

Petite for the Future:

Still fighting to save our school



Public Meeting - February 2017

Overview

- **Timeline of Events**
- **Motion, Issues and Actions**
- **Q&A**
- **Break and then Discussion Tables**



2011

Winter 2011 - Home and School and parents call individual Board members to lobby to get PRES off of review list.

March 2011 – Karen Reinhardt, SSRSB member, leads motion to review no schools.

Spring 2011 – Deloitte hired by SSRSB to review Board.

Legend

Dept. of Ed.

SSRSB

PRES SAC



2012

Jan 2012 – SSRSB fired by Minister of Education.

Jan 2012 – First Small Schools Summit hosted by PRES Home and School.

March 2012 (6 months before new Board to be elected) - PRES put on school review by a School Board made up of one appointed member. Community asked for this decision to wait until new Board in place.

May- June 2012 – Deloitte and Consultant Jim Gunn meets with PRES SAC to “gather information”

June 2012 - Board accepts PRES SAC request to study expanded catchment option for PRES future. Superintendent never communicates to Deloitte, that option never explored.

September 2012 - Deloitte Impact Assessment Report– fraught with errors and misinformation. No recommendations. Five options for closure and consolidation which were limited and based on false information.

Sept 2012 – PRES SAC rejects all options from IAR. Creates Study Committee and begins work to respond.

Oct 2012 – New rookie board elected. Jim Gunn presented IAR in first meeting before Study Committee has opportunity to react to false findings.

2013

February 1 2013 - Petite Plus – Community Response to IAR and Vision for PRES submitted to SSRSB.

Feb 2013 – Two SAC members present to MODL to gain support for Petite Plus vision. MODL would assume ownership of closed school building. Unanimous support provided.

March 2013 – SAC demands opportunity to present Study Report to SSRSB. Community Presentation to the SSRSB.

March 16, 2013 – Petite Plus Implementation Plan & Business Case Forecast created by PRES SAC upon request of SSRSB. Includes analysis of transportation, financial estimates and grade re-alignment.

March 27, 2013 - “Closure” Motion by made by SSRSB without legal consultation.

April 2013 – Moratorium on school closures requested by the Minister Jannex, rejected by Superintendent and Chair of SSRSB at the time.

April 2013 – Nancy Pynch-Worthylake promoted to Department as Superintendent of all schools. Jim Gunn hired as Interim Superintendent. SAC meets with new Super to plead case.

Spring 2013 – Min Jannex appoints Bob Fowler to evaluate school review.

May 2013 – first business case application to DOE by SSRSB (unsuccessful).

July 2013 – Geoff Cainen hired as new Superintendent.

2014

Jan-June 2014 – Fowler Report. Led to a repeal of the Education Act, a new School Review Process and a form of the Community Hub Model being adopted by the province.

May 2014 – Led by Brian Smith, SSRSB Staff, new build proposal with SAC input. SAC brought community partners (Mental Health, YMCA, Library) to the table. Including prior facilitated joint SAC meetings with PES/PRES.

Summer 2014 – Hub Guidelines created by Superintendents, School Board Directors, no input elected board members, public or SACs. These guidelines are obstructionist and very restrictive.

Winter 2014 - PRES and PES SAC work together during multiple sessions facilitated by Nancy Stabenow to “determine community vision”.

2015

March 31, 2015 – SAC mtg with SSRSB, Superintendent and legal counsel for the board where lawyer suggested the decision by the school board could not be altered by the Minister (despite regulation in ED Act changing to allow for this) and that removal of regulation from Ed Act would be required since motion could not be retroactively applied. SSRSB indicated they would apply for a joint application for a new build suggested we establish Community Revitalization Society to substantiate a new build.

November 2015 - Education Minister's letter to SSRSB offering funds for an A&A to one of the two schools upon cabinet approval.

November 2015 - PRES and Pentz SAC meet with SSRSB for an update on situation (Plan for Stantec assessment introduced)

2016

January 2016 – Board Staff recommend new build be put on priority list to Dept of Ed because narrow interpretation of motion (no new business case – just resubmitted old application from 2014). Chair allows JC Reddy (parent at PES and lawyer) to present to Board.

February 2016 – Stantec Condition of Building Report of PRES (at request of SAC) – finding was that best educational option would be an A&A for one of the schools. Board has never formally recognized this report.

Summer 2016 – Cainen retired. Scott Milner hired as our fourth Superintendent in four years.

Fall 2016 – Minister Casey agrees that Hub Guidelines are inadequate after five Hub School proposals fail.

Dec 2016 – SAC wrote to Board predicting no new build and requesting A&A (again).

2017

Jan 2017 – Capital Plan released. No new build approved.

Jan 2017 – PRES situation discussed briefly at regular board meeting. Special Board Meeting requested by Jennifer Naugler. Chair and Superintendent contend regulation change still needed in order to request an A&A.

Feb 2017 - Superintendent speaks to media about meeting with SACs to begin “transition planning” for each school. Meeting happens with PES. PRES cancels their transition meeting.

Feb 2017 - Special Board meeting cancelled due to weather. “Public Discussion” to take place at next regular board meeting. No Special Meeting to take place.

Feb 2017 - PRES SAC has requested regulation change by the Minister.

The Motion

MOTION: March 27, 2013 stated that:

(SS038-13) " ...that Petite Riviere Elementary School permanently close and that a new school be requested to replace Petite Riviere Elementary School (PRES) (and Pentz Elementary School (PES))."

An identical motion was made for Pentz.

Elliot Payzant, Vice-Chair verbally clarified the motion prior to voting, stating:

"that Pentz Elementary School and Petite Riviere Elementary School would remain open until a new school has been completed to replace both Pentz Elementary School and Petite Riviere Elementary School..."

The Motion is full of issues!

It needs to be rescinded.



1. The legal interpretation of the motion did not reflect the intent of the board.
2. No legal advice or guidance given prior to motion or vote.
3. The motion had a fundamental clarifying statement added before the vote, but was not considered by one legal opinion.
4. The motion was passed in March 2013 under the preview Review Process that has since been repealed.
5. There was no closure date in the motion.
6. The PRES SAC was told there was no appeal process available - when there actually was a 30-day window for appeal.
7. Despite the Review Process being repealed, the board feels their legal opinion restricts them from rescinding the motion.
8. A Moratorium on school closures was made as a request by the Minister but rejected by our Board. The Moratorium itself could be viewed as an approval by the Minister to repeal motions made by School Board at that time.
9. An A&A (already approved by the Minister) could be considered both not subject to the original motion (since it specifically calls out a new build) and as approval by the Minister to repeal.

A Renovation (\$6m) Has Been Offered to SSRSB

They believe their lawyer's narrow interpretation that they cannot ask for it. That they must ignore their intent, their clarification, and cannot ask for anything except a new school.

If they don't ask for it, PRES will close, they will leave major funds on the table and 75-100 students will be bussed out of here as young as 4 years old, for hours each week to a school of the same age. There is NO educational benefit and ONLY very high costs of doing so for these kids.

Actions Possible to Pressure a Rescind Motion

- 1. Get our own lawyer to build a case to do so.**
- 2. Request copy of their two legal opinions, through Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP).**
- 3. Engage Ombudsman.**
- 4. Have board member provide notice of motion to rescind.**



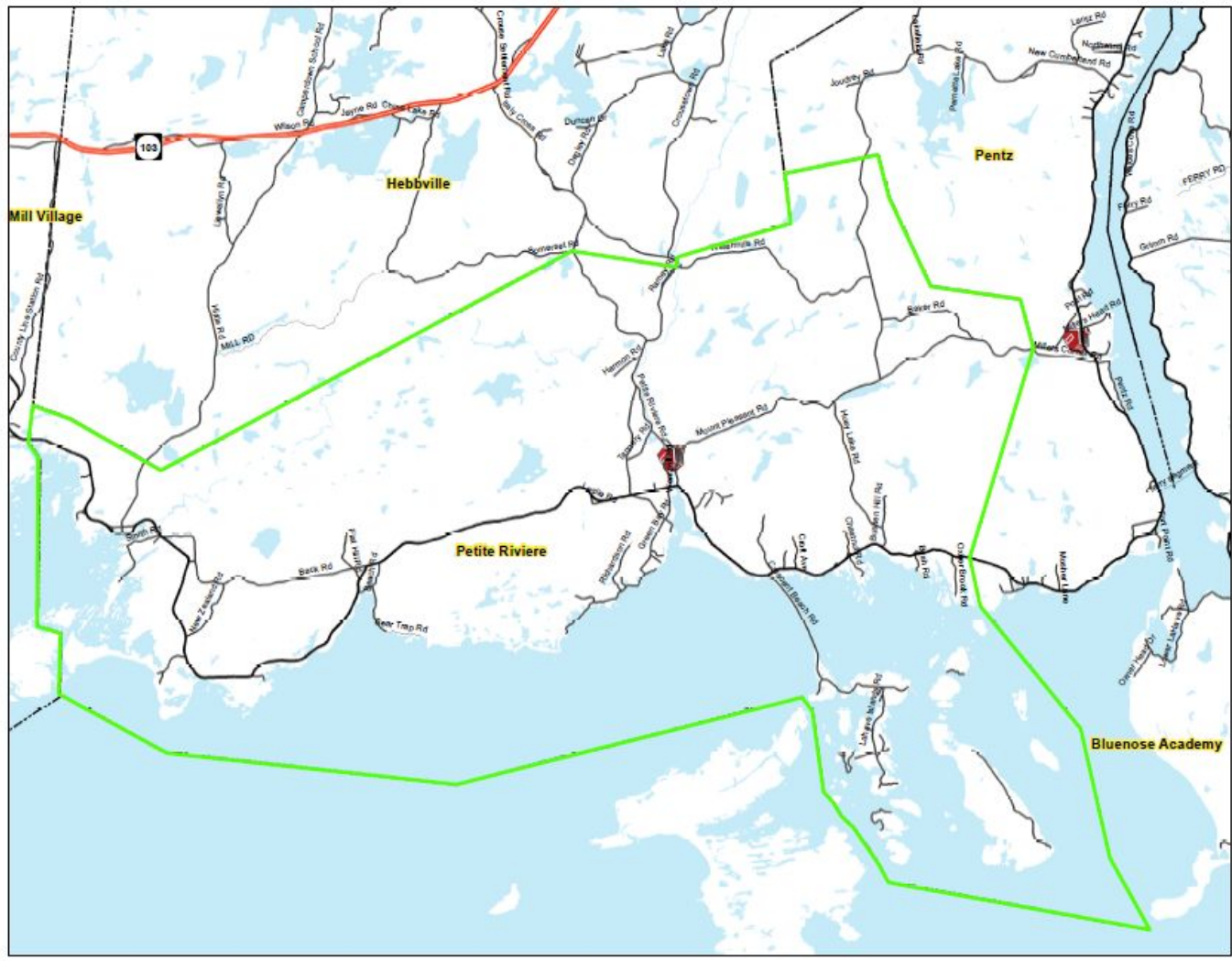
Other Immediate Actions

- Motion by our Board member for a full discussion of options and process to proceed (special meeting?)
- Media pressure to raise profile
- Demonstration of support
- Re-engage Minister
- Appeal to MODL for help
- Involve federal MP






You Making the Case For PRES

1. Geographically, the PRES catchment is large and there is a clear need for a school in this area.
2. Enrollment at PRES is increasing !
3. The PRES building was favourably reviewed for an A&A by Stantec. Renovation is “best value” and “offered”.
4. The PRES location is ideal -- on a quiet road, central in the catchment area.
5. Petite Riviere is a strong, innovative, unique rural community.



PRES Elementary Catchment Area

Legend

-  Schools
-  Elementary Catchment Areas
-  PRES Catchment Area

Roads

-  Highway
-  Secondary Highway
-  Streets



Scale 1:100,000



Disclaimer: This map is for information purposes only. The SSRSB is not responsible for any errors within this map or its associated datasets. DO NOT USE THIS MAP FOR NAVIGATION PURPOSES

Discussion Tables

1. Diplomatic Engagement

- Who can we engage - MODL, MLAs, Board members, etc.
- Approaches to engagement.

2. Positive Protest

- What positive demonstration/awareness do we engage in?
- Concerts, fundraisers, march etc etc.

Discussion Tables

3. Communications Strategy

- **What to do to control some of the message in the media?**
- **What outlets can we reach out to? are available?**

4. Unique Features

- **What are the unique features of the PRES community? What business, organizations, groups, and other elements of our community make this area unique?**

Q&A

