



## ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL On-line Public Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 21, 2020

### Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – SD 01
- Andy Saunders – SD 02
- Heather Hogan – SD 03
- Miriam Grant – SD 04
- Andrew Corey – SD 05
- Laura O'Brien – SD 06
- Sean Winslow – SD 08
- Jane Buckley – SD 09 – Vice Chair
- Kimberley Douglass – SD 10 – Chair
- Faith Kennedy – SD 11
- Wallace Carr – SD 12
- Thomas Geburt – SD 13

### Council Member Regrets:

- David Perley – First Nations

### ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Judy Cole, Director of Communications
- Susan Young, Supervisor of Data and Accountability
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Rob Hohmann, Information Technologies, II
- Nick Kitchen, Information Technologies

### Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-district 7
- Vacant – Student Representative

### Guests

- Approximately 25 On-line Viewers

### Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at **6:30 p.m.** The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the second on-line public meeting that had been arranged due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. The Chairperson recognized that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsundered territory of the Wolastoqiyik people and she recognized their involvement in the education of their children who are enrolled in the public-school system.

### Approval of the Agenda – May 21, 2020:

- The agenda was reviewed and approved by consent.

### Approval of the Minutes – May 7, 2020:

- The May 7<sup>th</sup> minutes were reviewed by Council. Councillor Geburt identified an error in the cost of the Bath Community School. The Superintendent informed the Council that this error had been corrected today and that the May 7<sup>th</sup> minutes were re-posted to the DEC Portal. With this revision, the minutes were approved by consensus.

### Introductions:

- District Education Councillors introduced themselves and provided the communities that they represent. The Superintendent introduced district office staff that were participating in the on-line public meeting.

### Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **Policy 409 – Multi-Year School Infrastructure Planning: Carleton North Area - Meeting #3.**  
The Superintendent welcomed members of the public to provide comments and ask questions by e-mailing [asd-winfo@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:asd-winfo@nbed.nb.ca). Public comments and questions would be shared near the end of the meeting. An Executive Summary was shared by the Superintendent that included all four schools identified to be studied at a public DEC meeting on September 19, 2019. The process to complete a Policy 409 study includes three public meetings which began in the Carleton North area on October 26, 2019 that included four schools: Bath Community School, Bristol Elementary School, Florenceville Elementary School and Florenceville Middle School. In addition to these eight public meetings, conversations took place during regular public meetings and working Council sessions.

- The Superintendent explained that during this public meeting, the District Education Council will need to bring a motion forward for each individual school to: maintain status-quo, provide for repairs and financial investment or build a new school, closing three or 4 schools. Outside the status-quo recommendations, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development would need to approve the Council's recommendation based on procedural fairness.
- The Bath Community School had been previously studied, and at that time, a motion was carried by Council for a Major Capital Investment to be made at the previous Bath Middle School. This recommendation had been approved by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development at that time (April/May 2015).
- The Superintendent reviewed Meeting #1 (school history, current enrollment/projected enrollment, busing, and salary information among other points) and Meeting #2 (number of presentations and those in attendance) details for each of the four schools.
- The Superintendent committed to formally writing to the families of each school following tonight's meeting with the Council's recommendation on each school to close the Policy 409 study for the Carleton North area.
- Councillors were given an opportunity to ask the Superintendent questions following his report, beginning with Councillor Buckley's question concerning asbestos found at the previous Bath Middle School and if this was the reason for the project being halted by the Provincial Government. The Superintendent confirmed that asbestos was found at this facility, however, the reason for the Provincial Government stopping the project is not for him to respond as it was not his decision but a decision of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Councillor Geburt asked if the Bath Community School enrollment was stable as indicated in a previous meeting and if the other three school enrollment projections were expected to decline. The Superintendent confirmed that this information was accurate and obtained from a new program that was purchased by the district. It was noted that the economic development and impact on the community is an important part of the study with McCain Foods being a large business in the area.
- Councillor Hogan asked the Superintendent to reply to the comments made during meeting #2 at the Bath Community School, concerning transfers, French Immersion program and catchment area changes for their school community. The Superintendent responded that the interest shown in a French Immersion Program at the Bath Community School was not large enough to sustain additional classrooms. However, Florenceville Elementary School and Florenceville Middle School do offer this program for all K-8 schools in the area. Staffing transfers need to follow a process as teachers fall into a bargaining agreement, based on seniority and the need for additional staff at a school or the reduction of a teacher due to enrollment decline. Catchment area reviews require a strong tangible need and include engaging the community involvement. However, at this time, the Superintendent did not feel that a catchment review was needed. Councillor Hogan asked to clarify her question and asked the Superintendent to reply to a parent statement made at Meeting #2 where a parent commented that the school enrollment would increase if the district would stop allowing transfers for Bath Community zoned students to attend another school where the French Immersion program was offered. The Superintendent confirmed that each Director of Schools for the three Centres (Oromocto, Fredericton and Woodstock) review applications, with the past year being less than 17 requests, for this area that had been approved. If we were to say that all requests were to be denied, then there is no doubt that enrollment would be higher. The capacity to support a French Immersion classrooms at the Bath Community School, would still not be high enough.

**MOTION:**

**..... I move that the Bath Community School refurbishment project be resumed and completed.  
(This motion would be considered Option #2 - Capital Investment)**

**MOVED: Andy Saunders**

**SECONDED: Wallace Carr**

**MOTION DEFEATED**

- Councillor Saunders provided his rationale for bringing this motion forward. The staff and students of Bath Community School are currently housed in a building that does not effectively serve all students in all grades. The students of Bath Community School should have the benefit of a school that can provide standard programs for every child in their community, and the Capital Investment Project at the previous Bath Middle School can be completed with a less financial commitment from the Province of New Brunswick, then that of a new K-8 school. By finishing the previously approved Bath Community School project, this will reduce the urgency of a new K-8 school in the Carleton North area, which could take several years before completion, and allow time to resolve the overcrowding concerns in the Fredericton area schools.
- Councillor Hogan acknowledged her concerns of a 9-10M dollar cost to refurbish a facility that had been stopped due to the findings of asbestos. If the project were to continue, students and staff will be housed in an older building even though recently renovated. Bristol Elementary School does not have wheelchair accessibility and Florenceville Elementary School is at full capacity. Although Councillor Hogan understands parents and students love their school, the learning environment is created by the staff and not the building.
- Councillor Buckley was involved in the previous decision to refurbish the facility and at that time, it did not include a 9-10M dollar renovation cost. She, too, had concerns of taking an old building with asbestos to a safe environment for students and staff with a brand-new state of the art school just down the road.



- Councillor Carr commented that the cost was irrelevant as there will be a cost to remove the asbestos. His recommendation was to keep in mind the daycare centre that is housed in the school as this is a very important part of the community.
- Councillor Geburt recognized the community passion shown at the previous meetings. Student enrollment predictions remained steady at Bath Community School and it was his belief that another 3.5M dollars was needed to complete the project and not the 4.5M to 5.2M dollars.
- Councillor Corey added that he supported the motion to continue the refurbishment project at the Bath Community School and he, too, was on the previous council where a decision was to move forward with a financial investment.
- Councillor Buckley asked where the document was that predicted student enrollment was to remain stable. The Superintendent responded that this data was reflected on a report from a new software package called Baragar, that pulls data from various resources, that was purchased by district. Councillor Buckley reviewed the document and commented on where student enrollment had declined during the past 8 years but expected to stabilize in 2019.
- Councillor Kennedy asked the distance apart if a new school was built. Approximately 10K was given as an answer.
- Chairperson Douglass stated that should this motion, or any other motion be defeated, a second motion is needed.

**MOTION:**

**..... I move that the Bath Community School be closed in favor of students moving into a new K-8 facility.**

**MOVED: Jane Buckley                      SECONDED: Heather Hogan                      MOTION CARRIED**

- Councillor Buckley clarified her motion for the Bath Community School refurbishment project to be stopped, and should a new school be built in the Carleton North area, at that time they would move to the new facility upon completion. Students would remain where they are now until then.
- Councillor O'Brien asked how the current school facility could sustain the student population and daycare setting. The Superintendent responded that should this motion be carried, then it will be his responsibility to communicate with parent/guardians on his decision to remain in the same K-8 setting. It could be possible, in the future, to change the grade configuration to a K-5 setting with grades 6-8 being moved to the Florenceville Middle School.
- Councillor Geburt asked if a motion for status quo may be needed as students would stay as they are until a new school is built, then another sustainability study would be needed to close this school. Confirmation was given that another Policy 409 review would not be needed as this motion would close both facilities.

**MOTION:**

**..... I move that the Bristol Elementary School be closed and combined with Bath Community School, Florenceville Middle School and Florenceville Elementary School in a new K-8 school to be built at a new central location.**

**MOVED: Andy Saunders                      SECONDED: Laura O'Brien                      MOTION CARRIED**

- Councillor Hogan added that she appreciated the comment "to be built at a new central location", as the Council does not determine the location.

**MOTION:**

**..... I move that the Florenceville Middle School be closed and combine with Bath Community School, Bristol Elementary School and Florenceville Elementary School in a new K-8 school to be built at a new central location.**

**MOVED: Andy Saunders                      SECONDED: Sean Winslow                      MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:**

**..... I move that Florenceville Elementary School be closed and combine with Bath Community School, Florenceville Middle School and Bristol Elementary School in a new K-8 school to be built at a new central location.**

**MOVED: Andy Saunders                      SECONDED: Heather Hogan                      MOTION CARRIED**

