



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

1135 Prospect Street • Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3B9 • www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca

BY EMAIL

20 October 2023

Honorable Bill Hogan
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Place 2000, 250 King Street
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Hogan:

On 19 October 2023, the Anglophone West District Education Council (ASD-W DEC) held its monthly public meeting at Bliss Carman Middle School in Fredericton. We placed on the agenda for that meeting the topic of sustainability studies for the Oromocto Area as the 'Oromocto K-8 Rationalization' is listed on the Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priorities List (SDIP) for 2023-24.


Sustainability studies (Policy 409) on the Oromocto schools were to have taken place in 2019 however, due to pressing issues in the Florenceville-Bristol-Bath area, the DEC's focus shifted to that area rather than address the infrastructure concerns in Oromocto. The Council believes that it is now appropriate to return our focus on the Oromocto area, particularly as the community, the district, the department and the government will soon need to commence planning regardless of which decision is made with respect to the replacement / repair of the current school(s) infrastructure.

In accordance with Policy 409, Section 6.6, we are required to conduct three public meetings when conducting a sustainability study. As the intended study in Oromocto/Burton will consider seven schools, we have developed a plan to combine meetings, when appropriate, to minimize time requirements for both the communities, district staff and the DEC. Rest assured that the Council will ensure quality public consultation and transparent sharing of information will occur as required by Policy 409.

Consequently, in accordance with Policy 409, section 6.4.4, this letter will serve as written notice to you, as Minister, the DEC's intent to conduct these sustainability studies on the Oromocto/Burton schools during the winter/spring of 2024 as per the attached study timetable.

We will write to you again in May of 2024 with the results of our studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Geburt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and the last name "Geburt" clearly legible.

Thomas Geburt
Chairperson, District Education Council
Anglophone West School District

cc. Ryan Donaghy, Deputy Minister, EECD
Tiffany Bastin, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
Robert Penney, Assistant Deputy Minister, EECD
David McTimoney, Superintendent, Anglophone West School District

Attachment: 1 – Oromocto / Burton Sustainability Study – Consultation Process

Oromocto / Burton Sustainability Study - Consultation Process

Meeting process:

- All meetings will be scheduled for Saturdays to all maximum public / community involvement.
- The initial meeting will be an all-day event for all school communities held at OHS.
- For the second meetings, sessions will be held in the morning for a set of schools and in the afternoon for a different set of schools.
- The final meeting will again be for all schools as any decision regarding one school affects all schools. This will be held at OHS.
- A separate date will be selected for the DEC to tour all of the schools.
- Feeder communities for the middle schools will be invited for middle school discussions.
- Oromocto Town Council should be invited to participate.
- MLA(s) for affected communities should be invited to participate.
- Oromocto First Nation should be invited to participate.
- Base Gagetown military authorities should be invited to participate.

Initial Meeting:

January 13 – All schools together for initial briefing on sustainability process (held at OHS). This would be conducted in a kiosk / expo fashion with allotted times for briefings of individual schools in the theatre.

Meeting #2:

March 16: Morning session - Assiniboine, Hubbard and Burton at Hubbard
Afternoon session - Gesner & Summerhill at Summerhill
March 23: Morning session only - Harold Peterson & Ridgeview at Ridgeview

Council Consideration Period – April (tour of all affected schools)

Meeting #3:

May 9: This meeting will be for all school communities. The DEC will conduct its scheduled working meeting and then switch into a “Special Meeting” for discussion and delivery of its decision regarding the rationalization of the Oromocto / Burton schools. Location to be determined closer to the date.