	90
Riverport	CLOSED															8	43	51
South Queens									71	100	87				258	310	299	315
West Northfield		20	21	24	27	29	19	26							166	173	179	181

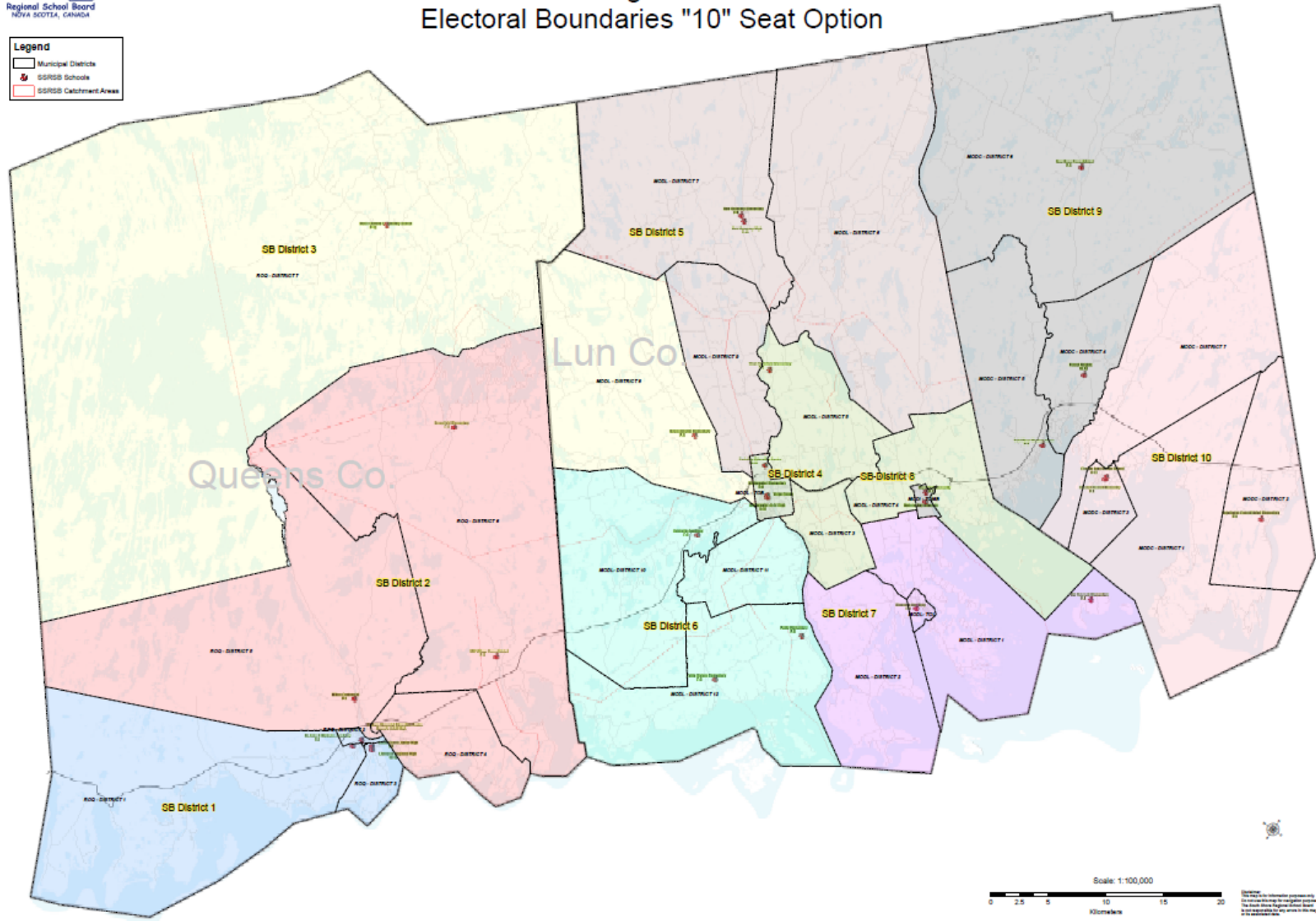
APPENDIX B
ELECTORAL DISTRICT MAPS
ALL PRESENTED OPTIONS



South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "10" Seat Option

Legend

- Municipal Districts
- SSRBS Schools
- SSRBS Catchment Areas



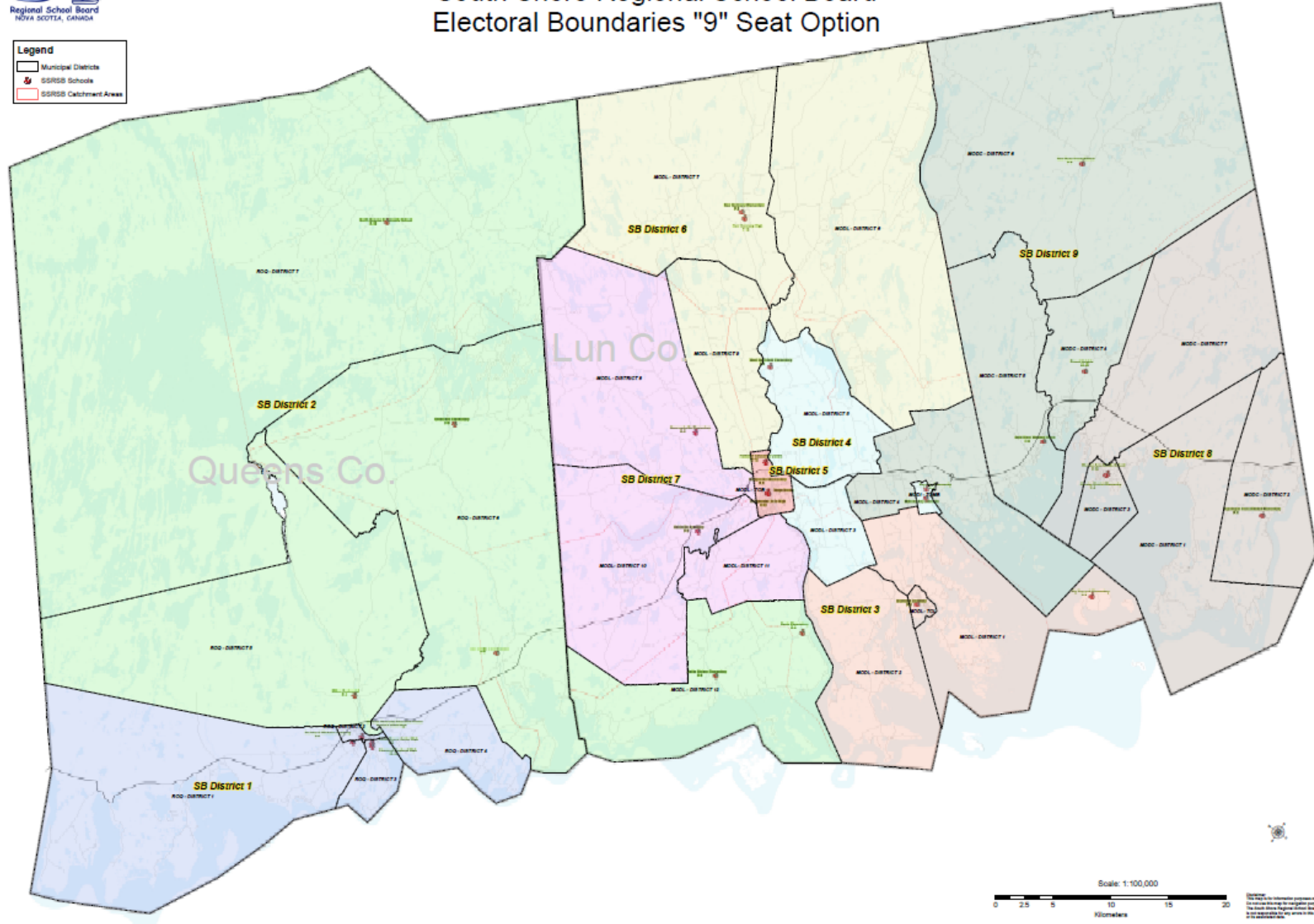


Regional School Board
NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "9" Seat Option

Legend

- Municipal Districts
- SSRBS Schools
- SSRBS Catchment Areas

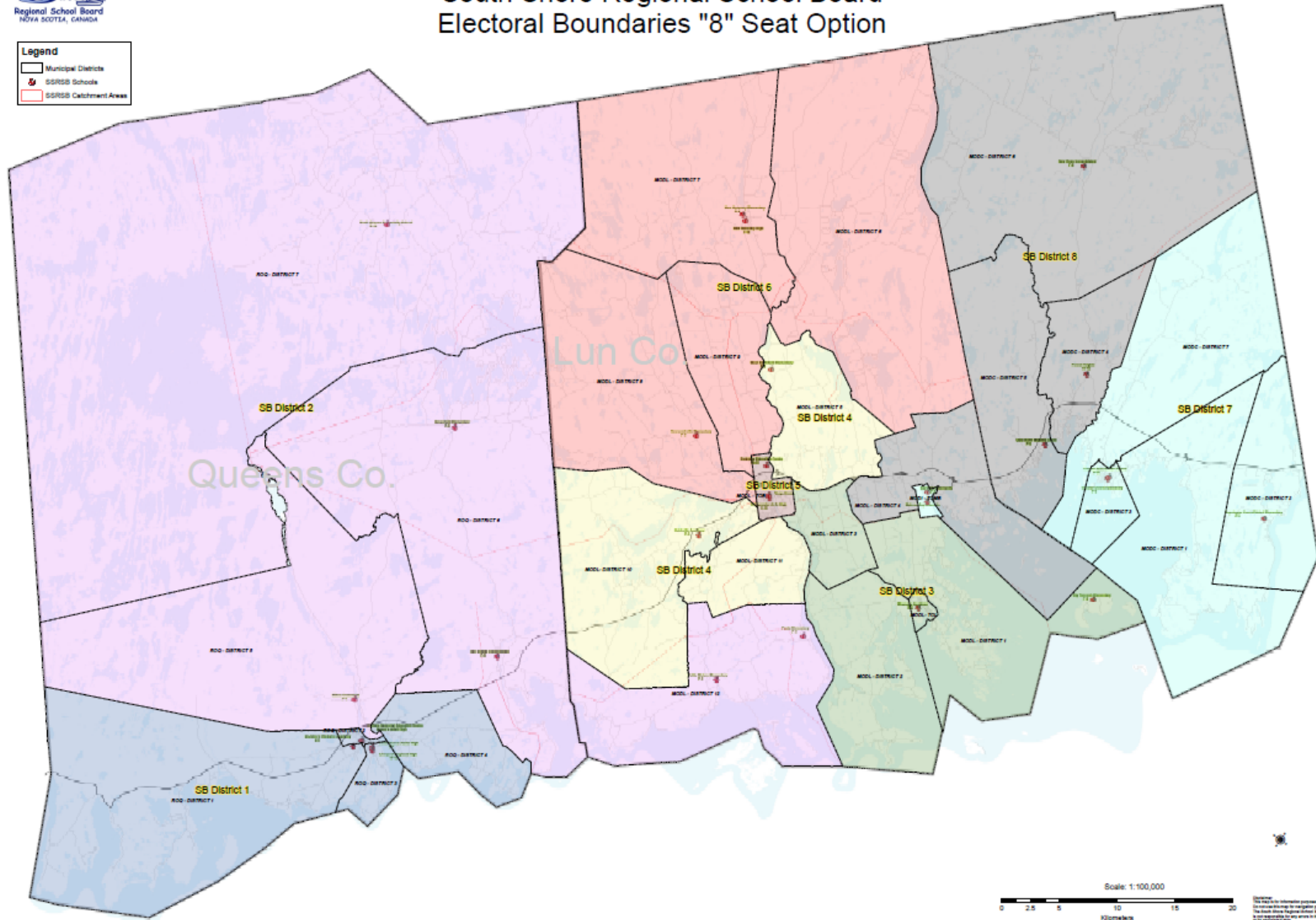




South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "8" Seat Option

Legend

- Municipal Districts
- SSRSB Schools
- SSRSB Catchment Areas

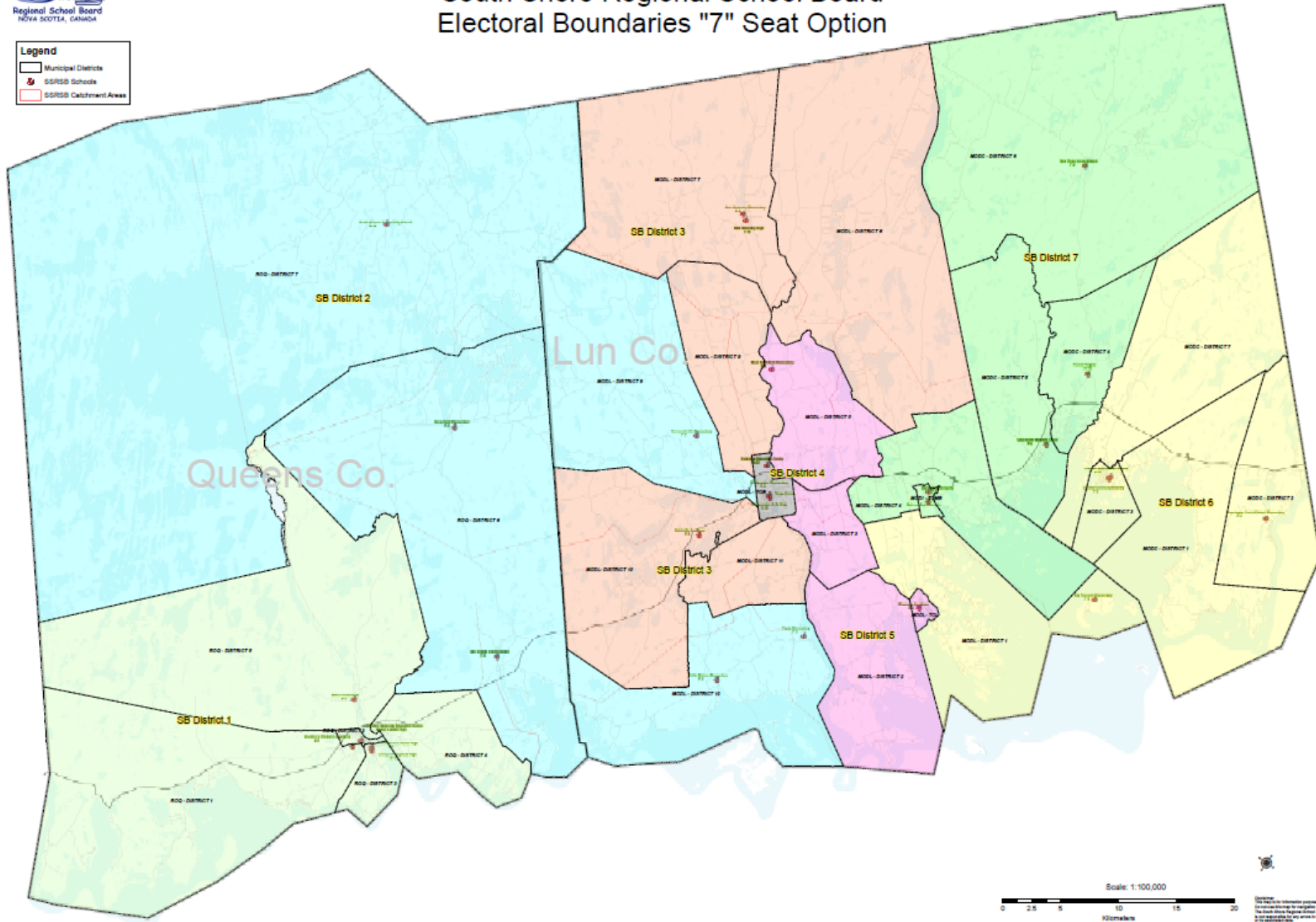




South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "7" Seat Option

Legend

- Municipal Districts
- SSRBS Schools
- SSRBS Catchment Areas

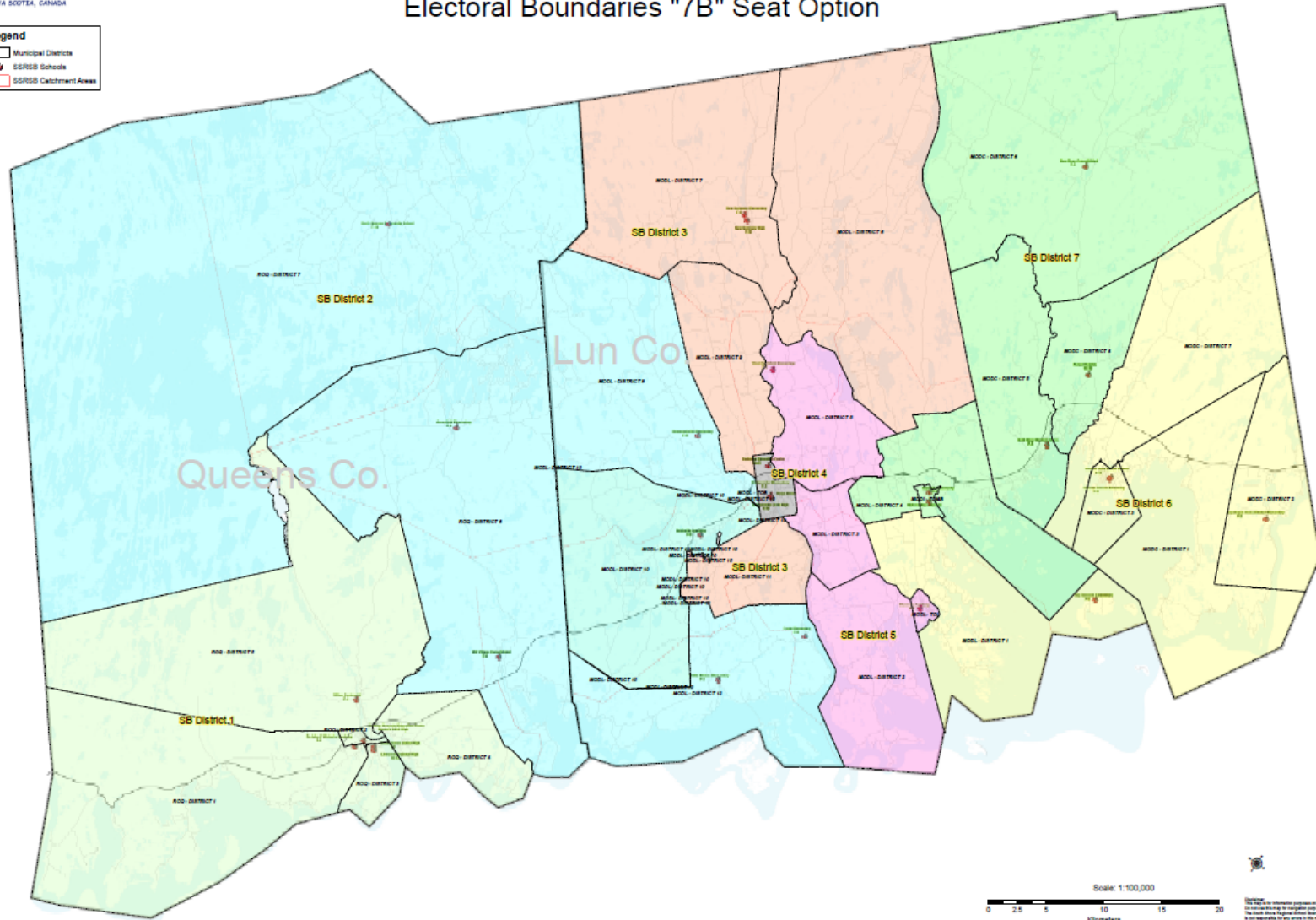


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South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "7B" Seat Option

Legend	
	Municipal District
	SSRSB Schools
	SSRSB Catchment Area

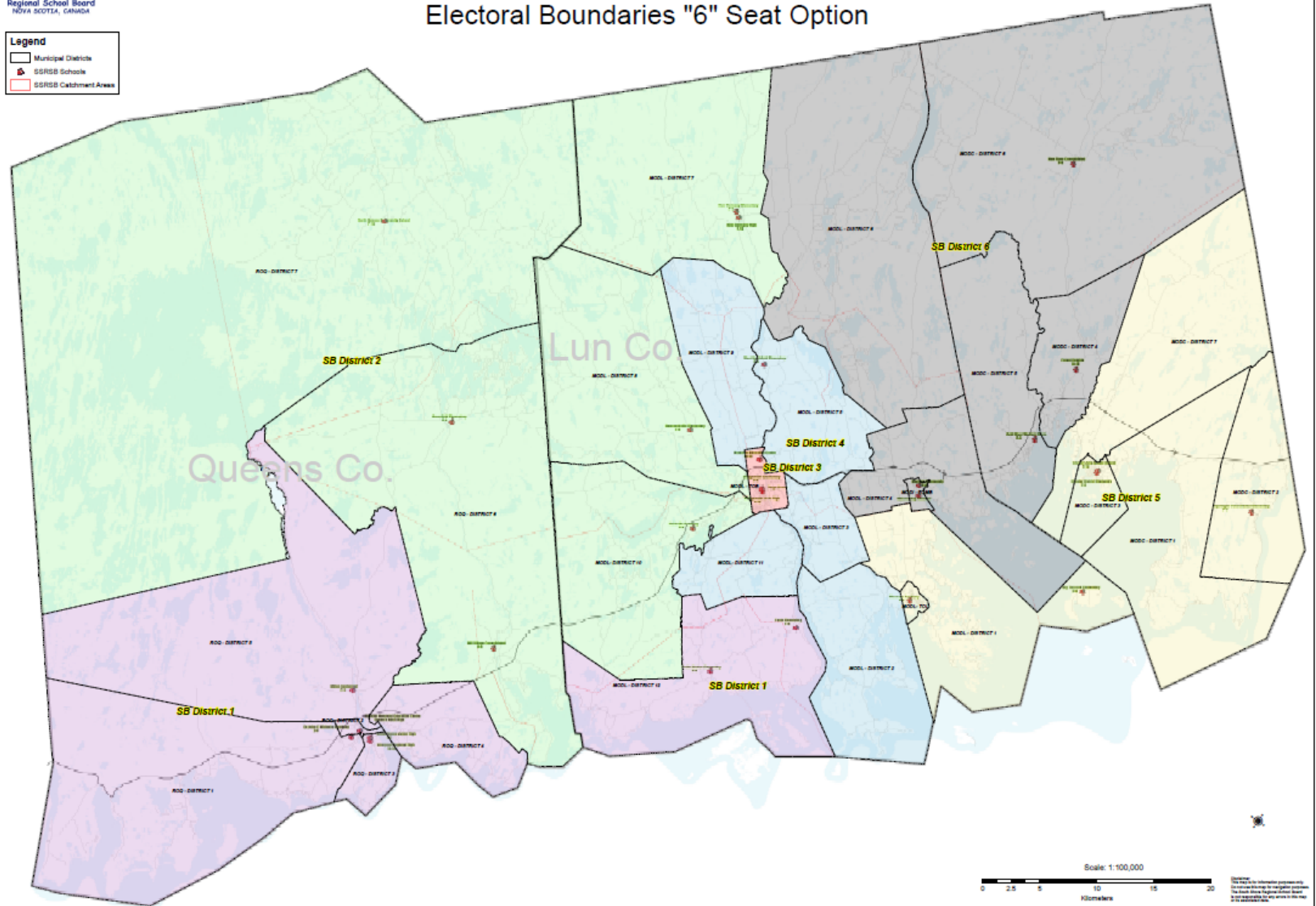




Regional School Board
NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "6" Seat Option

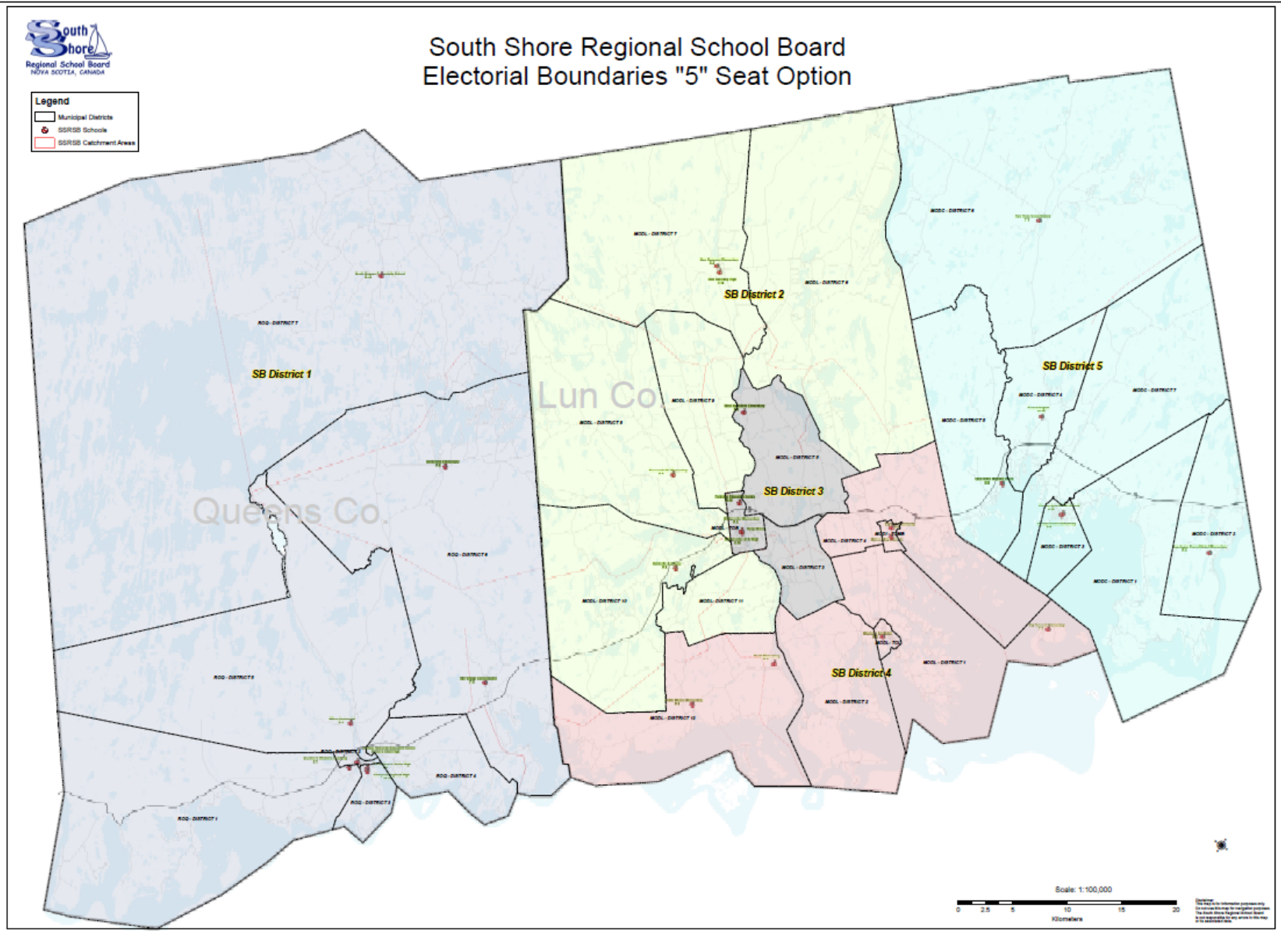
- Legend**
- Municipal Districts
 - SSRSB Schools
 - SSRSB Catchment Areas





South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "5" Seat Option

Legend	
	Municipal Districts
	SSRSB Schools
	SSRSB Catchment Areas



APPENDIX C

ELECTORAL STATISTICS

First Choice: 6 districts/6 members + 2

Ave. 7470 (10% Range: 6273-8217)

Composition	Population	% Tot	School Pop'n	% Tot	Electors	% Tot	Variance	% Var
Region of Queens	10917	19%	1370	19%	8271	8271	801	11%
MODL 5, 6, 7, 9	<25118		722	10%	6444	6444	-1026	-14%
Town of Bridgewater	8241	14%	909	13%	5942	5942	-1528	-20%
MODL 2, 8, 10, 11, 12	<25118		<2713		8412	8412	942	13%
MODL 1, 3, 4 + TOL + TOMB	<25118		<2713		7464	7464	-6	0%
Mun. of the District of Chester	10599	18%	1357	19%	8286	8286	816	11%
SSRSB	58131	100%	7071	100%	44819	44819		

Second Choice: 7 districts/7 members + 2

Ave. 6403 (10% Range: 5673-7043)

Composition	Population	% Tot	School Pop'n	% Tot	Electors	% Tot	Variance	% Var
ROQ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<10917		<1370		5809	13%	-594	-9%
ROQ 6, 7; MODL 8, 10, 12	<10917		<1370		7721	17%	1318	21%
MODL 6, 7, 9, 11	<25118		<1370		6410	14%	7	0%
Town of Bridgewater	8241	14%	909	13%	5942	13%	-461	-7%
MODL 2, 3, 5, TOL	<25118		<1370		6496	14%	93	1%
MODC 1, 2, 3, 7; MODL 1	<10599		<1357		6430	14%	27	0%
MODC 4, 5, 6, MODL 4 + TOMB	<10599		<1357		6011	13%	-392	-6%
SSRSB	58131	100%	7071	100%	44819	100%		

Third Choice: 9 districts/9 members + 2

Ave. 4980 (10% Range: 4482-5478)

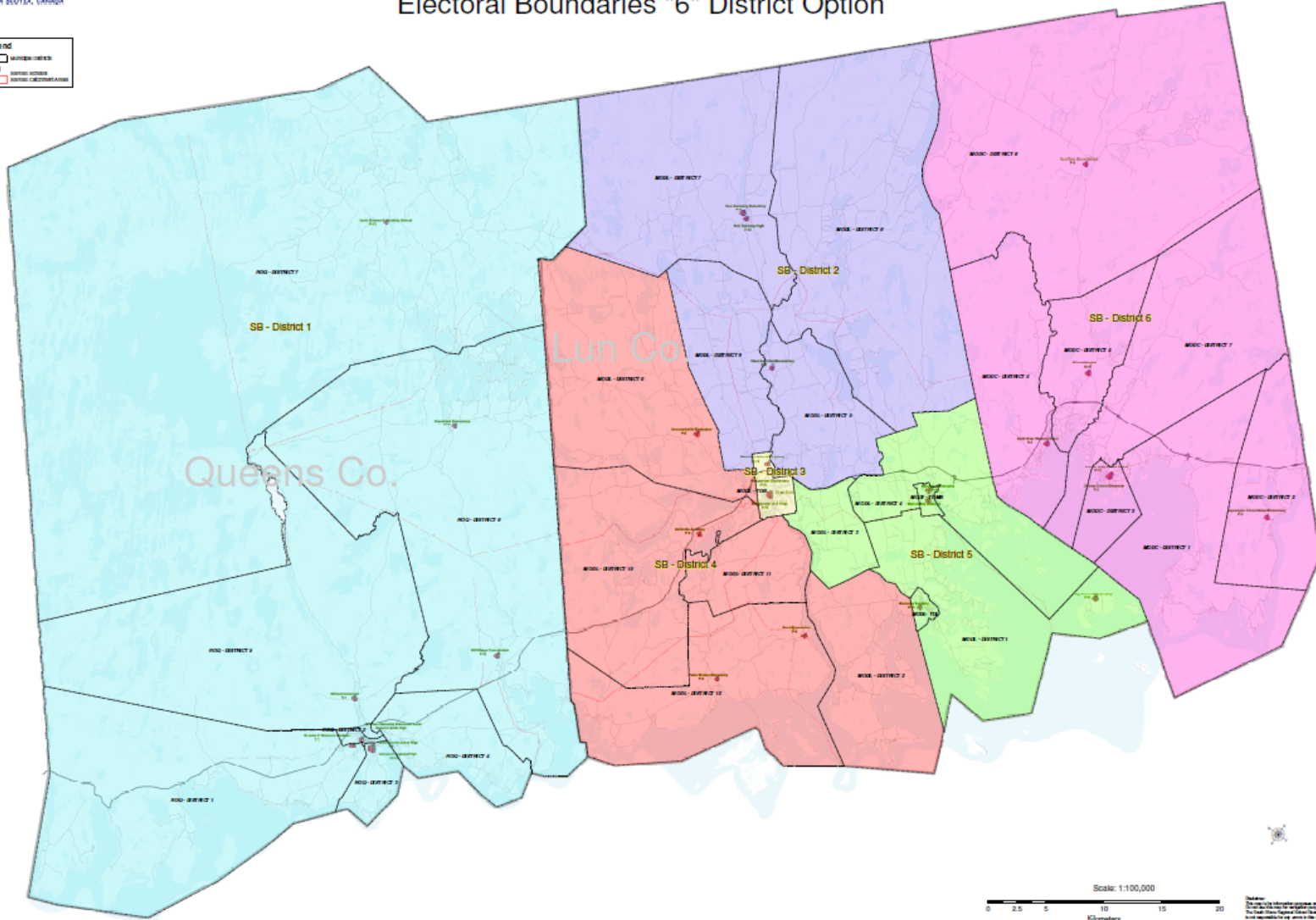
Composition	Population	% Tot	School Pop'n	% Tot	Electors	% Tot	Variance	% Var
ROQ 1,2,3,4	<10917		<1370		4659	10%	-321	-6%
ROQ 5,6,7, MODL 7	<10917		<1370		5148	11%	168	3%
MODL 6,8,9	<25118		722		5074	11%	94	2%
Town of Bridgewater	8241	14%	909	13%	5942	13%	962	19%
MODL 10,11,12	<25118		<1370		5059	11%	79	2%
MODL 1,2 + TOL	<25118		<2713		5522	12%	542	11%
MODL 3,4,5 + TOMB	<25118		<2713		5129	11%	149	3%
MODC 1,2,3,7	<10599		<1357		4610	10%	-370	-7%
MODC 4,5,6	<10599		<1357		3676	8%	-1304	-26%
SSRSB	58131	100%	7071	100%	44819	100%		

APPENDIX D
ELECTORAL DISTRICT MAPS
TOP THREE OPTIONS



South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "6" District Option

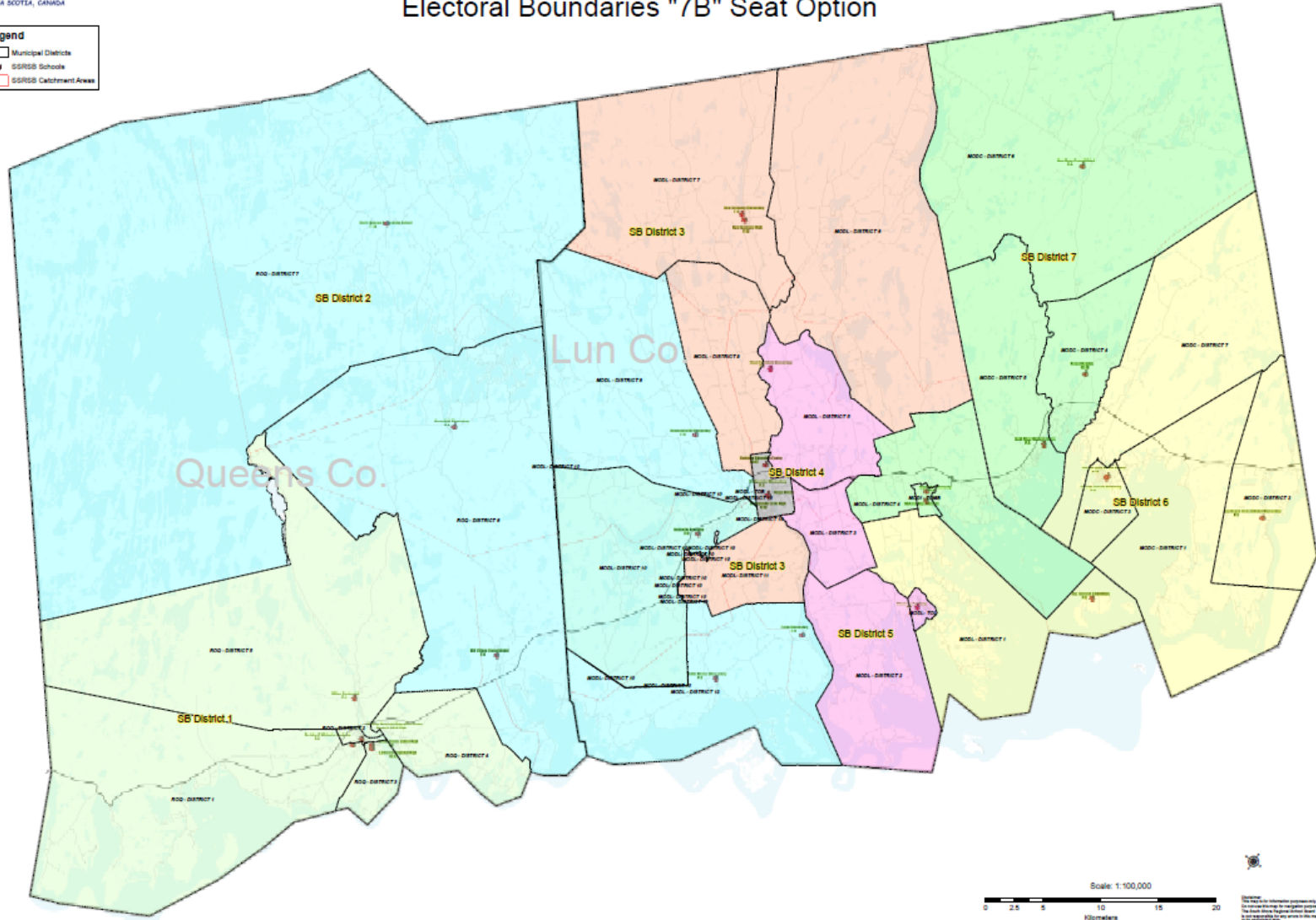
Legend
MUNICIPALITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL CENTRE
SCHOOL CIRCUMFERENCE





South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "7B" Seat Option

Legend	
	Municipal Districts
	SSRBS Schools
	SSRBS Catchment Areas





South Shore Regional School Board Electoral Boundaries "9" District Option

Legend	
	Municipal Districts
	SSRISB Schools
	SSRISB Catchment Areas

