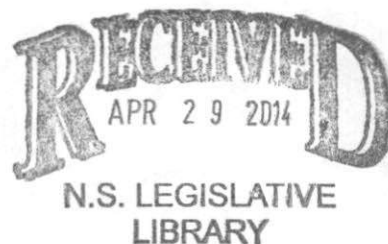


LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

Red Room, Province House

Monday, April 28, 2014

**Bill #40 - Maintenance and Custody Act (amended)**  
(deferred from previous meeting)



**Bill #56 - Dental Act (amended)**  
(no representation)

**Bill #60 - Securities Act (amended)**  
(no representation)

**Bill #63 - Education Act (amended)**  
(no representation)

**Bill #65 - Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission Act (amended)**  
(no representation)

**Bill #66 - Halifax Regional Municipality Charter Act (amended) and  
Municipal Government Act (amended)**

6:00 p.m.            1.    John Traves  
                              *Halifax Regional Municipality*

**Bill #62 - Halifax Convention Centre Act**

6:00 p.m.            1.    Don Mills, Chairman & CEO  
                              *Corporate Research Associates*

2.    Philip Pacey

3.    Roberta Dexter, Owner & Project Manager  
                              *Plan Ahead Events*

**Bill #64 - Financial Measures (2014) Act**

7:00 p.m.

1. Robert Parker
2. John Hutton  
*Dalhousie Student Union*
3. Brian Foster
4. Giovana Celli
5. Karen Foster
6. Aaron Beale
7. Matthew Furlong
8. Kyle Power
9. Jonathan Williams
10. Jacqueline Skiptunis **DIDN'T APPEAR**
11. Ramz Aviz
12. Mahbubur Rahman
13. David Etherington
14. Kaitlin Baur
15. Omri Haiven
16. Katerina ~~Stien~~ Stein
17. Jacob Voye
18. ~~Amber Cragg~~ Alexander Elderkin
19. Ali Calladine **DIDN'T APPEAR**
20. Jake Eidinge
21. Arna Sisson
22. James Patriquin

Bill #64 - Financial Measures (2014) Act (cont'd)

23. Danielle Andres
24. Jessica Dempsey
25. Ian Johnson  
Servicing Co-ordinator/Policy Analyst  
*NSGEU*
26. John Stark
27. Jeremy Mott
28. Jacob Kroeker
29. Amy Brierley
- ~~30. Shannon Phoenix~~
31. Rebecca McEvoy
32. Gabrielle Beauchemin *DIDN'T APPEAR*
33. Rita Morley
34. Matthew Rios
35. Callie Lathem
36. Darcy Shea
37. Anna Duvinski
38. Yalitsa Riden  
*SUNSCAD Student Union* *DIDN'T APPEAR*
- ~~39. Allison Sparling~~ *DID APPEAR*
40. David Flemming *DIDN'T APPEAR*
41. Holly Lobsinger
42. Derek Rodgers
43. *Chelsea Fougere*

# Wentworth School Sustainability Association



April 27, 2014

Jamie Baillie  
MLA Cumberland South and  
Leader of Nova Scotia's Official Opposition

Regarding: Legislative Amendments to School Review Process

Dear Mr. Baillie:

The Wentworth School Sustainability Association is supportive of the proposed legislative amendments to the school review process. We are encouraged by the recommendations made by the Fowler Committee and by Minister Casey's acceptance of those recommendations. Government is to be commended for this effort in recognizing the flaws and correcting the inherent unfairness that most communities experienced with the current school review process.

However, we are most discouraged by these amendments if they do not set aside the unjust school closure decisions made in 2013. Setting aside the closure decisions would enable affected schools and communities to be reconsidered under the new improved review process.

As you know, our Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School was subjected to the current school review process last year resulting in an uncertain and questionable closure decision by the Chignecto Central Regional School Board to take effect in June 2015. The previous Minister, Ramona Jennex, and our association, have both requested CCRSB to set aside this decision in anticipation of a less adversarial and more just review process. Not only has the Board refused to do so, they have also failed to recognize the government's admission that the current review process is flawed and unfair.

We believe the most just and effective approach is to have the proposed amendments include provisions to set aside school closure decisions made under the current review process, but not yet implemented. Obviously, schools which have already been closed cannot be reopened, but schools whose closures are pending should be given consideration using the new review process. For government to recognize that the review process was seriously flawed and to ignore these yet-to-be implemented decisions would seem most hypocritical.

The decision made by CCRSB to close our school, which was later modified and made pending to June 2015, was based on information which we believe to be questionable. For instance, we do not believe that the elementary students from Wentworth catchment area can be bussed to the proposed new schools meeting the student transportation guidelines currently held by the Board. The Board has not provided evidence that, using the number of buses now in place, this can be accomplished. It is our belief and concern that several of our elementary students would spend up to three hours each day on long bus rides – this is not acceptable to our community and should not be acceptable to government.

We support and encourage your efforts to bring forward an amendment that would set aside such closure decisions and enable our community and others to participate in a fair school review process. To date, we do not feel that we have been afforded the benefit of an effective, inclusive and open review.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community and the future of our elementary school.

Sincerely,

Wentworth School Sustainability Association

Andrea Rushton, Secretary  
ajrushton@ns.sympatico.ca

DEFERRED

**Bill #63  
Education Act (amended)**

CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO THE LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

**PAGE 1, Clause 2, proposed clause 89(1)(e)** - add “, including, with respect to reviews involving elementary schools, consideration of the travel time and distance for students, and whether there may be a school in a different school region that is nearer to where individual students reside” after “committees”.

**PAGE 1, Clause 2, proposed subsection 89(2)** - delete “Subject to the regulations, a” and substitute “A”.

**PAGE 2, Clause 3** - strike out everything after “repealed” and substitute a period.

**PAGE 2** - add the following Clause:

4 (1) Notwithstanding any enactment, a school board may not permanently close any school that is not permanently closed prior to the coming into force of this Section except in accordance with a school review policy adopted pursuant to Section 89 of the *Education Act* as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

(2) For the purpose of this Section, a public school is not permanently closed unless

- (a) all of the school buildings have been vacant for at least one school year prior to the coming into force of this Section;
- (b) the buildings are not being renovated; and
- (c) no students are attending the school.

**PAGE 2, Clause 4** -

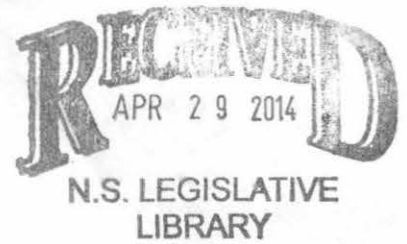
- (a) renumber as 5; and
- (b) strike out “Section 1” and substitute “Sections 1 and 4”.

**LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE**

**Red Room, Province House**

**Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

**4:30 p.m.**



**Bill #62 - Halifax Convention Centre Act**

*(deferred from previous meeting)*

**Bill #63 - Education Act (amended)**

*(deferred from previous meeting)*

**Bill #64 - Financial Measures (2014) Act**

*(deferred from previous meeting)*

**Bill #67 - Invest Nova Scotia Board Act**

*No representation*

**Bill #69 - House of Assembly Management Commission Act (amended)**

*No representation*

DEFEATED

**Bill #63  
Education Act (amended)**

CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO THE LAW AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

**PAGE 1, Clause 2, proposed clause 89(1)(e)** - add “, including, with respect to reviews involving elementary schools, consideration of the travel time and distance for students, and whether there may be a school in a different school region that is nearer to where individual students reside” after “committees”.

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