



ASD-W

Anglophone School District West

1135 Prospect Street | Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3B9 | www.asdw.nbed.nb.ca

January 5, 2024

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, at their public meeting, the District Education Council (DEC) voted in favour of conducting a sustainability study for the six elementary and middle schools in the Town of Oromocto as well as Burton Elementary School.

I write as a reminder of the “expo” style drop-in session and series of presentations regarding the sustainability study currently underway that will take place on **Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Oromocto High School!** On November 8, 2023, I wrote to you with the details of this important study. You can see this letter and other important information on our website at:

[Town of Oromocto and Burton-Area Schools, 2023-2024 – Anglophone West School District \(nbed.ca\)](http://www.asdw.nbed.nb.ca/town-of-oromocto-and-burton-area-schools-2023-2024)

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:

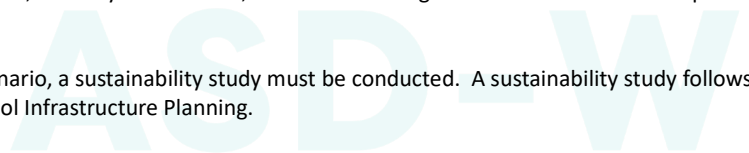
- Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School
- Burton Elementary School
- Gesner Street Elementary School
- Harold Peterson Middle School
- Hubbard Elementary School
- Ridgeview Middle School
- Summerhill Street Elementary School

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 as it is a part of the rationalization concept. 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.

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.



There is an expectation of public consultation when a school is studied under the parameters of Provincial Policy 409, with three meetings required. The January 13 session will serve as “Meeting #1”. This session will be an “expo” style drop-in session through the day on **Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Oromocto High School** in the cafeteria lobby. 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. The schedule for the day and presentations is as follows:

- 9:00 – Doors to OHS Open and Stations Open for Visits
- 9:30 – Harold Peterson Middle School Presentation
- 10:15 – Summerhill Street Elementary School Presentation
- 11:00 – Gesner Street Elementary School Presentation
- 1:00 – Ridgeview Middle School Presentation
- 1:45 – Hubbard Elementary School Presentation
- 2:30 – Burton Elementary School Presentation
- 3:15 – Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School Presentation
- 4:00 – Stations Close

The DEC will spend considerable time learning about the impacted schools and talking about the study during its four-month duration, including spending the day at OHS on January 13 and listening to the presentations. The DEC will visit each school prior to the conclusion of the study.

The school district website hosts 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. Several documents are already posted to this site and we will add more as the study moves on, including this letter and notes from each of the presentations above.

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 to our ASD-W email address at asdwinfo@nbed.nb.ca.

We hope to see you on January 13 at Oromocto High School.

Sincerely,



David McTimoney
Superintendent

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