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## **DEC announces meetings for Northern Carleton school study**

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The Anglophone West District Education Council (DEC) will be hosting a series of public consultation meetings as they determine the sustainability of four Carleton County Schools.

In an email to the Bugle Observer, Anglophone West communications director Judy Cole announced the meetings to give the public a chance to be involved in the consultation process on the sustainability of Bath Community School, Bristol Elementary School, Florenceville Elementary School, and Florenceville Middle School.

The sustainability study was ordered for the Carleton North catchment area during a Sept. 19 DEC meeting when the council cancelled a study for the schools in Oromocto and moved it to Carleton North.

"We're required to have three public meetings," Kimberley Douglass, DEC chair said. "The information the district has, we could get from them ourselves, but the public wouldn't hear and they wouldn't know what was missing or what they needed to add."

The first round of public meetings will give the district an opportunity to present the information they have on the schools and surrounding area, Douglass said.

On Oct. 26, there will be a meeting concerning Florenceville Middle School at 10 a.m. at the school. At 1 p.m. the same day, there will be a meeting hosted at Florenceville Elementary School, which will focus on that school.

The first public meeting concerning Bath Community School is scheduled for Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. at the school. The first meeting focusing on Bristol Elementary will be held at the school on Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.

The second set of meetings will give the public a chance to provide their own insights about the schools in question.

"It's good for them to be there and to hear what the [district has] to say, because they might have things to add," said Douglass. "We have eight things to consider when we're doing a sustainability study and one of them the communities often know more about is the economic situation throughout the area. So, we have to consider if we close a school how that might affect the economic situation."

The second round of public meetings for the Florenceville schools will be held on Jan. 18, 2020 at Florenceville Middle at 10 a.m. and Florenceville Elementary at 1 p.m.

Bath Community School's second meeting is set for Jan. 25 at 10 a.m., which will be followed by a meeting at Bristol Elementary at 1 p.m. All of the meetings will be held on Saturdays, which is something new the DEC is trying.

"We've always done them in the evening," Douglass said. "We decided we'd try the Saturdays to see if it makes a difference. We didn't have a large turnout at the ones we had last year in Fredericton, so we thought we'd shake it up a little."

The final meeting, scheduled for March 19, 2020 at Carleton North High School at 6:30 p.m, will be when the DEC gives their final decision on the schools in the area.

Douglass added there will be a section of the Anglophone West School District website, which will be dedicated to the sustainability process and where questions and answers will be posted.

"Any time in the study, right up until we make a decision, the public can contact us, they can send letters," Douglass said.

For more information, parents, guardians, and community members can visit [www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca](http://www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca)