

Burton School

Good morning for those that do not know me my name is Marty Forsythe. Right now I am the chair of the Capital Region District and a Burton director as well as a resident since 1980 with both of my kids going to Burton school. Burton has been on the agenda to be reviewed back then to close. I also want to say we need new schools in Oromocto as we are in the old Drummond Drive elementary school which was the last one built in Oromocto. It then went to the French District and when they moved it was vacant. When the Hubbard school heating system died, they were

able to move here. Probably why Ernst and Young report was done.

Even as the chair of the District Education Council we went through a sustainability study. The main reason being we had to put a new septic system in to the tune of 150000.00 plus. Before that was done it was decided to make sure the school would continue. The vote was unanimous that it remained open.

Now we are in a study because of a report that says the Oromocto schools need to be replaced with new schools. I went to 4 of these schools through my schooling. They do need to be replaced but the millions that it would cost it is

probably 5 to 10 years down the road as there are other studies on the go around the Province, to fix and build new schools. As OHS mid life reno needs to happen before anything else happens in my opinion in this district.

In saying this I hope that this is not a way to once again, try to close the Burton school. There are so many positives of the Burton School that outweigh, the negatives of the school being closed. The idea of children in grades K to 2 students staying in their community close to home is a very good thing. The school is solid and as a representative on the Capital District we are working with the school to provide

dollars to the home and school to help with the playground as well as the grounds. Something that may ease the parking issues. Like I mentioned before the study I was involved in there was a major cost to keep the school going there is no such thing that I see right now. Matter of fact a complete ventilation repair was done in 2022. In talking to teachers and administrators at the other local schools Burton is far better off as a school environment. Yes it lacks in a gymnasium and a space to have a private meeting but you know that has been going on since it was in use. The Functional Capacity is at 60% and your own figures say it could get to

70%. When we did the study when I was chair in 2012 it was 89%. Burton is a bedroom community of Oromocto with residents deciding to build and buy here as it is a great community with room to grow so I am positive that the Functional capacity will never be an issue.

I would like to finish with saying until the plan to build the new schools in Oromocto is an actuality, maybe there could be space in Burton to build one of them and leave the little school in Burton alone, let the young students start their education in their own community. Thank you.