



ASD-W
Anglophone School District West

DISTRICT
EDUCATION
COUNCIL

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14 May 2024

Minister Bill Hogan
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
250 King Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5H1

References:

- A. ASD-W Letter to Minister Notifying Commencement of Sustainability Study on Oromocto Area Schools, 20 October 2023.
- B. Minister EECD Letter to ASD-West DEC Acknowledging Sustainability Study, 8 December 2023.

Dear Minister Hogan:

I am writing to inform you that the District Education Council for Anglophone West School District met in public session on May 9, 2024, to consider all required criteria pertaining to the sustainability of seven elementary and middle schools located in the Oromocto/Burton area, referred to as "*Oromocto K-8 Rationalization*" on the Department's Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priorities list (SDIP), under Provincial Policy 409: Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning. The study was launched on October 19, 2023, as indicated in Reference A, and acknowledged by you on December 8, 2023, as indicated in Reference B. The Council and staff followed the guidelines throughout the study, as outlined in Policy 409.

After the public presentation of the enclosed Executive Summary at the May 9 meeting, the following motion was presented:

- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 2(1) and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that three new K-8 schools be built in the Town of Oromocto to replace the Burton Elementary School, the Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School, the Hubbard Elementary School, the Gesner Street Elementary School, the Summerhill Street Elementary School, the Harold Petersen Middle School and the Ridgeview Middle School.

Upon conclusion of all discussion, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

As the Council is recommending to you that three new schools be built to replace seven schools, subsequent motions were presented regarding each school. These motions are listed below:

- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Burton Elementary School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.
- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.
- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Hubbard Elementary School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.
- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Gesner Street Elementary School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.
- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Summerhill Street Elementary School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.
- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Harold Peterson Middle School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.
- I move, in accordance with the Education Act, Section 3.1 and EECD Policy 409, Section 6.7.1, that we recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that **the Ridgeview Middle School be closed** and be included in one of the three new K-8 schools to be built and located within the Town of Oromocto once the new facility has been built.

Upon conclusion of all discussion, the motions were carried by a unanimous vote.

We acknowledge the fact that Section 6.7.4 of Provincial Policy 409 describes a need for approval of the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for any closures of a school, as recommended by a District Education Council. In compliance with Policy 409, we ask for you to review our processes and confirm that our direction is acceptable with your administration.

Lastly, while not required at this time, the ASD-West DEC wished to put on record our recommendation for the location of the new schools. The following motion was presented and received unanimous support by the Council.

- I move to recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that the three new K-8 schools be located within the Town of Oromocto, specifically one in Oromocto West and two in Oromocto Proper.

Attached is a map of the proposed general location of the three new schools within the Town of Oromocto.

Please note that we endeavoured to promote a clear public understanding of the context and expectation of the study, and consequently created a special section on the ASD-W website to house all material related to the study. This section, titled '*Outline of the Town of Oromocto and Burton-Area Schools 2023 Sustainability Study*' was updated regularly with all relevant documentation and information allowing the community and stakeholders to be informed as the process unfolded. The contents of this website section serve as the basis for our final report. All requirements for the sustainability study as described in Sections 6.4 to 6.7 of Policy 409 are found within this site and the subsequent links within the site. The following link will take you directly to the sustainability study section, which is found on the front page of our website.

[Town of Oromocto and Burton-Area Schools, 2023-2024 – Anglophone School District West \(nbed.ca\)](https://nbed.ca/Town-of-Oromocto-and-Burton-Area-Schools-2023-2024)

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact myself or the Superintendent, David McTimoney.

Sincerely,

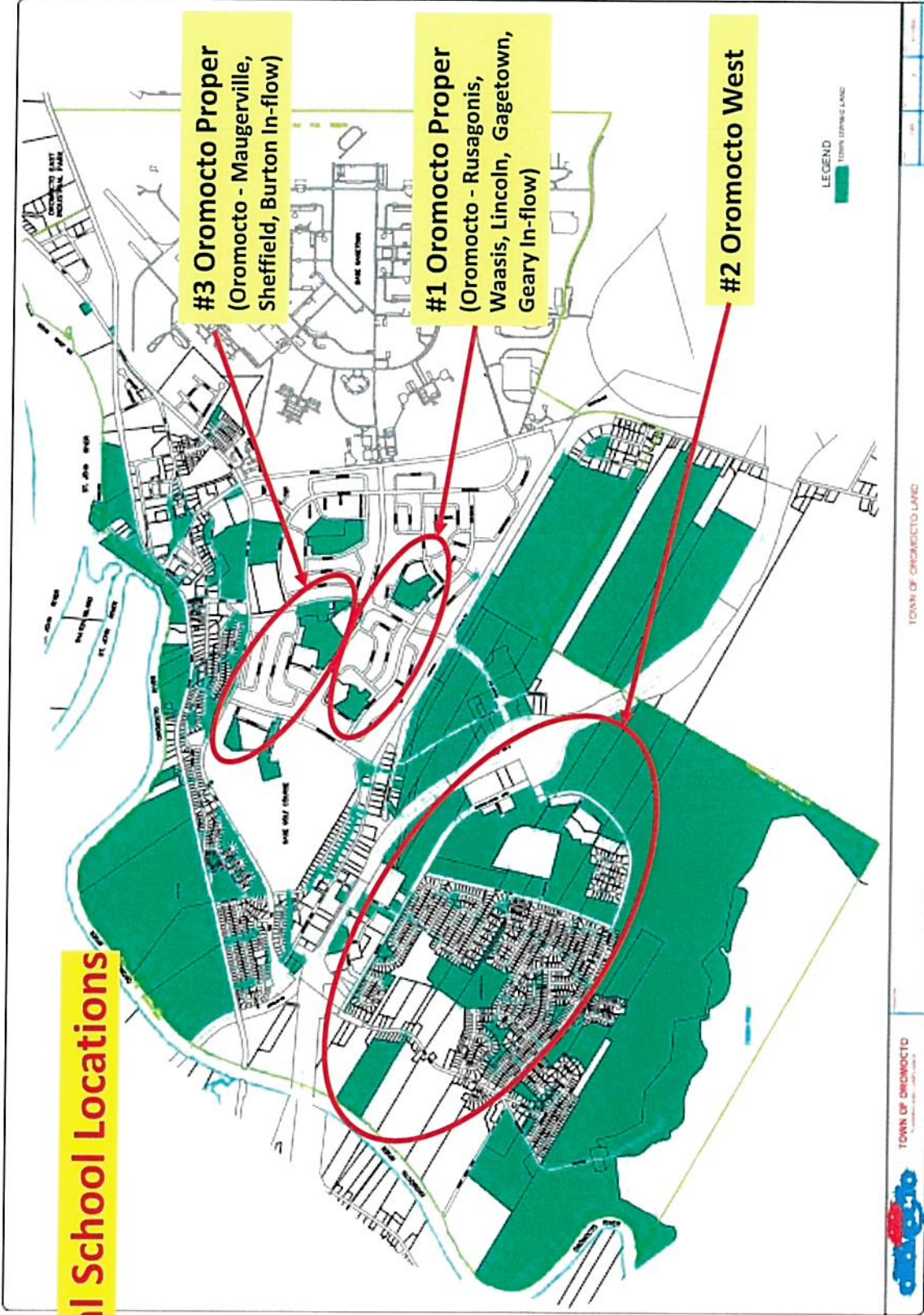


Thomas Geburt
Chairperson District Education Council
Anglophone School District West

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

Attachment: 1 – Executive Summary - Oromocto K-8 Rationalization, dated 9 May 2024
2 – Map of Proposed General Areas of Three New Schools in the Town of Oromocto

General School Locations





Executive Summary

Anglophone School District West District Education Council

Sustainability Study – Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School, Burton Elementary School, Gesner Street Elementary School, Harold Peterson Middle School, Hubbard Elementary School, Ridgeview Middle School, and Summerhill Street Elementary School in support of the Oromocto K-8 Rationalization Project.

May 09, 2024





Executive Summary

- The Sustainability Study for the 7 Oromocto area schools as a cluster was initiated by a motion of the District Education Council (DEC) on October 19, 2023, at the regularly scheduled public DEC meeting. On October 20, 2023, the DEC advised the Minister in writing of its' intention. Subsequently, the Council, Superintendent, and relevant staff coordinated the study closely following the process as outlined in Provincial Policy 409: Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning, Sections 6.4 and 6.5.
- Its worth noting that the origins of this study date back to 2017, when the DEC requested a facilities study as part of its major capital projects submission. The following year, a feasibility study was presented by Ernst & Young to the DEC. A sustainability study was announced in 2019, but later cancelled as the priorities of the day shifted to another region.

May 09, 2024



Executive Summary

- The Sustainability Study process included three public meetings, formal correspondence with parents, communication with stakeholders, and a transparent sharing of documentation and information publicly throughout the study. The public meetings were attended by DEC members and district staff. DEC Councillors spent a considerable amount of time touring and learning about each school being studied.
- Public consultation and communications took place throughout the study, and stakeholders from the community were engaged in the process to varying degrees.

May 09, 2024



Executive Summary

To promote a clear public understanding of the context and expectation of the study, the following points were communicated to the community and stakeholders throughout the process:

- The study was in support of a project already placed on the Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priorities (SDIP) list, titled “Oromocto K-8 Rationalization.” The province has committed to building three new schools. A summary of policy 409, and an explanation of the SDIP list was also provided.
- The possible outcomes of a sustainability study as per the policy were outlined:
 - Maintaining the status quo
 - Repairing the schools
 - Grouping schools together
 - Closing the schools
 - Placing some students elsewhere

May 09, 2024



Executive Summary

- The **5 potential scenarios** presented as recommendations in the 2018 Ernst & Young report were shared:
 - Close all schools within scope and replace them with a new 6-8 middle school and two K-5 elementary schools.
 - Close all schools within scope and replace them with two new K-8 schools.
 - Close all schools within scope and replace them with three new K-8 schools.
 - Review the existing two middle schools compared to the EECD Planning Guidelines for Educational Facilities to determine what/if any space is deficient to the guidelines for a possible school addition and/or amalgamation in a mid-life upgrade scenario in conjunction with two new elementary schools.
 - Close all schools within scope and replace them with a new K-2 Elementary, a new 3-5 school, and a new 6-8 school.

May 09, 2024





Timeline – Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness

- The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development was informed of the intention to study the Oromocto and area school cluster, in writing on October 20, 2023
- A [special section](#) was created on the ASD-W website outlining the study. The site was updated regularly with all relevant documentation and information allowing the community and stakeholders to be informed as the process unfolded.
- On November 8, 2023, the Superintendent wrote a formal letter to parents and stakeholders advising them of the study, outlining the schedule, and directing them to the “special section” of ASD-W’s website. A follow-up and reminder was sent in January before the first public meeting, and a targeted advertising campaign was executed.
- The first public meeting was held on January 27, 2024, at Oromocto High School.

May 09, 2024





Timeline – Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness

- On February 9, 2024, the Superintendent wrote to parents and stakeholders as a reminder for the upcoming second meetings and invited interested parties to register to present to the Council. A reminder was sent on March 12, 2024, along with a detailed schedule outlining individual sessions. A second targeted advertising campaign was executed.
- The second public meetings were held as a series on March 16 and 23. March 16 focused on elementary schools, in five individual sessions. The March 23 meeting focused on middle schools, in 2 individual sessions.
- On May 2, 2024, the Superintendent wrote again to parents and stakeholders, reminding them of the third and final meeting to be held on May 9, 2024, at 7pm in the theatre at Oromocto High School.

May 09, 2024



Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness - Public Meeting # 1

This was an “expo” style drop-in session throughout the day conducted at Oromocto High School on January 27, 2024, in the cafeteria lobby. Each school had a station where you could learn many details about the school and ask questions. Throughout the day, there were seven 30-minute scheduled presentations in the OHS theatre, one for each school being studied. This first meeting was designed to share relevant information about the schools, as per Section 6.6.2 of Policy 409. The schedule for the day and presentations were 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

May 09, 2024





Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness - Public Meeting #2 (Part I)

The March 16, 2024, meeting was well attended by an engaged public, most notably representing the community of Burton. DEC Councillors had the opportunity to tour the venue schools during these sessions. In the morning sessions, the public presentation schedule was as follows:

Time Slot	Location	Topic	Presenter
0900-0930	Hubbard Elementary School – Gym (95 Drummond Drive, Oromocto)	Burton Elementary School	Ms. E. Peddle (15 min)
0930-1000	Hubbard Elementary School – Gym (95 Drummond Drive, Oromocto)	Burton Elementary School	Mr. T. Dinner (20 min)
1000-1010	Hubbard Elementary School - Gym	Burton Elementary School	Mr. M Forsythe (10 min)
1015-1100	Hubbard Elementary School – Gym (95 Drummond Drive, Oromocto)	Assiniboine Street Elementary School / Hubbard Elementary School	Ms. L. Dormer (5 min)

May 09, 2024





Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness - Public Meeting #2 (Part 2)

The March 16, 2024, afternoon session public presentation schedule was as follows:

Time Slot	Location	Topic	Presenter
1315-1415	Summerhill Street Elementary School - Gym (20 Summerhill Street, Oromocto)	Summerhill Elementary School / Oromocto Area Schools	Ms. E. Dyker (25 min)
1415-1515	Summerhill Street Elementary School - Gym (20 Summerhill Street, Oromocto)	Gesner Street Elementary School	Open

May 09, 2024





Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness - Public Meeting #2 (Part II)

The March 23, 2024, meeting had no registrations from the public for presentations, and only one member of public in attendance, but allowed the DEC ample time to tour the remaining schools. The schedule was as follows:

Time	Location	Topic	Presenter
0900-0930	Ridgeview Middle School - Gym	Harold Peterson & Ridgeview Middle School	Open
0930-1000	Ridgeview Middle School	Tour School	<u>DEC Councillors</u>
1000	Ridgeview Middle School - Gym	Conclude Meeting #2	<u>DEC Councillors</u>
1015-1115	Burton Elementary School	Tour School (includes travel time)	<u>DEC Councillors</u>
1115-1215	Harold Peterson Middle School	Tour School (includes travel time)	<u>DEC Councillors</u>
1215-1300	Gesner Street Elementary School	Tour School (includes travel time)	<u>DEC Councillors</u>
1300-1345	Assiniboine Street Elementary School	Tour School (includes travel time)	<u>DEC Councillors</u>



Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness Public Meeting # 3

- The third public meeting in this study is being held at Oromocto High School tonight (May 9, 2024). Approximately 34 members of the public are present, representing communities related to the seven sustainability studies.
- This presentation serves as an executive summary and closing comments leading up to discussion by District Education Council, and a subsequent motion or motions, and a vote on the study.
- This presentation, an agenda, and the Superintendent monitoring report will be included on the dedicated section of our website. The official minutes will also be posted and sent to the Minister, as required, once they've been approved by Council.
- The Chairperson will write to Minister Bill Hogan with any motions and conclusions from the study.
- The Superintendent will write to the parents/guardians of the students from the seven schools, and neighbouring feeder schools, with the conclusion of the study

May 09, 2024



ASD-W
Anglophone School District West



Minister's Responsibilities

- If school closures are recommended by the DEC, the Minister will review the report and assess it for procedural fairness.
- The Minister will need to reach a conclusion on the recommendation in a time frame of no less than 30 days and no longer than 60 days, as per Policy 409.
- Upon confirmation of the conclusion from the Minister, the Superintendent will write again to parents, guardians, stakeholders, and staff of all affected schools

May 09, 2024

THANK YOU

David McTimoney - Superintendent

May 09, 2024

