

**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY – Record of Meeting # 1
BURTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Burton Lions Club, Burton NB**

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Slipp – SD 03 • Andrew Corey – SD 05 • David Bowen – SD 06 • Terry Pond – SD 07 • Ron Buck – SD 08 • Jane Buckley – SD 09 • Kimberley Douglas – SD 10 – Vice Chair • Donald Gould – SD 11 • Elizabeth Nason – SD 12 • Mark Noël – SD 13 - Chair <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Gallagher – SD 01 • Norma Shaw – SD 02 • Miriam Grant – SD 04 • Tim Nicholas – First Nations 	<p>ASD-W Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David McTimoney, Superintendent • Rick Demmings, Director of Education • Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration • Daniel Wishart, Transportation Manager • Ed Hogan, Assistant Transportation Manager • Philip Cliff, Facilities Manager • Gina Dunnett, Supervisor of Data and Accountability • Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and DEC Secretary <p>Guests:</p> <p>1 Media 32 Community Members 3 Burton Staff</p>
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➤ **Sustainability Study – Burton Elementary School – Meeting #1**

- Mark Noël, District Education Chair welcomed everyone to the first Sustainability Meeting for Burton Elementary School and he thanked the Principal and staff of Burton Elementary School for their hospitality and tour of the school prior to the meeting.
- David McTimoney, Superintendent began the presentation reviewing Provincial Policy 409: Multi-year School Infrastructure Plan and a reminder of the second meeting that will be held at the Burton Lions Club on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- David presented a 46 page power point presentation called Burton Elementary School Sustainability Study. David reviewed and discussed the content of the slides that were a presentation of facts, enrolment, quality of education programs and services, provincial assessment results, student perception surveys, health and safety, transportation, finances, facility, the economic development in the community and the impact on other schools.
- This presentation can be found along with other pertinent documents and information related to the sustainability study of Burton Elementary School on our website www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/sustainability/pages/burton
- The next public meeting for the Burton Elementary School will be held on **Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Burton Lions Club. Stakeholders will be allowed to present to the District Education Councilors and a stakeholder form will be posted on ASD-W website. This document needs to be completed and sent to Carol Clark-Caterini one week prior to that meeting. The final meeting will be on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at the Fredericton High School in the Tom Morrison Theatre.
- Three outcomes included in Policy 409 are to maintain status quo (and the study is declared finished), secondly, a vote to make a recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to repair the school, and thirdly a recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to close the school and place students elsewhere. The Minister has no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days to make his decision.

➤ **Public Comments and Questions**

- A community member asked if the Sustainability Report that was completed 4 years ago be accessible for them to review. David agreed that we would post a copy of this report to the ASD-W website under the Burton Sustainability Study.
- A community member asked why the first vote for the Burton School was not included in the Sustainability Studies for 2015-16 but then it was added in June 2015. Why did this happen? David spoke about the June

Public DEC Meeting where a motion was passed to include the Burton School to the list of schools being studied for this school year.

- A community member remembered the last study where the vote was to remain status quo.
- Marty Forsythe asked how the ranking was calculated for projects on the Capital Improvement Lists. David responded that paving of a driveway would be considered a priority 3 compared to a leaky roof that would be considered a priority 1. Burton Elementary School's Capital Improvement Projects are estimated at \$573,000.00. Each year the District Education Council will review this lists and determine priorities. Please keep in mind, this list can change from year to year based on urgent needs.
- Michelle Boise asked when the study is finished and if the Minister determines status quo for the school, how long will the exemption be for? David responded that the exemption would be 4 years before it would be triggered again, but the DEC could bring it forward at any time.
- A community member asked if a school with less than 30% capacity will always be triggered, and if so, how does a school that is not built to accommodate 100 students not get triggered? 30% is the trigger that is set in policy.
- A community member asked if a report could be provided showing a comparison of student's achievement from a rural school and a town school and if bussing cost from other schools be provided. David informed the community that more information is going to be shared as he continues to build reports for the District Education Council. In the meantime, Provincial Assessments can be reviewed.
- A community member said that her children could not attend the Burton Elementary School due to a physical disability. This was a disadvantage for her child.
- A community member thanked the Superintendent for the great information that was provided tonight and how do they access any additional information. David advised the audience of the discussion board and the Burton website.
- A community member would like to know the number of students that live in the Burton area but attend an Oromocto school as their catchment area is different. David advised that he continues to work on additional reports upon the requests of the District Education Council. The requested information will be posted.
- A community member asked how enrollment is projected when a community is a military setting. David responded that enrollment is projected as best as possible based on previous trends and K-registration.
- Upon requests, David reviewed the most recent Sustainability Study outcomes in the Province of New Brunswick with 3 studies for ASD-W; a closure of two schools and one merging together. Elsewhere in the Province there were a couple of school closures and reports of status quos. During the past 4 years, our district studied Burton Elementary School with an outcome to remain status quo, Douglas Elementary School closed, and the building of two new schools in Woodstock as a result of 4 schools closing. No other schools were considered status quo other than Burton Elementary School, 4 years ago (in ASD-W).
- A community member asked if we would consider expanding the catchment area to include the Burton community. David responded that the School District reviews the catchment areas but at the next public meeting the community has the opportunity to build reports and present them to the District Education Council.
- David advised the community that these types of questions are asked by Councilors and that similar information is available for all schools. What is relevant to the study will be provided as requested and questions will come up until January 2016, which will be shared publically.
- It was suggested by a community member that a new elementary school would not cost as much as a school for higher grades. Also, if they could be provided with the cost of a new K-2 school. David agreed to find an estimate of a smaller school that had been built and he will share these numbers as a reference point.
- The PSSC Chair spoke of the Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School as being an older building than Burton Elementary School and there has been reports of water issues. The Facilities Manager, Philip Cliff reported that the Assiniboine Avenue School was built in 1957, that it is well maintained with many recent upgrades, and no water issues to his knowledge.
- Marty Forsythe asked if they could see the facts showing the FTE savings if the school was to close. He believed that there would be no savings. Marty's second point was that there has always been only three classrooms, so functional capacity is higher as not all classrooms are used. David added that another document will follow with a deeper report and that capacity is coming from The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as they assign the capacity report. Most importantly, DEC understands the Burton classroom set-up.
- It was asked why students were bussed out of the zone when one classroom was not being used. Also, who made that decision who teaches what grades and subjects? David responded that the role of the district is to assign the FTE and the School Principal determines how to use the FTE, some schools choose combined or team teaching. Teacher hiring is guided by maximum class sizes and an obligation to provide enough classes, this is beyond the Principal role.

- It was asked if the Superintendent could confirm if a new school was to be built in the Town of Oromocto. David responded that he had heard these same rumors over time, but there are no plans to build a school of this nature at this time.
- A community member asked if the Burton School could include Grade 3 students as a number of years ago and how many students were attending Grade 3 in the Town of Oromocto? David confirmed that the district was allowed to reconfigure grades, without a sustainability study, and if Grade 3 was included it would be a total of 66 students return to the Burton School.
- It was asked if the catchment area could be debatable as it was determined 28 years ago and now all children that live in Burton do not attend the Burton School. David confirmed that the catchment areas could be reviewed.
- It was noted that Daycares were offered in the Town of Oromocto and none in the Burton area.
- It was asked if consideration had been given to combining the community of Gagetown instead of the Town of Oromocto. No discussion has happened. On this.
- It was confirmed that the functional capacity struggled as The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development reported 5 classrooms, with a 50% capacity, but in fact only 4 classrooms are provided with one being the Library. One classroom is used for an office,
- David agreed to post the 2011 Burton Sustainability Study report.
- It was asked if projections were taken into account PMQ residence now moving to Burton. We do our best to project.
- Donald Gould – costing is important, in 2014-15 a teacher was employed for 6 months to make it higher, should this not be reflected??
- Stakeholder form at the front and posted on the website. Agenda will be developed and will be included in the final report.
- Transportation issue with 5, 6 and 7 aged kids. Pick up at 7:10, sit and wait until 8:30 a.m. Ed Hogan, spoke of it being a total different busing system and a later start of pick-ups. Less time spent on a bus with a different busing route developed. If buses are partially empty why do they arrive so early? Ed – they are trying to balance the load.
- How did we go from a gymnasium to a new school in Geary? EECD approved a new gym and a new wing, but the scope of the job was much bigger due to a structural issue of the building.
- Catchment is decided by the Superintendent and Council. This is not a political issue? Correct. Catchment areas have not been changed in years. The outcome would have to be a status quo, and then a review would need to happen to look at catchment.
- Ideal capacity is 60-80% and Burton is 70% where we are supposed to be. As 409 stands, then we will never exceed our capacity as the school still not support any ore students.
- How much are we saving if the school closes? What if's documents will be posted.

➤ **Closing Comments:**

- David asked if there were any other question to be clarified.
- David reminded the public of the next meeting in December and to complete the Stakeholder Registration form, then forward to carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca a week in advance of the meeting with details of who will be presenting to the District Education Council. Information was provided on the screen for the public of who to contact. The power point presentation will be posted to the sustainability study website for Burton Elementary School.

➤ **Date for Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 – Meeting # 2 at the Burton Lions Club**

➤ **The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**