



May 15, 2024

Honourable Becky Druhan
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
2021 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 578
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2S9

Dear Minister,

Re: HRCE Public Engagement Session #1 Results

On the evening of February 28, 2024, Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) held its first public engagement session at Cole Harbour District High School. HRCE invited all families, as partners in education, to participate in a discussion around student achievement.

Following a high-level presentation that set the current context of HRCE, including student achievement data and resources available to support students, participants were encouraged to share their feedback, ideas, and wisdom with HRCE. Discussions took place at each table and members of HRCE's leadership team were present to support discussions and answer questions. The in-person event was followed by a week-long online consultation. All thoughts were captured using ThoughtExchange.

Overall, more than 3,200 individuals provided input, and more than 9,600 thoughts were collected. The following is a summary of the key themes gleaned from the consultation.

Classroom Environment: There was an emphasis on the importance of creating supportive and safe learning spaces, with smaller class sizes and teacher-student ratios that foster more personalized learning experiences.

Curriculum: There were calls for a dynamic curriculum that includes more hands-on learning, modern technology, and coding to ensure students are well-equipped for the future.

Student Support: There was a strong focus on providing additional resources and support for students, especially those with unique learning needs, or are new to HRCE, to help them succeed.

Teacher Support: Participants recognized the importance of teacher learning, advocating for professional development and resources reflective of student needs, to empower educators in their roles.

Extracurricular Activities: Respondents expressed interest in more programs to stimulate

creativity, critical thinking, and physical activity, enriching the overall educational experience.

HRCE's Senior Leadership team has reviewed feedback provided in this first public engagement session. They are holding this valuable insight close as they prepare for the 2024-25 school year, and beyond.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you require additional information on any of the above-listed themes.

HRCE's next public engagement session is planned for June 4, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gallagher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Gallagher
Regional Executive Director of Education
Halifax Regional Centre for Education

