



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

November 8, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is written to the parents and guardians of students in elementary and middle schools in the Oromocto, Burton, Lincoln, and Geary communities. I will also share this letter with staff and other individuals who have a vested interest in education in Oromocto and the surrounding area.

On October 19, 2023, the Anglophone West School District Education Council (ASD-W DEC), voted in favour of undertaking a sustainability study of the six elementary and middle schools in the Town of Oromocto as well as Burton Elementary School. This study is in response to the placement on the “stable departmental infrastructure priorities” list (SDIP) a project that has been classified as the “Oromocto K-8 Rationalization” project. The SDIP is a provincial list of major construction priorities for the seven school districts in the Province of New Brunswick and is managed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It is understood that once a project is placed on this list, then it has been prioritized to move forward in the years to follow.

The “Oromocto K-8 Rationalization” project suggests that a combination of new schools be built to replace the current infrastructure of:

- Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School
- Burton Elementary School
- Gesner Street Elementary School
- Harold Peterson Middle School
- Hubbard Elementary School
- Ridgeview Middle School
- Summerhill Street Elementary School

In 2017-18, a feasibility study was conducted by the consultant Ernst & Young. They prepared a final report that was dated April 2018. Within the report, they offer the following concepts for consideration, with rationale provided:

- Close six Oromocto elementary and middle schools and replace them with a new grade 6-8 middle school and two new grade K-5 elementary schools.
- Close six Oromocto elementary and middle schools and replace them with two new grade K-8 schools.
- Close six Oromocto elementary and middle schools and replace them with three new grade K-8 schools.
- Close four Oromocto elementary schools and replace them with two new grade K-5 elementary schools and consider a mid-life upgrade, which could include an addition and amalgamation of the two current middle schools.
- Close six Oromocto elementary and middle schools and replace them with a new grade K-2 elementary school, a new grade 3-5 elementary school, and a new grade 6-8 middle school.

The Ernst & Young Report notes that other schools could possibly be affected with the scenarios described above. The DEC has chosen to include Burton Elementary School in the sustainability study. Lincoln Elementary Community School and Geary Elementary Community School, both as relatively new buildings, are out of scope for this study. It is recognized that students from these two schools feed into the Oromocto middle schools. Gagetown School, Sunbury West School, and Oromocto High School are also out of scope for this sustainability study.

It is noted that the concept of an Oromocto High School mid-life upgrade is also a project found on the SDIP.

To close any schools in favour of merging into a new school scenario, a sustainability study must be conducted. A sustainability study follows the expectations outlined in Provincial Policy 409 – Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning. Aspects such as enrolment, health & safety, quality education programs and services, transportation, finances, impact on the local community, impact on other schools, and economic development are all considered. A school sustainability study may lead to several outcomes, including maintaining the status quo, repairing the school, grouping schools together, closing the school, or placing some students elsewhere. Any new construction must be approved by the Ministry.

There is an expectation of public consultation when a school is studied under the parameters of Provincial Policy 409, with three meetings required. The plan for this seven-school sustainability study is as follows:

- Meeting #1 – An “expo” style drop-in session through the day on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Oromocto High School. Each school will have a station where you can learn many details about the school and ask questions. Throughout the day, there will be seven 30-minute scheduled presentations in the OHS theatre, one for each school being studied. This first meeting is designed to share relevant information about the schools, as per Section 6.6.2 of Policy 409.
- Meeting #2 – There will be a series of public meetings providing affected persons an opportunity to make a presentation to the DEC regarding their thoughts on the sustainability of the school(s). These meetings are scheduled as follows, and as per Section 6.6.3 of Policy 409:
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Morning session for presentations on Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School, Hubbard Elementary School, and Burton Elementary School. These will take place at Hubbard Elementary School located on Drummond Drive.
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Afternoon session for presentations on Gesner Street Elementary School and Summerhill Street Elementary School. These will take place at Summerhill Elementary School located on Summerhill Street.
 - Saturday, March 23, 2024 – Morning session for presentations on Harold Peterson Middle School and Ridgeview Middle School. These will take place at Ridgeview Middle School on Waasis Road.

A call for presentations and more details on these meetings will follow as we approach the dates.

- Meeting #3 – This meeting will serve as the final meeting of the sustainability study where DEC members will have their final conversations on the study, present a motion and vote on the conclusion. This meeting will take place on the evening of Thursday, May 9, 2024, in public session. The time and location will be announced as we approach the dates. This meeting is in line with Section 6.6.4 of Policy 409.

Reminders of these meetings will go to the parents/guardians of the impacted schools in advance of each session.

The DEC will spend considerable time learning about the impacted schools and talking about the study during its four-month duration. The DEC will visit each school prior to the conclusion of the study.

The school district website will host a special section where you can stay up to date on the study. Please visit <https://asdw.nbed.ca> and scroll down to featured news under “What’s Happening in ASD-W” to take you to the section of our site that will share relevant information and documentation. Already posted at this site is a link to Policy 409, the April 2018 Ernst & Young Report, the study process, the SDIP, and the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) priority list that leads into the SDIP. Letters such as these will also be posted.

I also encourage you to visit our new website section titled “School information Profiles” where you can find significant, relevant information about all 69 of our schools, including the seven schools being studied. This can be found at [District Intelligence](#) (home page > About ASD-W > Schools and Facilities > School Information Profiles).

Questions and comments related to the sustainability study can be sent our ASD-W email address at asdwinfo@nbed.nb.ca.

We hope you will consider engaging in this study.

Sincerely,



David McTimoney
Superintendent