

**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Burton Elementary School
Sustainability Study Meeting #2 - Notes**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2015
Burton Lions Club**

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Gallagher – SD 01 • John Slipp – SD 03 • David Bowen – SD 06 • Terry Pond – SD 07 • Jane Buckley – SD 09 • Kimberley Douglas – SD 10 – Vice Chair • Donald Gould – SD 11 • Elizabeth Nason – SD 12 • Mark Noël – SD 13 - Chair • Tim Nicholas – First Nations <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norma Shaw – SD 02 • Miriam Grant – SD 04 • Andrew Corey – SD 05 • Ron Buck – SD 08 	<p>ASD-W Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David McTimoney, Superintendent • Rick Demmings, Director of Schools • 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: Approximately 60 Community Members 1 Media</p>
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- Mark Noël, District Education Council Chair welcomed everyone to the second Sustainability Study for the Burton Elementary School.
- The meeting began with business owner and community member Evelyn Peddle’s script of reasons why the Burton school should remain open.
- Jeffrey Beyer spoke of his return to the Burton area and his hopes of a third generation in his family attending the Burton Elementary School.
- Michelle Doherty presented a power point called economic development in the Burton area. This presentation can be found on our website www.asd-w@nbed.nb.ca.
- Candace Clowe, community member, read a letter written by Meagan Kilbride. Ms. Kilbride is not a community member nor does she have children attending Burton Elementary School. Ms. Kilbride has a teaching background and she is currently employed with the Canadian Armed Forces. Ms. Kilbride expressed her concerns for children with a too early start time and the potential for behavior problems as a result of such early schedules.
- Candace Clowe spoke of her reasons for keeping the Burton Elementary School opened and referenced her concerns for students with attention deficit disorders (ADD, ADHD). The Burton Elementary School has many activities for students in grades K-2 and she provided a personal story about her son who was identified with a hearing problem within the first three weeks at school. Burton Elementary School has amazing support and experience with children. The teachers and staff were recognized as being excellent professional role models for these children. One priority project was listed as a health and safety concerns and Ms. Clowe recognized that there were daycare issues in the community.
- Mike MacIntyre, community member, read two letters from individuals in the Burton community that were unable to attend as they no longer lived in the Province. Lorna Knight’s children now attend a new school with over 400 students; less time is spent with students and no background knowledge is known about the child prior to attending the school. A disconnect is felt in a larger school. The second letter from Ms. Peggy Fry identified her child with Downs Syndrome and the amazing support they had received from the School Principal, Ms. Watson. The Burton Elementary School has always shown a high level of inclusion support. Ms. Fry’s child can now count, read and knows that being different is a fact of life. Their family was posted outside of NB, and a transition to the Province of Ontario came with the support of the School Principal and staff from Burton Elementary School. He has two children with one attending Burton

Elementary School and he was concerned with students needing to start their days earlier with a long bus ride to the Town of Oromcoto. Mr. McIntyre understands that the Province of New Brunswick's needed to implement cutbacks with the consolidation of schools, but student's well-being needed to be considered.

- Community member, Ross Bonnell, PSSC and parent, referenced the financial considerations of the Burton school as being sustainable and financially affordable which was the opposite of his first beliefs. Capital Improvement Projects comparison to 2011 sustainability study were identified as being \$573,000.00. A comparison with North & South Esk Elementary School were shown with a much less cost for comparable projects Findings were reported as a lessor cost for the Burton Elementary School compared to other school sustainability studies in the Province. Eleven new students were identified as starting Kindergarten in 2016-17 but many military staff are not aware of their posting until March 2016 so there could be more students register. His concerns were with the ASD-W October report and the financial consideration in section 3.
- Kristen McMullin, PSSC Chair and Sarah Doucet provided a presentation based on the October 2015 power point presentation by the Superintendent of ASD-W. They felt that the projections shown on page 13 were inaccurate and that their evidence showed Burton Elementary School to be safer, offer better teaching and higher academic performance results. A gymnasium is located in the basement of the school but the school was identified in one report as being without a gym, in another report as having a gym which is conflicting. The Burton Elementary School offers many benefits and activities for students and they did not see the previous presentation (slide 21) as challenges but as opportunities. The Principal's leadership and teaching skills are seen as an amazing opportunity for children and they love being in her classes. The physical plant status was referenced on slide 37 and 8.3% was needed for cleaning, snowplowing, facilities. Slide 40 seemed inflated to them due to an extra teacher needed in the month of October. Financial considerations document for annual savings was reported to be 167,780.00, but they felt that the possible annual savings could be approximately \$114,000.00 and only one capital project was needed at a cost of \$37,000.00 for siding. Students completed a survey called "Hear it from Students" of what they liked and disliked about their school; 46% could not think of anything that they disliked about their school. Councilors were asked to consider the impact on the community all for a small savings to the district. The amazing quality of education provided at Burton Elementary School will be lost.
- Ross Wetmore, MLA was not included on the agenda but consideration was given for him to present. Mr. Wetmore complimented the community of the phenomenal presentations of volunteers. Mr. Wetmore has requested that the Provincial Government slow down and wait for the 10 Year Education Plan results but this request has fallen on deaf ears. It did not make sense to study the Burton Elementary School and not consider the other elementary schools in the Town of Oromcoto and surrounding area. People are moving to rural areas such as Oromocto West, Lincoln, Geary, and Burton. Mr. Wetmore challenged the DEC to stop the 409 process for the Burton Elementary School and to consider looking at the town schools with perhaps consolidating schools and building a new school in Oromocto West. Mr. Wetmore stressed that some of these families have laid their lives on the line for their country and we owe these parents the opportunity to have their children close to home and safe. The decision is in the hands of the District Education Council and not the Minister of Education, as he had not turned over any decision made, so again he asked that Councilor say "no" to the 409 process and look at the global community of Oromcoto schools.
- John Slipp, Woodstock area Councilor, asked about the title of Burton as second largest local service district in the Province as referenced by Ms. Peddle. John thanked her for more information to help him understand the projections going forward. Reference made to before and after daycare pending was referenced prior to the sustainability study. 20-29 students go to Oromcoto every year. Alphabet Academy and YMCA are very interested in starting a daycare in Burton. Excellent presentation by community.
- Mark Noel thanked everyone for their attendance tonight and reminded the community of the next sustainability study meeting on January 28th in Fredericton at the Fredericton High School, Tom Morrison Theatre.
- The meeting was adjourned at **8:28 p.m.**
- Provided presentations have been posted to the sustainability website for Burton Elementary School.