



School Advisory Council Community Conversation

Forest Heights Community School

Nov. 7, 2017

Outcomes

You will:

- Have an understanding of the difference between school board **governance** and school board **management**.
- Have an understanding of the **role of school board members**.
- Have an understanding of the **relationship** between school board members and school advisory councils.



“A school board is accountable to the Minister of Education and responsible for the control and management of the public schools within its jurisdiction in accordance with this Act and the regulations.”

Section 64.1 of the Nova Scotia Education Act



Our Mission

To provide our students with a learning environment that engages and inspires them to reach their full potential.



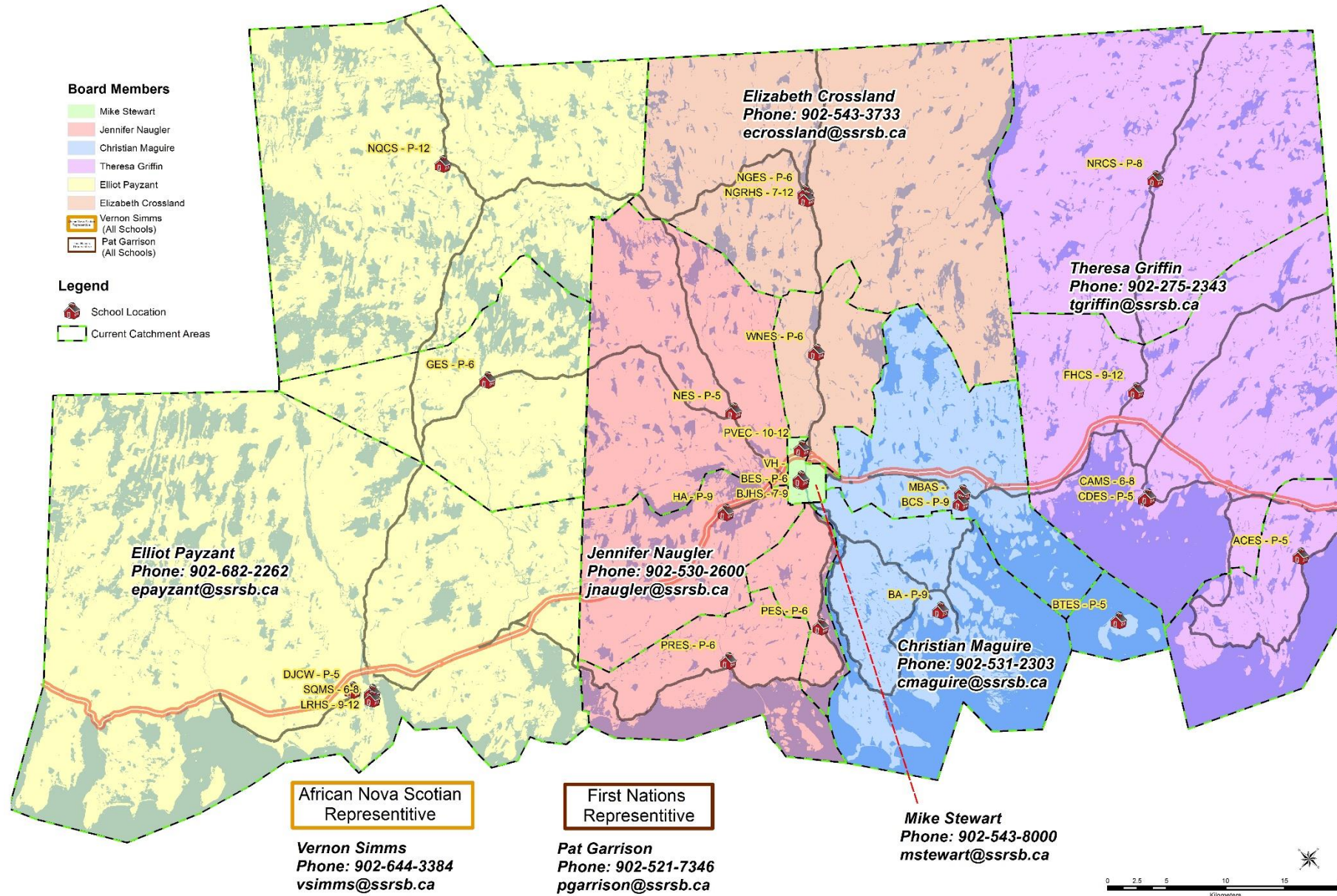
Governance Structure

- The elected governing board is comprised of **seven elected** board members and **one appointed** member.
- The seven members are elected in local electoral districts, including one member representing African Nova Scotian families from across both counties.
- The Province appoints a representative of Mi'kmaq families across the board.
- The Education Act (Section 64) outlines the duties of school board members.
 - They are responsible for the education and instruction of all students enrolled in schools in the region.
- Board members are elected in districts, but represent the entire region and best interests of all schools.



South Shore Regional School Board Board Members

"Inspiring our students to reach their full potential"





Role of School Board Members

Board members:

- Maintain consistent communication with members of the community to address public education issues of local importance. Act as a communication link between the public and board administration.
- Represent the community's interest in the governance of all schools.
- Develop plans to address student needs and actively participate in their local community.
- Establish governance policies and governance structures subject to legislation and regulations.
- Create policies that outline expectations of board administration, teachers and students.
- Represent and support students, parents and communities on education issues that affect our system.
- Act in a collective manner and publicly support the decision of the Board.



Role of School Board Members

Board members:

- Create a vision or mission for education in their area consistent with provincial objectives.
- Focus on policy versus daily administration.
- Establish short and long-term goals.
- Plan and approve the budget. Allocate funds efficiently.
- Empower the administrators, educators and the community to carry out the vision.
- Provide direction and support to the superintendent. Evaluate superintendent performance.

Role of Administration

- The superintendent is the only member of administration who reports to the board.
- The superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the school system, accountable for:
 - The efficient operation of the regional office and the public schools in the region.
 - The supervision of all employees.
 - The educational performance of the students and schools in the region.
 - An annual report detailing such performance.
- The superintendent is responsible for implementing all policy developed by the board and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Principals are responsible for the administration of the schools.



Regional School Board

Governance vs. Management

School board GOVERNANCE		School board MANAGEMENT
Develop and monitor a student transportation policy	→	Decide where a bus stop is located
Develop and monitor a policy on personnel performance appraisal	→	Supervise staff and make judgement on performance
Promote excellence in education	→	Administer an assessment to determine student achievement
Ensure there is a clear line of communication for parents/guardians	→	Receive a parent/guardian concern and assist in finding a solution
Approve an annual budget	→	Allocate staff, supplies, materials and other resources
Ensure there is compliance with the provincial code of conduct policy	→	Communicate directly with parents/guardians about student behaviour



Relationship between School Board and School Advisory Councils (SACs)



Expectations of School Advisory Councils

Among other responsibilities, school advisory councils are responsible for:

- Recommending a school improvement plan to the school board.
- Advising the school board on curriculum and student support services, policy development, funding, communication strategies, and similar matters that promote a positive learning environment.
- Participating in selecting the school's principal.
- Serving on the School Options Committee when a school is identified for review, as described in the School Review Policy referenced in the Education Act.
- Selecting one or more representatives to serve on the Site Steering Committee if a replacement school is approved for construction.



Roles of Supporting Partners

School boards provide ongoing support to school advisory councils by:

- Developing policies and procedures that support effective SACs.
- Supporting the ongoing work of SACs.
- Reviewing and approving the Letters of Agreement and by-laws.
- Recommending Letters of Agreement for approval to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Consulting with SACs on educational issues, as set out in the Act.
- Organizing leadership development opportunities for SACs.



Roles of Supporting Partners

School boards provide ongoing support to school advisory councils by:

- Monitoring and supporting SAC performance.
- Advising on or resolving conflicts related to SACs.
- Ensuring that SACs adhere to their Letters of Agreement and by-laws.
- Receiving the school improvement plan and annual report.
- Requesting advice from SACs on policy or other matters, in accordance with the Act.

OUR COMMON GOAL





Thank you
Merci
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