

ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY – Meeting # 1
STANLEY ELEMENTARY/ HIGH SCHOOL
December 4, 2014
7:00 p.m.

➤ **Sustainability Study – Stanley Elementary School – Meeting #1**

- David McTimoney, Superintendent of ASD-W welcomed everyone and presented a 90 page power point presentation called Stanley Elementary / High School Sustainability Study. David reviewed and discussed the content of the slides on school history, statistics and financial data with the public. This presentation can be found along with other pertinent documents and information related to the sustainability study of Stanley Elementary / High School on our website www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/sustainability/pages/stanley
- The next public meeting at Stanley High School will be held on **Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** where stakeholders will be allowed to present to the District Education Councilors. A stakeholder form is 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 March 19, 2015 and video linked from Priestman Street School. Based on the outcome of this study, if the Council agree to combine the two schools, then a recommendation is made to the Minister of Education to make the final decision.
- All members of the District Education Council were present except Norma Shaw and Miriam Grant. Several employees from Anglophone West School District were also in attendance along with 42 members of the public.

➤ **Public Comments and Questions**

- Mr. Kirk MacDonald, MLA, asked what caused this decision to be made about a sustainability study on the Stanley Schools. Where is that magic number in student population to cause a study? Mr. MacDonald informed the DEC that there is a projected increase in population in the community as a result of mining. David responded that there really was no magic number in student population that makes the deciding factor as it is a combination of many factors. This study calls for a DEC decision to recommend for an increase in funding from EECD, remain status quo or, in this case, recommend a combination of the two schools. The Superintendent's mandate is to provide information to the District Education Council as part of this process. This report consists of a series of facts, and, with the Stanley Schools, it was not the population or building cost but that the two schools are connected as one building.
- Is this decision reversible with an influx of population? David responded that he has learned of one other situation of this happening in our Province. David will research the possibility of reversing the decision for the DEC.
- If the two schools were separated would this be happening today? David responded that the fact that there is one building is what makes this study unique and stand-out from the others.
- Is the combining of schools best for the kids? Also, we will need a new central office and are you prepared to build a new office? David responded that the current office is not located at the door and we recognize that this is something that will need to be considered. This study is all about reviewing these ideas.
- The current school structure has been shown tonight on the power point presentation, but nothing of what is being proposed has being offered. David responded that if we decide to go ahead with the combination of two schools, then we will need to talk about the new structure over the next 4 months. The formula used for assigning teaching staff will not be changed.
- A suggestion was made to provide a report showing the community of what they would gain and loose from this process. David has agreed to make a chart and then post to ASD-W website under the Stanley Sustainability Study for the community to review to prepare for the upcoming February 5th meeting.
- A comment was made by a member of the public that they feel that if it is not broken, don't try to fix it. Also, a question was asked of the DEC Chair, Mark Noël, as to why this recommendation was made? Mark responded that the Superintendent looked at two schools operating under one building and it is his responsibility to inform the DEC of any efficiency that could be found. This is what the DEC would want and expect from an employee.
- Did the DEC choose the schools to be studied? Mark responded that it was the recommendation of the Superintendent of ASD-W.
- Another request from the public was to add to the Superintendent's report a financial column of the gain and loss associated with the combination of these two schools.

- What impact would this change have on the number of FTE hired at the Stanley Schools as he is a new parent and he would look at the number of FTE in a school before sending his child? David explained that the FTE is calculated based on the number of students and this should not be affected by this change.
- If a community member was to request to have something added to the ASD-W website, how do they do that? David thanked her for this question and advised that they could contact Carol Clark-Caterini either by e-mail, phone or through the sustainability study comment section and that she could then post the information to the website.
- Is he correct in asking that people are going to lose jobs, such as a Principal? David responded that a Principal would still have a full time job in our system, just in a different role.
- What is your budget point in respect to the Stanley Schools...what is the cost of the Sustainability Study? David responded that there will be additional cost associated with this study such as District Education Councilors needing to travel to communities, and the cost of newspaper advertisement advising of upcoming meetings. However, it is not a large amount.
- Is there a possibility of the second option (remain status quo) for the Stanley Schools? David responded that the DEC can make a recommendation to the Minister if they see this as a choice.
- A suggestion was made to look at boundaries and if this has been done. David informed the public that boundaries were reviewed every now and then and that this could be part of the study for consideration of the DEC, if applicable. Also there is a District Policy already in place where a parent can make a request for their child to attend a school outside their zoned area. Each year we have many of these requests.
- A School Architect was paid years ago for the plans of the Stanley Schools, are you prepared to pay this cost again and he believed that there will be additional cost then mentioned earlier. David thanked him for this question and asked that as the public researched their findings for their report and presentation on February 5, 2015.
- Staff member would need exceptional skills to teach a Kindergarten student to a high school team win provincials. A broad range of expertise would be needed. David commented that such an experienced teacher would be beneficial to the school and that ASD-W would be part of assisting the school in professional development.
- What motivates the council to vote in one direction to close a school? David responded that we would have other schools to refer to such as looking back at the Millville Elementary School, Burton Elementary, Juniper School and Douglas Elementary School Studies. Mark responded that we have finances to consider, the quality of education and what is best for our kids. He has a 17 yr. old and a 7 year old and he agrees that he does not want elementary students interacting with high schools students.
- A question was asked if the Superintendent had spoken with anyone else in the school other than the Principals as they don't always know. David answered that he had spoken to the Principals and staff prior to this meeting.
- To review achievement results for all ASD-W schools are <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/results/district>. David encouraged the community to review the perceptions surveys from this website.
- A comment was made that Mark Noël had made a good point on a 10 year age difference that is why this school was structured this way in order to keep high school students away from elementary students.
- During the presentation David noticed where he needed to include the other two school names on page 83 of the presentation

➤ **Closing Comments:**

- David asked if there were any other question to be clarified. David reminded the public to be prepared for the next meeting in January by completing 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.
- A final question was asked by a community member of how much a parental opinion affects the decision? Mark responded that of course this is important and at the next meeting, the DEC will get a sense of what you want. DEC members will ask questions as well to understand.
- Mark thanked everyone for attending and that he looked forward to seeing everyone in February 2015.

➤ **Date of Next Public Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2014**

➤ **Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.**