

Hello South Shore Regional School Board (SSRSB) Families,

September has been a very busy month with the start of the 2012-13 school year. Our staff, teachers and students are off to a great start.

In August the Governing Board and staff organized a School Board Member Candidate Information Session. It was well attended with interested candidates from all districts in attendance. Following the session on August 29<sup>th</sup> was the Board meeting. The Board approved the revised By-laws for submission and approval to the Minister of Education. The By-Laws have been in revision since February 2011. They are detailed and will provide the new Board with a comprehensive set of By-laws.

At the information session a former Board Member asked about the time commitment for the Joint Use Committees (between Forest Heights Community School and the Municipality and between Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School and the Municipality). I have reviewed the agreements and the role of the governing Board. There is no requirement that this committee include a Board Member as management of these agreements is the responsibility of the Superintendent. This has been assigned to the Superintendent and will not be added to the list of governing Board committees.

This past month the Governing Board has worked with staff on the long term strategic plan framework, presented at the September meeting, which forms the basis for the 2013-16 Strategic Plan. The framework is an outline with priorities for the next several years, with a lot of room for the new Board to work within. The new Board will continue to approve the annual business plan each year.

The Board attended the Board of Directors meeting at Nova Scotia School Boards Association. They are looking at holding the Orientation for Boards across the province once the elected Board Members are sworn in. Orientation will focus on governance and responsibilities.

The Governing Board has also approved plans for an orientation session for the elected Board Members, the first of which will take place at the first meeting of the new School Board. I have also arranged for consultants from Deloitte to be available at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, to present the Impact Assessment Reports. By October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 the Superintendent will, as per the legislation, ensure the Study Committee of each school under School Review meets and selects a Chairperson. The Study Committee prepares and submits a written response to the Impact Assessment Report to the Board by February 1<sup>st</sup> and by February 28<sup>th</sup>, tables the response at a public Board Meeting.

A public hearing must be conducted by March 24<sup>th</sup> and by March 31<sup>st</sup> Board Members must make a decision with respect to the outcome of the School Review process at a public meeting.

I would also like to say thank you for the help of the Superintendent and her staff in preparation for the September Board Meeting.

Respectfully yours,

Judith Sullivan-Corney