

School District 17 Education Council

Sustainability Study - Burton Elementary School

Executive Summary

November 22, 2011

Formal Communication with EECD

- February 23 - Informed Minister Jody Carr of the Council's Intent to conduct a sustainability study of Burton Elementary School under Provincial Policy 409
- March 23 - Letter of Reply from Minister Carr

Formal Communication With Parents

- Five formal letters written to parents/guardians of children at Burton Elementary School
 - April 4, 2011: informed of the study and shared process and timeline
 - May 10, 2011: invitation to Public Meeting #1
 - May 19, 2011: description of alternate means for engaging in the sustainability study
 - September 12, 2011: review of sustainability study, manners to engage in the study and invitation to Public Meeting #2
 - November 1, 2011: review of sustainability study, manners to engage in the study and invitation to Public Meeting #3

Public Notice

- Advertisements placed in the Daily Gleaner and Oromocto Post Gazette for each of the three public meetings
- Posters placed in strategic locations in the community of Burton
- Posting of relevant documents on the school district website
- Monitoring of specific "Burton" email address, written mail and electronic message board on our website

Public Meetings

- May 17, 2011 at the Burton Lions Club - Presentation of Information by School District 17
- October 12, 2011 at the Burton Lions Club - Presentation by Parents and Stakeholders (available by video)
- November 22, 2011 at Oromocto High School - Review of Facts and Vote on Motion

Enrolment: K-2 Students

- Burton, 2011-12: 43 students
- Last 10 years: High of 56 students, low of 34 students
- Maximum capacity, as currently organized: 63 students
- Number of students who live in "Community of Burton", but catchment area for Assiniboine or request for transfer to Assiniboine: 28 students
- Projected 2012-13 Enrolment for Burton Elementary: 44

Building, Health and Safety

- Built in 1961
- Need for improved sewage treatment system and accessibility for the disabled in the very near future
- Some renovations in past 10 years
- 3 classrooms, 1 specialty room and 1 room for office/staff
- Gymnasium consists of two combined classrooms with recent improvements to reduce flame spread rating
- Fire doors and enclosures meet National Fire Code
- Water from a well with sterilizer and filter
- Appropriate heating and air circulation

Educational Programs and Staff

- 3.3 FTE for classroom teachers
- 0.3 FTE for administration
- 0.2 FTE for resource teacher
- 0.2 FTE for literacy teacher
- 1.0 educational assistant
- 1 administrative assistant (25 hrs)
- 1 library assistant (5 hrs)
- Contracted cleaning (35 hrs)

Educational Programs

- Quality assessment results
- Effective teaching staff
- Guidance services through classroom teacher or called-in expert based on emergency
- Strong parent perception survey results
- Strong parent volunteers

Transportation

- If open, earliest pick-up is 7:55AM and latest drop-off is 3:05PM; longest time on a bus would be 35 minutes
- If closed, earliest pick-up is 7:10AM and latest drop-off is 3:15PM; longest time on a bus would be 45 minutes
- Times comparable to other rural areas; length on bus better than other rural areas
- Increase in costs for transportation if closed - approximately \$6300 annually

Finances

- If closed, a capital avoidance amount of \$668 000 - projects that would be completed over time as they are identified at this point; officials estimates from Province
- If closed, project an annual savings of \$129 600; this amounts includes the salary of 1 teacher that is protected in classroom setting for mandate of government platform commitment

\$79,000

Community and Economic Development

- Public community support to keep the school open
- Considerable cooperation provided to stakeholders during review
- Analysis of the surveys stakeholders submitted was completed by our office
- Signed petition was noted
- Stakeholders distributed information to the community
- Some small businesses exist in community; mostly commuter area

Impact on Other Schools

- Assiniboine has capacity to handle students from Burton

Burton Discussions by DEC

- Nine public meetings, in total, included some conversation on Burton Elementary; February 22 to November 22, 2011
- Seven private meetings, in total, included some conversation on Burton Elementary; April 19 to November 8, 2011; two of these meetings saw Burton as the sole agenda item
- Four additional private meetings were held to discuss infrastructure; February 8, 2011 to November 8, 2011

Tonight and Tomorrow

- Final discussions as a Council
- Present a motion to act on the study information
- Conduct a vote on the motion
- Write to Minister Carr with the recommendation and the accompanying information package