

ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

McAdam Elementary School

Sustainability Study Meeting #2 Notes

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheila Gallagher – SD 01• Norma Shaw – SD 02• John Slipp – SD 03• Miriam Grant – SD 04• Andrew Corey – SD 05• David Bowen – SD 06• Terry Pond – SD 07• Ron Buck – SD 08• 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">• Jane Buckley – SD 09• Tim Nicholas – First Nations	<p>ASD-W Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David McTimoney, Superintendent• Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration• Mark Manderson, Assistant Transportation Manager• Ed Hogan, Assistant Transportation Manager• Philip Cliff, Facilities Manager• Gina Dunnett, Data and Accountability Supervisor• Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and DEC Secretary <p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media (1)• Approximately 125 Community Members
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McAdam School Advisory Committee

Introduction

- An introduction was given by Becky McIntyre followed by a power point presentation. The introductory video was prepared by a local university student. The presentation, prepared by the Advisory Committee outlined: school enrollment, impact on other schools, health and safety, quality of education, transportation, finances, and recent economic developments.

Enrollment

- Kerry Little, parent and member of the McAdam Community Action Committee, reviewed Policy 409A. Kerry outlined a student enrollment graph showing a declining student population as a result of a change in the catchment area and families migrating to Alberta for employment. However, current enrollment levels are adequate to enable offering of all core educational services without any impacts on the learning environment.

Health & Safety

- Ryan Wright, parent and local community member, spoke of the impact on other schools should the McAdam Elementary School close. There would be a reduced availability of current resource and facilities due to increased usage for gymnasium, library, computer lab and playground with additional students in one building. The Health and Safety concerns such as the structural integrity of buildings; indoor air and water quality; fire safety and security of school grounds and play areas need to be considered. McAdam Elementary School has not required any Capital Improvements since 2004 (12 years). McAdam Elementary School has an installed elevator in place. The quality of services at McAdam Elementary School such as computer lab, smart boards, art/music room, gymnasium, library, full kitchen facility are all equipped to deliver programs and services. The community involvement is well over 45 businesses and organizations. Reports of Grade 2 Reading and Grade 5 Numeracy percentages are at target levels. Literacy results show students being on par with other schools within the district. In summary, there would be no discernable increase in educational opportunities, no change in enrollment per grade or multi-level class, no change in pupil to teacher ratio as a result of the closure of the school. However, there would be a reduced availability of facilities and related educational opportunities as a result of the closure of the school.

Transportation & Finances

- Cheryl Copp spoke of one bus serving both schools in the Village of McAdam. Currently 23% of students are zoned to travel to school by means of a school bus, with an average bus ride of 9 minutes and an average distance of 4.5 km. The cost per square meter is \$27.50 for McAdam Elementary School and an annual Facilities Cost of

\$57,694.89. Capital Costs required are \$456,500.00. The boiler and removal of carpets can continue to be delayed. McAdam Elementary School's playground equipment was donated by the local Lions Club and is maintained by the Village of McAdam.

Impact on Community

- Doug Goss referenced that the Village of McAdam was geographically well positioned for growth. McAdam has the shortest rail access point in Southwest, NB to markets in Western Canada and the most accessible rail access point to the United States from Atlantic Canada. The McAdam Village borders along the United States border with access to the US Market along the Eastern Seaboard. McAdam is actively planning for growth, with an increase from 6 new families in 2014 to 9 new families in 2015. With 5 new homes built in the community in 2015.

4th Option

- Trevor Flynn reviewed the three options of Policy 409; status quo, capital investment, closing and moving students. Older schools need to be considered for closure where repair costs are high. However, the McAdam Elementary School is in excellent structural condition and this school is one of the lowest operating costs in the ASD-W. McAdam Elementary School is considered to be a cost efficient school. A request was made for the Council to take a more holistic "Asset Management" approach, such as, the following ideas to consider; develop an effective, efficient and enforced catchment area, optimizing busing costs and cross district busing options, revisit expansion and consider potential new builds. The Lawrence Station School's catchment area embarks on students that live closer to McAdam. Leo Hayes High School was referenced as a school that needed their catchment area reviewed as a result of overcrowding and the Priestman Street Elementary School is at capacity as a result of the students that live on the Hanwell Road near Fredericton. A request was made to "make sure we do it right and review all scenarios before closing the McAdam Elementary School".

Why McAdam is Different

- Mayor Frank Carroll spoke of his community being founded on industry and today continues to be industrial based. 215 direct jobs with 6 employers, and additional 45 jobs with 9 more employers for a total of 260+ jobs in total. In addition, these numbers do not include government employees. The Best Little Village in NB was founded by John McAdam in 1865. Manufacturing, trade and sales outside the Province of Canada, forest based industries, security and others are included in the many occupations in McAdam. This community is a stand-alone community as it is geographically separated from the rest of the region. The school population is based on students living in the community and not outside the catchment area. The community is pro-active with growth plans over the next 2-4 years and movement has been recognized in the last year as the community is taking charge of their destiny. The McAdam Community Action Committee was established in 2013 to promote, initiate and partner with other organizations to improve this community. McAdam is moving into a new era of growth through tourism with close to 23,000 visitors in 2015. This is an increase of 521% from 2011 to 2015. Mayor Carroll spoke of a local author, Mark Walnut, who wrote The Abigail Stories. These books are about the ladies who worked at the McAdam Railway Station in the early 1900's and Abigail Massey, is a 16 year old girl that hopes to make a difference. Plans for a future film about the McAdam Railway Station is in the works and the Abigail Stories being compared to Ann of Green Gables of PEI. As a result of the communities' hard work, tourism is increasing dramatically and new residents are choosing to live in McAdam.

Closing and Recommendations

- Dean MacIntyre challenged the DEC to lobby to change Policy 409. Mr. MacIntyre asked why this Policy was only based on student populations and functional capacity. Why is catchment area not being reviewed? The Committee prepared a McAdam Elementary School Report Card and handouts were provided. The following marks were given to McAdam Elementary School; Enrollment - B, Impact on Schools - B, Health & Safety - A+, Quality of Education Programs and Services - A+, Transportation - A+, Finances - A+, Impact on Local Community - A, Economic Development - A.
- In closing, McAdam Elementary School and McAdam High Schools have one school bus as most students walk to school. McAdam Elementary School is a sustainable school and the community is asking for the District Education Councilors to consider voting Status Quo.
- Mark Noel thanked the community for their attendance tonight and he thanked the McAdam Advisory Committee for the excellent presentation.
- **The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**