

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT OF THE BURTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Prepared on behalf of Burton and Area Citizen's Association
June 2011

INTRODUCTION

In May 2011, representatives from School District 17 held a public meeting at the Burton Lions Club as both an information session and to seek public input towards the engagement of the sustainability study of the Burton Elementary School. This was the first of three public meetings that will lead up to the School District's recommendations to the Minister of Education, Jody Carr, of either maintaining or closing the Burton School. The second public meeting is scheduled to be held in October 2011, followed by another meeting in November 2011 at which time the School District council will announce the recommendations that they plan on submitting to the Minister of Education of either maintaining or closing the school.

STEERING COMMITTEE

On May 30, 2011 the Annual General Meeting for the Burton and Area Citizen's Association was held at the Burton Lions Club. At this meeting, a steering committee was nominated to gather information and feedback from the community with respect to maintaining the Burton School. Committee members include: Evelyn Peddle, Chairperson; Darin Evans, and Wendy Kennedy.

GOAL

To give the children in Burton the opportunity to develop a sense of commitment and belonging to their community; and to encourage growth and development of our community.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

To obtain an accurate feedback from all members of the community, we ask that all members of the community complete the attached survey and drop it off at the Burton Ultramar or call 357-6229 and leave your name, address and phone number if you wish for someone to pick it up for you.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

The Burton Elementary School was constructed in 1961 and currently has an enrolment of 52 students between Kindergarten and Grade 2. The catchment area includes students from #174 (near the old Goan's On corner) to #765 (just below Swan Creek area), including all side streets therein, on Route 102 Highway, Burton, N.B.. Students who complete Grade 2 move on to Hubbard Avenue Elementary School for Grades 3-5. Total Kindergarten to Grade 5 students in this catchment area is 126. This does not include any students outside the current catchment area of Burton.

Enrolment as of 2001 is as follows:

2001-2002: 57	2005-2006: 43	2009-2010: 56
2002-2003: 43	2006-2007: 38	2010-2011: 53
2003-2004: 41	2007-2008: 36	2011-2012: 52
2004-2005: 34	2008-2009: 49	

Grade 2 Reading and Writing results relevant to district and provincial results are as follows:

Grade 2 Reading:

Year	Burton	District	Province
2006-2007	88.9	88.0	72.0
2007-2008	66.7	82.7	76.1
2008-2009	92.9	87.0	82.0
2009-2010	75.0	87.0	84.0

Grade 2 Writing

Year	Burton	District	Province
2006-2007	77.8	71	57
2007-2008	66.7	67	59
2008-2009	85.7	72	60
2009-2010	75.0	75	71

GEOPOLITICAL BACKGROUND

Currently, in New Brunswick there are 269 Local Service Districts, 8 cities, 26 towns and 69 villages. This arrangement of communities was established approximately 40 years ago. In 2005, the government established a process for Local Service Districts in which they could apply for incorporation of their community. Since then, there have been 4 Local Service Districts who are now incorporated Rural Communities as a result of interested community based citizens.

In 2008, a "Report of the Commissioner on the Future of Local Governance" was established by Commissioner Jean Guy Finn. Recommendations for a massive over haul of New Brunswick's municipal layout, and a major taxation reform was included in the report. The Commissioner recommended a mass cull of New Brunswick's municipalities and local service district's from more than 350 to 53.

The Commissioner's report cited Burton as being the 2nd highest populated district in New Brunswick, with a population of 5019 (2006 statistics based on 2001 census). Originally, Burton was a geographical division of Sunbury County that included, Burton, Oromocto and four communities of Greater Geary. When the Town of Oromocto became incorporated, Geary and Burton remained politically together, and are known as the Burton Local Service District, even though they are geographically separated by the Town of Oromocto. It is well known that both Burton and Geary have more than doubled in population over the last 20 years. Completion of the provincial 2011 census report will provide us with a more accurate number.

Geary residents have been very supportive towards establishing an independent future for their community, apart from Burton. They are working on a more functionable geographical area which includes Geary, French Lake, Haneytown and Waterville. In 2008, as a result of community involvement and engagement, the Geary Elementary School was designated a community school by the then Education Minister, Kelly Lamrock. In a news release, at that time, it was cited that the Department of Education will invest \$3.3 million in community school initiatives. The Geary School, has an enrolment of approximately 163 students between Kindergarten and Grade 5. The Greater Geary Association, on behalf of the citizens of Geary, have requested many upgrades to maintain their school.

The 2008 Commissioner's report cited Lincoln as having a population of 3017 (2006 statistics based on 2001 census). Lincoln has been designated to receive a new school for approximately 186 students from Kindergarten to Grade 5.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION DAY

A community participation day is scheduled to be held September 7 2008 at the Burton Lion's Community Centre. All ideas and recommendations relative to the school will be welcome.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 17 BLOG

School District 17 has set up a Blog site where all individuals can submit comments relative to the school. District blog address: Burton@nbed.nb.ca, click School District 17, click blog.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE FORWARDED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

- That the enrolment of students attending the Burton School include the whole geographical area of Burton, with a feasibility study done to incorporate students from smaller adjoined areas such as Swan Creek, Jemseg, and Village of Gagetown.
- That the school be enlarged to accommodate students from Kindergarten to Grade 5.
- That a Review Committee be set up to establish methods of upgrading and maintaining the school.
- That the community be made aware of ways they can participate in upgrading the school.
- That correspondence relative to the school's disposition be distributed to all homes in Burton and not just current homes of enrolled students.

REFERENCES

- 1 Commissioner Jean Guy-Guy Finn, 2008. "Report of the Commissioner of the Future of Local Governance".
- 2 School District 17, 2011. "Burton Sustainability Study".