

# McAdam Schools Advisory Committee



# Introduction





# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

## As per Policy 409A – Section 6.4.4

*A DEC must consider the following criteria when studying a school's sustainability. This list does not preclude a DEC from considering other factors relevant to their local circumstances.*

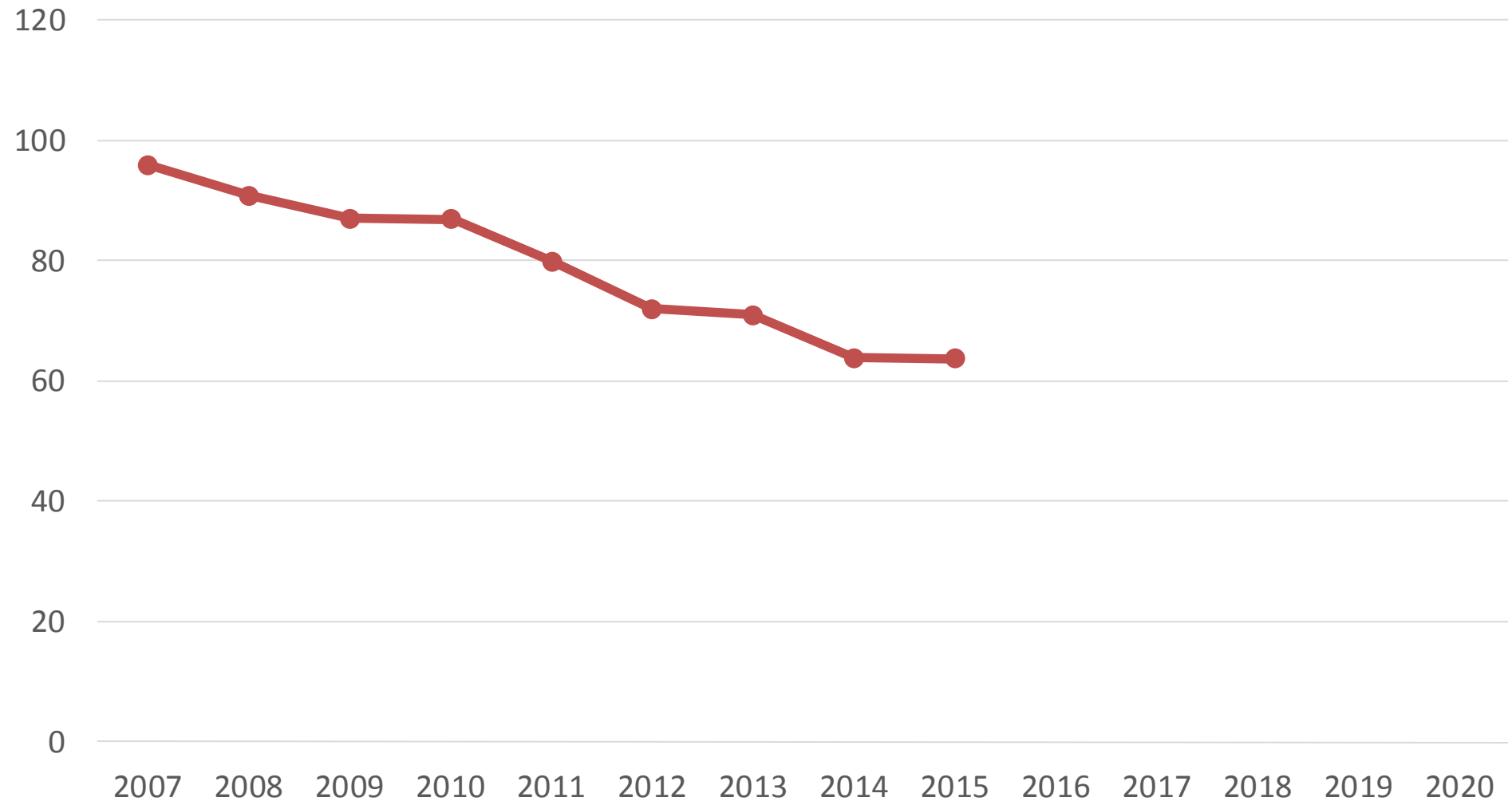
- School Enrollment
- Impact on other Schools
- Health and Safety
- Quality of Education
- Transportation
- Finances
- Impact on other Schools
- Economic Development

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

- 1. School Enrollment**: impact of declining or low enrolments **on the learning environment** (Is enrolment reaching a critical threshold or will it be dropping substantially over the next few years?). Enrolment trends and projections must be considered

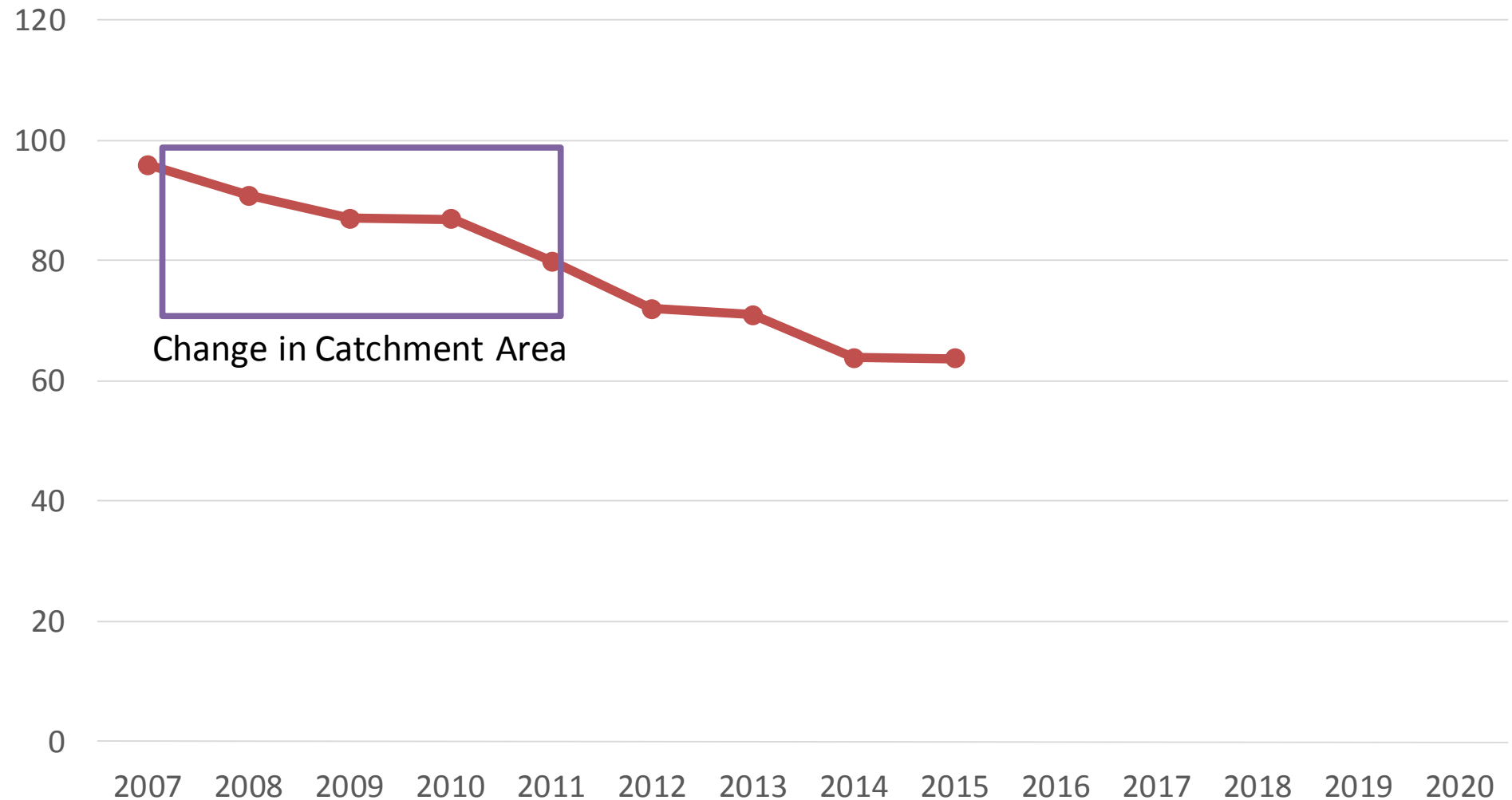
# School Enrollment

Enrollment from 2007 to 2015



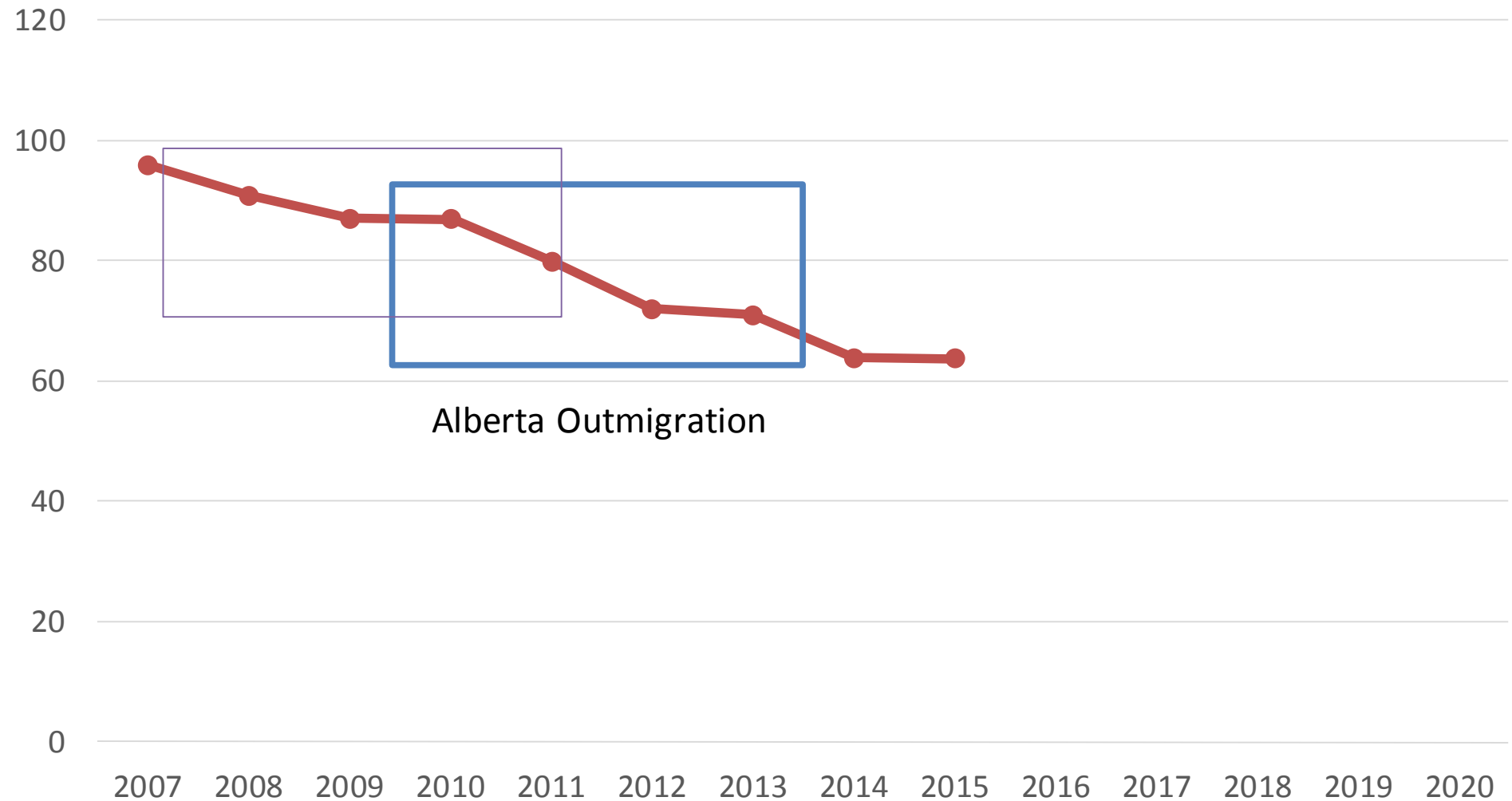
# School Enrollment

Enrollment from 2007 to 2015



# School Enrollment

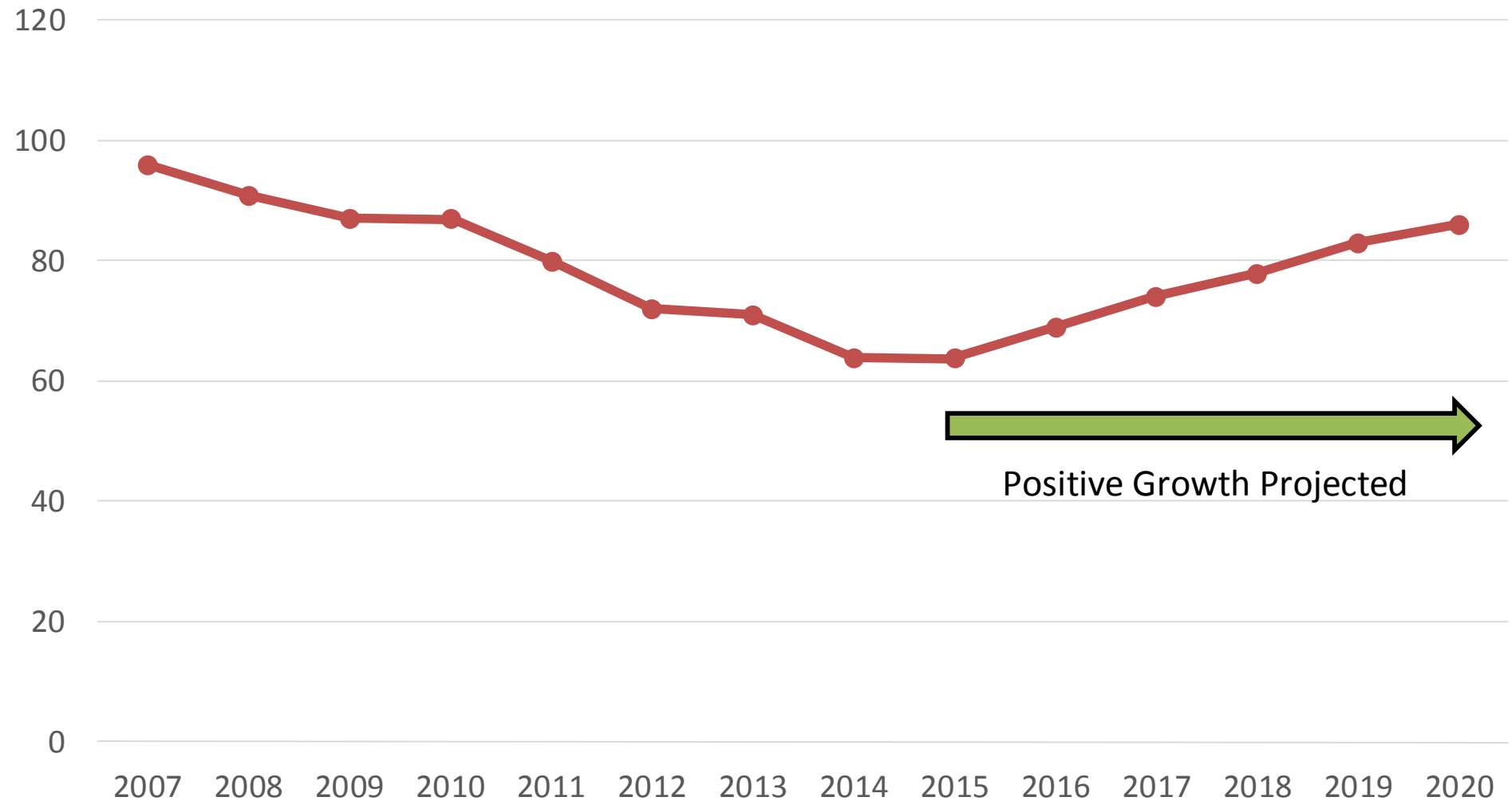
Enrollment from 2007 to 2015





# School Enrollment

Enrollment from 2007 to 2020 - District Projections



# School Enrollment

- Enrollment has been impacted by a number of external and one time factors
- Unlike the majority of schools being studied for sustainability – enrollment at McAdam Elementary is projected to increase over the next 5 years
- Current enrollment levels are adequate to enable offering of all core educational services without any impacts on the learning environment.

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

- 2. Impact on other schools: impact on feeder schools and receiving schools.**

# Impact on Other Schools

If McAdam Elementary was to close, there would be impacts to the existing High School:

- Requirement to create safe bus drop off location / zones
  - Current location within close proximity to roadway (< 5M)
- Limited parking available for additional staff resources.
  - at present, the parking lot is often full with vehicles during the normal school day.

# Impact on Other Schools

- Requirement to create a safe / adequate play area for elementary aged children
  - minimal room for expansion
  - Impact on existing field / infrastructure
- Reduced availability of current resource facilities due to increased usage requirements
  - Gymnasium
  - Library
  - Computer Lab
  - Playground / Field Usage

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

**3. Health and Safety:** the structural integrity of buildings; indoor air quality and water quality; circumstances that present a significant health or safety threat; fire safety systems and the safety and security of school grounds and play areas

# Health and Safety

- The school has not required any capital investment since 2004 (*12 years*)
  - Only minimal repairs required during this time
- Full fire suppression including sprinklers and fire doors in place
- Playground equipment is well maintained and meets current standards
  - Playground is incorporated within the school ground

# Health and Safety

- Bus zone and playground area is separated from roadway and parking areas
- Municipal water and sewer services in place
- The building is fully accessible (elevator)
- The school facility is in excellent shape overall



# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

## **4. Quality of Education Programs and Services:**

the appropriateness of facilities for curriculum delivery and student services. This would include availability of facilities and diversity of educational programs and increased educational opportunities as a result of a closure, enrolment per grade or multi-level class and pupil-teacher ratio at affected schools, as well as the ability to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities.

# Quality of Education Programs and Services is Excellent

- McAdam Elementary School is well equipped to delivered programs and services
  - Computer lab
  - Art / Music Room
  - Resource Room
  - Gymnasium
  - Library
  - Full Kitchen Facility
  - Classroom technology (Smartboards / Voice Assist System)

# Quality of Education Programs and Services is Excellent

- Community involvement with the school is substantial with over 45+ events in 2014 including partnerships with:
  - McAdam Volunteer Fire Department
  - McAdam Community Library
  - Waukehagan Manor and McAdam Health Centre
  - Lakeland Industries
  - Palfrey Lake Lodge
  - McAdam Train Station
  - Numerous Local Businesses
  - Community Volunteers (Enrichment and Special Events)

# Quality of Education Programs and Services is Excellent

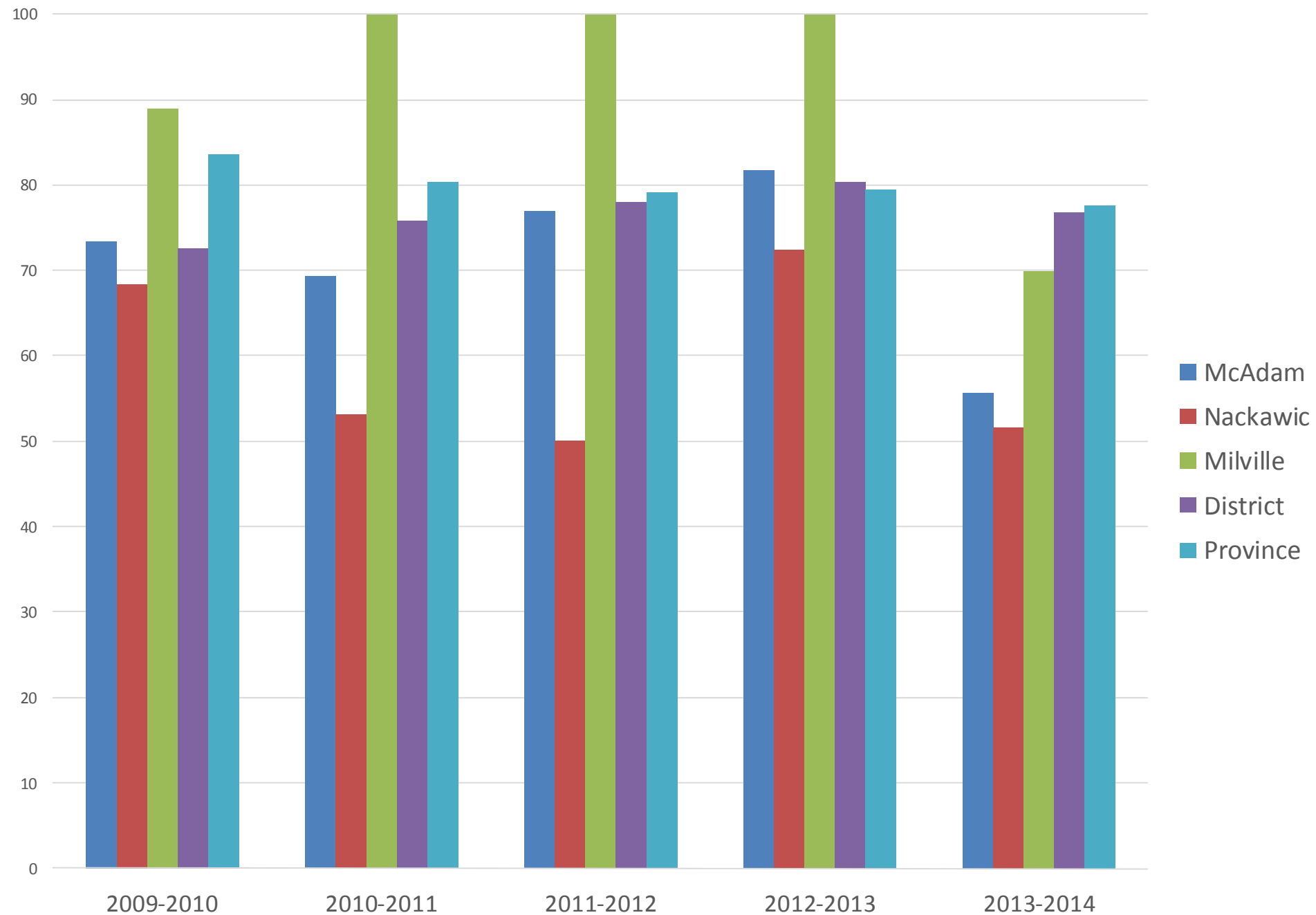
- Playground, Library and Gymnasium equipment either wholly maintained or heavily supplemented by the community.
- McAdam Elementary is very much a [community school](#)

# Quality of Education Programs and Services is Excellent

- From ASD-W School Review of MES (2014-15):

*“Staff, parent and student conversations all indicated that the community culture of this school is **exceptional**. Many examples were cited by different groups which suggest the school goes above and beyond to work with and support the community and that this is reciprocal.”*

## Grade 2 Reading - % at target level



# The Same Class The Next Year

2014-15 Grade Level	Reading Level September 2014	Reading Level June 2015	End of Year 2015 Target
3	K	P	O/P
3	K	P	O/P
3	L	P+	O/P
3	E	L	O/P
3	I	N	O/P
3	D	K	O/P
3	M	P+	O/P
3	L	P+	O/P

7 level improvement

5 level improvement

7 level improvement

	Above Grade Level
	At Grade Level
	Below Grade Level

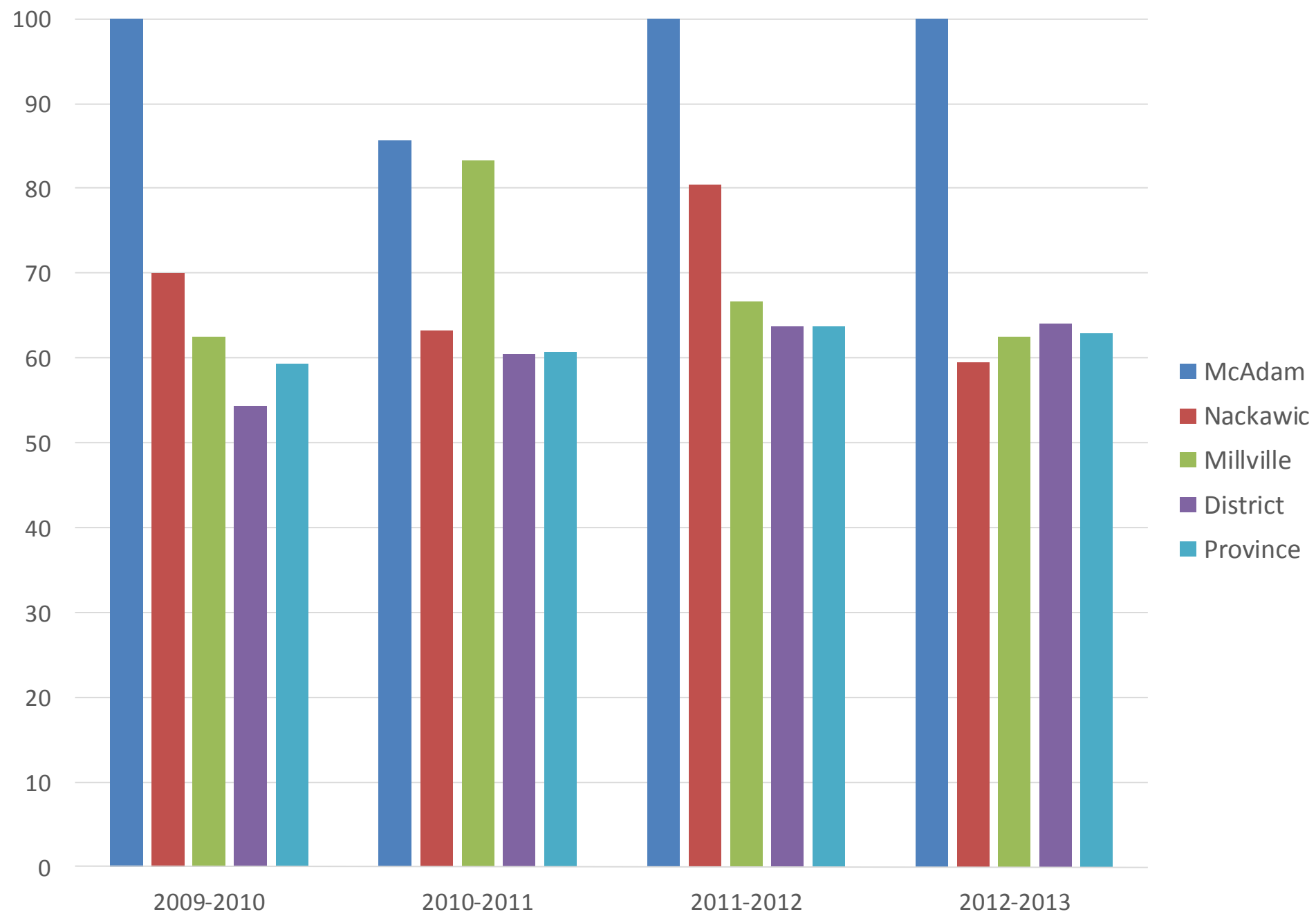
Annual Reading Level  
Improvement Target = 4 Levels

# Quality of Education Programs and Services

- Literacy achievement rates for McAdam Elementary are on par with district averages.
- In 2013-14, though 42% of students were below grade level, 42% were also above grade level average
- Significant improvements can be noted in students not meeting baseline levels. These students can easily be identified for additional support in the smaller classroom setting.



## Grade 5 Numeracy - % at target level



# Quality of Education Programs and Services

- Numeracy achievement rates for McAdam Elementary are consistently **above** both district and provincial averages – with **100%** of students achieving targets in numerous years

# Quality of Education Programs and Services

In Summary:

- There would be no discernable increase in educational opportunities as a result of the closure of the school
- There would be no change in enrollment per grade or multi-level class as a result of the closure of the school

# Quality of Education Programs and Services

- There would be no discernable change in pupil to teacher ratio as a result of the closure of the school
- There would however be a reduced availability of facilities and related educational opportunities as a result of the closure of the school

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

5. **Transportation**: time spent in transit and cost of travel

## Transportation – Time Spent in Transit

	Average Time (min)
Harvey Elementary/High	34
Cambridge-Narrows	28
Canterbury	28
Central New Brunswick Academy	25
Hartland	24
Sunbury West	23
Centerville	23
Gagetown	22
Keswick Valley	21
<b>McAdam Elementary</b>	<b>9</b>

## Transportation – Distance Transported

	Average Distance (km)
Central New Brunswick Academy	15.4
Harvey Elementary/High	12.4
Canterbury	12.4
Gagetown	10.9
Cambridge-Narrows	10.7
Centerville	9.8
Sunbury West	9.4
Hartland	8.8
Keswick Valley	5.93
<b>McAdam Elementary</b>	<b>4.5</b>

## Transportation – % Students Zoned for Busing

	% Students Zoned for Busing
Cambridge-Narrows	100
Keswick Valley	100
Central New Brunswick Academy	100
Sunbury West	95
Gagetown	91
Hartland	85
Harvey Elementary/High	84
Centerville	79
Canterbury	75
<b>McAdam Elementary/High</b>	<b>23</b>



# Transportation

- McAdam Schools have one of the **smallest** catchment areas in the entire province
- A single bus transports students to both the Elementary and High schools
- Due to the centralized location of both the Elementary and High schools, only **23%** of all students are zoned for busing

# Transportation

- In comparison to other schools in the district and the province, the current busing costs for McAdam Elementary School are minimal and well below average
- There would be negligible to no savings related to time in transit, or cost of travel related to busing if the school was to be closed

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

**6. Finances:** the operating costs including staffing and utilities; the physical condition of buildings, considering short and long-term capital costs and modifications required to school(s) to accommodate transferred students.

# Finances – Cost per Square Meter

	Cost per Square Meter
<u>District Average for K-5</u>	<u>\$29.20</u>
Millville Elementary	\$35.84
Harvey Elementary	\$40.02
Nackawick Elementary	\$26.23
<b>McAdam Elementary</b>	<b>\$27.50</b>

# Finances – Annual Facilities Cost

	Annual Facility Cost
<u>District Average for K-5</u>	<u>\$81,070.38</u>
Millville Elementary	\$38,280.03
Harvey Elementary	\$78,352.34
Nackawic Elementary	\$89,947.77
<b>McAdam Elementary</b>	<b>\$57,694.89</b>

# Finances – Capital Requirements

	Capital Cost Required	Capital Investments Since 2009
Burton Elementary	\$573,000	\$132,360
Millville Elementary	\$836,900	\$77,790
Harvey Elementary	\$1,234,000	\$695,398
Nackawic Elementary	\$280,000	\$221,969
<b>McAdam Elementary</b>	<b>\$456,500*</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Finances

- Staff and the community have done a great job maintaining facility as exhibited by the lack of capital upgrades required in the past 12 years
- Based on stable electricity cost and lack of any critical maintenance requirements, priority 1 capital item costs (boiler and carpets) could reasonably be deferred for at least 2-4 years

# Finances

- Closing the School will result in minimal savings
  - Calculated Savings = \$150,608\*
  - (0.013% of Departmental Budget)**
  - Renovation and Transition Costs = \$146,600\*



# Finances

- The annual operational cost to maintain the facility is 28.8% below the district average overall and 5.8% less on a cost per square foot basis
- The financial risk of keeping the school open is significantly minimized by the excellent condition of the facility

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

**7. Impact on the local community:** parental involvement and feasibility of continued parental involvement (particularly for elementary pupils), community support, the school's relationship with the community, the effects on culture and language, consideration of whether the school is the sole school in the community, especially at the elementary level.

# Impact on the Local Community

- Education within the community is delivered through two facilities which naturally separate elementary from middle and high school students.
- Grade configurations in schools can have an impact on family perception of quality education.
- A negative perception of educational quality within the village may impact the ability for major industries in the village to recruit and retain employees

# Impact on the Local Community

- Inability to maintain a skilled workforce in the area due to perceptions related to quality of education in the village would have far reaching consequences.
- If one of the village's large employers were to leave the province as a result of these impacts, taxable revenues alone in excess of 2.5 M/year would be lost

# Policy 409A Sustainability Review Items

**8. Economic development:** consideration of planned and future economic development projects in the community or surrounding area.

# Economic Development

- McAdam is well positioned for growth
  - We are situated along the US Border with access to the US market along the eastern seaboard that is second to none.
  - We are the shortest rail access point in Southwest New Brunswick to markets in Western Canada and the most accessible rail access point to the United States from Atlantic Canada

# Economic Development

- McAdam is actively planning for growth
  - A Phase 1 concept/scope study for a McAdam economic development employment opportunity is currently being considered.
  - Community leaders, governments and other partners in southwest NB are taking action to position our region to Build Sustainable Communities with a design approach. This new position is being undertaken to attract new comers

# Economic Development

- McAdam is already growing
  - New Housing Starts:
    - 2013 – 3
    - 2014 – 3
    - 2015 – 5
  - A number of persons/families are already moving to the area (McAdam-St. Croix):
    - May to December – 2014 - 6
    - January to date – 2015 - 9
  - Recent expansions or investments in key Industries:
    - Lakeland Industries
    - Soleno Maritimes
    - Certainteed Gypsum



# Economic Development

- McAdam will continue to grow
  - Our natural surroundings, the “Lakeland of New Brunswick”, the historical St. Croix River and well established outfitters operating in the region make us a center for recreation year round.
  - Significant growth opportunities within 5 years, including:
    - Restoration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the McAdam Railway Station creating Hotel Rooms, expanded operations and the creation of many additional jobs.
    - Establishing a Community Residence by the McAdam Heart and Home Corporation.
    - Participating in a Regional Development Strategy to boost residency and opportunities and employment in Southwestern NB

# The Fourth Option



# The Fourth Option

Policy 409 Currently considers the following 3 options as outcomes to a sustainability study:

- 1) Maintain the Status Quo
- 2) Capital Investment in the School
- 3) Close the school and move the students

There is an obvious and illogical gap...

# The Fourth Option

Policy 409 appears to be focused on determining whether older “unsustainable” facilities should be closed due to the high cost to maintain that facility

Options around whether the school should be fixed, students should be moved to another school or whether things should be left status quo make sense in that type of scenario.

...But what if the school is in excellent shape?

# The Fourth Option

Government has imposed triggers have required DEC board members to consider smaller schools for closure. In many cases this may be a prudent action, however....

In instances where the facility itself is in good operating condition a 4<sup>th</sup> Option needs to be considered

**Relocating other students to the facility under review**

# The Fourth Option

McAdam Elementary School is in Excellent Shape and has one of the lowest operating costs in the district for K-5 facilities

Closing a cost effective school while maintaining others in significantly worse condition is short sighted and counterintuitive as part of a cost saving exercise

# The Fourth Option

Beyond the policy - we suggest that the DEC and the provincial department as a whole takes a more holistic “Asset Management” approach.

Additional items to consider:

- Effective, efficient and enforced catchment areas
- Optimize Busing costs and cross district busing options
- Revisit expansions and consider potential new builds

**Sound decision making is only possible after considering all of the possible alternatives**

# Why McAdam is different







# Why McAdam is different

1. We were founded on Industry and today continue to be Industrial based. A diverse mix of manufacturing, trades, sales outside the Province and Canada, Forest based industries, security and others.
  - 215 direct jobs with 6 employers
  - An addition 45+ jobs with 9 more employers
  - A secure base of 260+ Jobs in all
  - These numbers do not include any Government Services



# Why McAdam is different

2. We are not a bedroom community for urban centers.
  - It is what it is, we are geographically separated from the rest of the region.
  
3. The school population is almost exclusively made up of students residing within the community.
  - As our community grows in the coming years, so also will the school population.



# Why McAdam is different

## 4. We are proactive.

- The Community is not depending on others to solve our challenges for us. We have plans for several projects and initiatives that will add further support to the growth of our Community over the next 2 – 4 years
- The Community will champion its advantages wherever possible and proactively engage with all potential government and private sector partners in any activity that will help grow our economy and Community.



# Why McAdam is different

## 5. We are taking charge of our destiny

- In 2013, the McAdam Community Action Committee was established in 2013, comprised of several citizens from both within and outside the Village as well as Municipal Council was established in order to provide opportunity and sustainability by promoting, initiating, and partnering to create actions that will lead to growth and development.
- We are empowered from within, have the fortitude and determination to make things happen and understand self-sufficiency.



# Why McAdam is different

## 6. McAdam is moving into a new era of growth through Tourism

- Tourism has grown substantially over the past number of years.

Visitors 2011 : 4,355

Visitors 2012 : 15,424

Visitors 2013 : 16, 139

Visitors 2014 : 17,807

Visitors for 2015: **22,711+**

From 2011 to 2015 that's an increase of **521%**





# Why McAdam is different

- Signs of growth and development are evident
  - tourism is increasing dramatically
  - increase in new housing starts within the village
  - new residents are choosing to live in the village
- Significant growth opportunities exist and will be realized over the next 2-5 years

# Summary and Recommendation





# Summary and Recommendation

## Challenge to the DEC

- Why is the policy focused only on student population numbers and functional capacity?
- Why are we reviewing schools in silos (district by district)?
- Why are we not adjusting catchment areas or district boundaries to make best use of our existing assets?

# Summary and Recommendation

## **Enrollment**

- Student population has stabilized and indicators show a slight increase.

## **Impact on Other Schools**

- K-12 will present a challenge to access available resources (library, gymnasium, computer lab)

## **Health and Safety**

- No building issues, no water issues and no playground issues.

# Summary and Recommendation

## **Quality of Education**

- Positive and effective learning environment
- 2015 School Review Team found the “community culture of the school is exceptional ... the school goes above and beyond to work with and support the community”.

## **Transportation**

- One bus, with most students living within walking distance of the school we have one of the lowest transportation costs in the province.

# Summary and Recommendation

## **Finance**

- Below District average cost per square meter.
- Below District average annual facility cost.
- No major capital expenditures over the last 10 years. Current capital expenditures have not been a priority up to this point and can easily be deferred for another number of years.

# Summary and Recommendation

## **Impact on the Local Community**

- The municipality has an established industrial base and a plan for future growth over the next 3-5 years. Closing services now would curtail this growth
- Local industry will be looking to recruit new and younger employees to replace an aging work force, the perception of education quality at a K-12 may affect this, thus placing the industries and local jobs at risk.

# Summary and Recommendation

## **Economic Development**

- McAdam is well positioned for continued growth
- Public and Private organizations have recently made significant investments in the future of McAdam and continue to be partners in our growth.
  - 2009 – Municipal Water System upgrades
  - 2009 – NBSR Rail Terminal and Track Upgrades
  - 2010 – Peggy McAleenan Sporting Field upgrade
  - 2010 – McAdam Railway Station Restoration and Repairs
  - 2010 – Lakeland Sheltered Workshop Expansion
  - 2013 – Soleno Maritimes Plant Modernization
  - 2014 – CertainTeed heating system conversion
  - 2015 – Harvey Road sidewalk and drainage upgrades

# Summary and Recommendation

- We have a school that is in good condition, meets all standards, and has a positive learning environment.
- By account of all Policy 409 measures, McAdam Elementary School is clearly a sustainable school
- As a result we are asking to maintain **STATUS QUO**.

# Report Card

# McAdam

# Elementary

January 2016

	Subject/Activity	Marks	Teacher Comments	Parent/Teacher Initials
1	Enrollment	B	Student Population has stabilized and indicators show a slight increase	
2	Impact on Other Schools	B	K-12 arrangement in one building may be a challenge to access available resources such as Library, Gymnasium, Computer Labs.	
3	Health & Safety	A+	Building in excellent condition, with municipal Water supply & a sponsored Playground with top notch equipment.	
4	Quality of Education Programs and Services	A+	Positive Learning Environment. 2015 School Review Team found the "community culture of the school is exceptional ... the school goes above and beyond to work with and support the community".	
5	Transportation	A+	One bus. Most students live within walking distance of the school. We have one of the LOWEST transportation costs in the province.	
6	Finances	A+	Below District Average Cost per sq. m. Below District Average for Annual Facility Costs No Major Capital Expenditures over the past 10 years Current Capital Expenditures have not been a District priority up to this time.	
7	Impact on Local Community	A	The municipality has an established industrial base and a plan for future growth over the next 3 to 5 years. Keeping the Elementary School open will generate growth as local industry will be looking to recruit new and younger employees to replace an aging workforce. An Elementary school will be a positive factor in the decision to move to the area.	
8	Economic Development	A	McAdam is growing. Public and private organizations have recently made significant investments in the future of McAdam as we have outlined in our presentation to the DEC.	

**Recommendation for Promotion: Maintain the Status Quo**



# Thank you

