



Annapolis Valley
Regional School Board

In Touch

Newsletter

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January | 2012

Education Funding for 2012-2013:

Keeping you updated and advocating for appropriate support.

With recent news about reductions in funding for post-secondary education and health, many are wondering what is happening with funding for the public education system.

This update, as of mid-January 2012, is to let you know the information school boards have received so far, and AVRSB's approach.

At this point, school boards in Nova Scotia have not received information from the province regarding next year's funding. We are anxiously awaiting this information and have been told to expect it early in February.

AVRSB senior staff and Board members are actively advocating



for appropriate education funding through a number of methods. We are working with the Department of Education and have worked collaboratively with the Department on a review of the Hogg Formula for education funding.

We are also collaborating with the Education Partners, through the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, to raise public awareness of the impact of funding reductions through a campaign that includes a website, videos, posters, and other information to media and communities.

Finally, the elected members of the Board and senior staff will be meeting with our MLAs in the

coming weeks, and the Board Chair has communicated concerns regarding funding directly to the Minister of Education.

As we learn more, we will share details on the information we receive from the province, and the related activities of our Board and senior staff.

IN THIS Issue

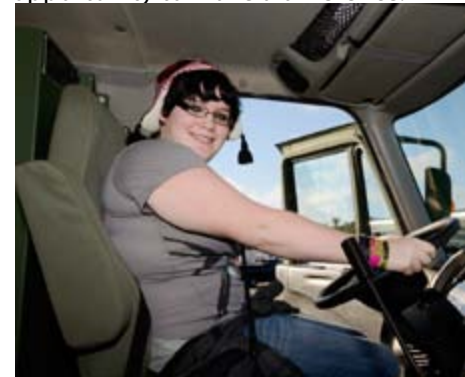
- 2 - Students explore career and co-op opportunities.
 - AEEs Principal named Honorary Colonel.
- 3 - Students making a difference in the community.
- 4 - Board Meeting Highlights and Update on School Reviews.

O2 Students Get First-Hand Experience of Reserves

In December, over 300 Options and Opportunities students from across AVRSB and the South Shore visited Camp Aldershot for an open house hosted by the West Nova Scotia Regiment.

West Nova Lieutenant Colonel George Thomson—who is also AVRSB’s Occupational Health and Safety Officer—says the day was an opportunity to see the wide range of skills one can develop as a Reservist, as well as career options with the Canadian Forces. Thomson’s personnel hosted displays of equipment and vehicles, communications technology and various demonstrations and simulation exercises.

During the open house, Central Kings grad (and granddaughter of AVRSB Transportation Specialist Carol Hill) Corporal Lisa Misener shared her experience working as a member of the West Nova Regiment while studying towards a university degree. She says this role offers her an opportunity to make a difference.



A student checks out the view from a military vehicle. (Photo courtesy M. Selig, 36 Canadian Brigade Group Imagery Technician)

AEES Principal Appointed Honorary Colonel



As Honorary Colonel, West’s duties will include developing, promoting and sustaining strong relationships between the unit and community.

Congratulations to Karl West, Principal of Annapolis East Elementary School, on his appointment as Honorary Colonel of 14 Mission Support Squadron at 14 Wing Greenwood! A ceremony to recognize his appointment took place on January 18, 2012.

West is active in the community and with organizations such as Scouts Canada. He is a volunteer member of the 14 Wing Band and under his leadership, the AEES school community is very supportive of Canadian Forces members and their families.

Before West, AVRSB’s Coordinator of Transportation Ed Arseneault served as Honorary Colonel of the unit.

Building Futures for Youth

For many high school students, deciding on a career path can be challenging. For Grade 10 and 11 co-operative education students interested in the construction industry, the Building Futures for Youth (BFY) program helps meet this challenge.



The program involves an in-school co-operative education component, safety training at NSCC campuses, industry orientation through the Construction Association of Nova Scotia, and several weeks of paid summer employment as a registered construction trades pre-apprentice. Participants emerge with valuable skills and experience, along with up to three co-op credits and banked apprenticeship hours.

This month, 19 students took part in a BFY interview prep workshop. Brandi from Horton High School says she’s interested in the landscaping field, while Tim from Annapolis West Education Centre is looking at welding or heavy equipment operator positions. No matter what their field of interest, each student came away with great advice on networking and job interview techniques.

Curriculum Meets Community: Students go beyond the classroom to support community groups and charitable organizations.

As part of the Grade 9 Healthy Living class at Middleton Regional High School, students are giving a helping hand to their community.



Healthy Living 9 teacher Crystal Veinott engages students in a service learning unit called “Helping Hands”, designed to increase students’ awareness of the needs of others and provide them with an opportunity to reach out and make their community a better place.

Three local charities are selected each year; this year’s recipients were the Twelve Baskets Food Bank, The Salvation Army’s Children’s Christmas Assistance Program and the Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS).

With a goal of raising \$25 per person, students form groups and brainstorm possible fundraising ideas, discussing the pros and cons of each one. Collectively, the group decides on a fundraising project, then develops a detailed project proposal and creative advertising campaign to promote the fundraiser in the school and community. Throughout the process, students reflect on their accomplishments and finally present a full assessment of their project to the class.

Helping Hands provides students with an opportunity to set goals and take responsibility for achieving

them. Along the way, they develop organizational and communication skills, and learn the rewards of hard work and group collaboration.

Since the first time the unit was implemented in 2005, Helping Hands has raised a total \$22,842 for local charities, and over 1000 food bank items have been collected.

This year’s class raised \$3,864 of that total, plus numerous food bank donations. Projects included ticket raffles for prizes such as a free hot tub rental, lobsters, and a bird house. A “balloon pop” and lunchtime sock hop at the school, with donated DJ services, were popular events. One student group even produced and sold their own Christmas music CD! This musical entourage is already planning a CD of love songs for Valentine’s Day, and has set up a Facebook page to promote their project.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in Helping Hands, and thanks to all those who helped support their innovative projects!

This month, Yoga 11 students at Central Kings Rural High School proudly presented more than \$1200 to the Nova Scotia Alzheimer’s Society.

This was the result of several weeks planning by students for two major fundraising events in the school community.

Teacher Greg Milne helped guide the class through their projects. He says that planing a fundraising project fit well with the Yoga 11 course outcomes.

“Students have to take what they’ve learned about yoga principles—the karma yoga—and find that outside of class. Those principles are taking care of yourself, healthy living, doing good works and caring for others without expecting anything in return.”

Grade 11 student Kendra Mansfield said the class chose to support the Alzheimer’s Society of Nova Scotia based on personal experiences. “At least four of five people knew someone with Alzheimer’s or a form of dementia.”

Fellow Grade 11 student Justin Murphy added, “We wanted to focus on something different, and Alzheimer’s isn’t talked about as much.”

Grade 12 student Morgan Haley said, “I was surprised and happy to see the level of support in the school. The whole school got behind us.”

January Board Meeting Highlights

For complete Board Meeting minutes visit www.avrsb.ca/content/meeting-information.

Public Presentation--Greenwood Military Aviation Museum: Free educational opportunities available at the museum on aviation history, technology, search and rescue and air cadet training. Schools are invited to contact the museum for more information.

Next Board Meeting:

February 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at AVRSB Regional Office, Berwick (Storm date February 8, 2012).

AVRSB Website Update: Gerry Burrell, Coordinator of Information Technology, highlighted new AVRSB website services including: Email.text notices of school cancellations, online homework notifications, electronic tender documents and staff intranet for online services and forms. This technology saves time and resources, makes reporting efficient and benefits stakeholders.

Appointments Ratified:

- Maria Carty, Coordinator of Programs, effective Feb. 1 to July 31, 2012
- Brad Pemberton, Consultant of Middle Level Education, effective Feb. 1 to July 31, 2012.
- Tim Hutchinson, Buidling Systems Foreman, effective November 21, 2011
- Martyn White, Transportation Foreman (Annapolis area), effective December 19, 2011.

Successful Schools New Timeline Proposed

A new timeline for the *Successful Schools for Successful Students* report and recommendations will be put forward for approval at the next regular Board meeting, February 1, 2012. A revised timeline will allow thorough consideration of public input received through this planning process for central and western areas of Kings County.

If a new timeline is approved, the report and recommendations will be presented at the March 19, 2012 Operations Committee meeting. The Operations Committee would then forward recommendations to the full Board for consideration at the April 4, 2012 regular Board meeting.

Timeline updates will be posted at www.avrsb.ca.

School Reviews: Public Hearings in February

For Annapolis Royal Regional Academy and Newport Station District School

Annapolis Royal Regional Academy Public Hearing

Date: Monday, February 13, 2012, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Storm date February 14, 2012)

Location: Annapolis Royal Regional Academy, 590 George Street, Annapolis Royal

Newport Station District School Public Hearing

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Storm date: February 22, 2012)

Location: Newport Station District School, 1989 Wentworth Road, Newport Station

Members of the public are invited to participate in public hearings regarding the formal school review processes for possible closure of Annapolis Royal Regional Academy (ARRA) and Newport Station District School (NSDS). The ARRA school facility was constructed in 1947 and renovated in 1990, and currently serves approximately 170 students in grades 6 to 8. The NSDS school facility was constructed in 1963 and currently serves approximately 70 students in Grades Primary to 6.

The public hearings provide the public with an opportunity to make representations in respect of the Impact Assessment Report and Study Committee Report developed as part of the school review processes for each of these schools. These reports will be available after February 1 at the office of each school, AVRSB Regional Office (121 Orchard Street Berwick) or online at www.avrsb.ca. Also, if a meeting is postponed to the storm date, this will be posted at www.avrsb.ca.

In accordance with Section 89 of the Nova Scotia Education Act and Ministerial Regulations, a school board may identify a public school under its jurisdiction for review. Following its compliance with the procedures outlined in Section 89, including the formation of a study committee and holding a public hearing, the school board may choose to maintain the status quo; consolidate the school or part of the school with another public school; permanently close the public school; or make any other decision authorized by the regulations. The school board must make public any decision regarding the outcome of the school review process by posting it on the school board website (www.avrsb.ca).