Thursday, May 2, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is an important follow-up to my previous letters written to the parents and guardians of students in elementary and middle schools in the Oromocto, Burton, Lincoln, and Geary communities, regarding the ongoing sustainability studies in the area.

As a reminder, 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, under the process outlined in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Provincial Policy 409: Multi-year Infrastructure Planning. This policy serves as a foundation for determining the sustainability of schools, considering many aspects, such as:

Enrolment
Transportation
Economic Development

Health and Safety Impact on Community Impact on Other Schools Quality of Education and Services Finances

In line with the direction of the policy, the DEC hosted the first of three public meetings focused on this study on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Oromocto High School. At that time, I presented a factual look at each of the seven schools, guided by the categories mentioned above. I also outlined the process for this sustainability study. These presentations were made to the DEC, some school and district staff, and members of the public. There was also a day long expo in the lobby where each of the seven schools hosted a station sharing information about the school.

The second public meetings were held as a series, serving as a forum for current and future parents of the schools, community members, and other stakeholders to present to the DEC, district staff, and the general public regarding their thoughts on the sustainability of the schools. The schedule was as follows.

- Saturday morning, March 16, 2024 Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School, Burton Elementary School, Hubbard Elementary School, all at Hubbard Elementary School.
- Saturday <u>afternoon</u>, March 16, 2024 Gesner Street Elementary School, Summerhill Street Elementary School, both at Summerhill Street Elementary School.
- Saturday morning, March 23, 2024 Harold Peterson Middle School and Ridgeview Middle School, both at Ridgeview Middle School.

If you were unable to attend any of these sessions, or would like further information, I encourage you to visit this <u>special section</u> of our website where you will find relevant documents from the entirety of the study, including policies, meeting minutes and full presentations.



This letter also serves to reminder that the third and final public meeting is to occur on <u>Thursday, May 9, 2024</u>, at Oromocto High School, beginning at 7:00 PM in the theatre.

At this important meeting, the District Education Council will discuss the study and vote on a final conclusion, within the context that the Government of New Brunswick has committed to building new schools in the area, as noted on the Stable Departmental Infrastructure Priorities (SDIP) list as the "Oromocto K-8 Rationalization" project. This conclusion may also consider the 2017-2018 Ernst & Young "feasibility study" which is described in my previous communications and in full detail on our <u>website</u>.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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Sincerely,

David McTimoney, Superintendent