



**ANGLOPHONE SCHOOL DISTRICT WEST
DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
Oromocto High School
Public Meeting Minutes
(Special Meeting – Sustainability Study Meeting #3)
May 9, 2024**

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Adams – Sub-district 1 • Tanya Cloutier – Sub-district 4 • Ruth Eden – Sub-district 6 • Michael Mazerolle – Sub-district 9 • Chris Harquail – Sub-district 10 • Jim Mills – Sub-district 11 • Thomas Geburt – Sub-district 13, Chairperson • David Perley – First Nations Councillor • Mya McAllister – Student Councillor <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candice Browse – Sub-district 3 • Serena Bradford – Sub-district 5 • Janet Dean – Sub-district 8 • Wallace Carr – Sub-district 12, Vice Chairperson <p>Council Vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-district 2 • Sub-district 7 	<p>ASD-W District & School Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David McTimoney, Superintendent • Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools, Oromocto Education Centre • Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration • Paul MacIntosh, Director of Communications • Susan Young, Supervisor of Data and Accountability • Lorie Grant, IT Support • Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC <p>Members of the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Mary Wilson • 36 Guests
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- **Call to Order:**
 - Thomas Geburt, Chairperson, called the public meeting for the third Sustainability Study meeting to order at **7:14 PM.**
- **Welcome & Comments by the Chairperson:**
 - Chairperson Geburt stated that this past weekend the greater Fredericton community experienced a significant tragedy through the loss of life of three young people, two of whom were High School students. In addition to the loss of life, two other students were seriously injured. To paraphrase the words of the Chief of Police, this event was a family’s worst nightmare.
 - The Chairperson thanked the Superintendent, the District Education Support Services (ESS) team and the entire Leo Hayes High School staff for their immediate and excellent response to this crisis. The Chairperson stated that he knew that their support would continue for the school community for as long as it is necessary. The Chairperson then asked that those in attendance and the Council observe a moment of silence providing an opportunity to pray or reflect upon this tragedy, to honour those young lives lost as well as remember the families and community members affected by this tragedy.
 - **A Moment of Silence was Observed.**
 - Chairperson Geburt, on behalf of the Council, acknowledged that, with the exception of one, the land on which Anglophone School District West schools are located is the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet). This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet), Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725.

MOTION:

..... 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.

MOVED BY: Ruth Eden SECONDED BY: Chris Harquail MOTION CARRIED

- There were no comments communicated by Councillors prior to this motion being passed and the decision was carried by consensus.

MOTION:

..... 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.

MOVED BY: Ruth Eden SECONDED BY: Chris Harquail MOTION CARRIED

- Councillor Eden stated that she was aware of the importance of a rural community school as she resides in a rural community that includes the new Hanwell Park Academy. There were no additional comments communicated by Councillors prior to this motion being passed and the decision was carried by consensus.

MOTION:

..... 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.

MOVED BY: Ruth Eden SECONDED BY: Mya McAllister MOTION CARRIED

- There were no comments communicated by Councillors prior to this motion being passed and the decision was carried by consensus.

MOTION:

..... 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.

MOVED BY: Ruth Eden SECONDED BY: Tanya Adams MOTION CARRIED

- There were no comments communicated by Councillors prior to this motion being passed and the decision was carried by consensus.

MOTION:

..... 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.

• **Public Comments:**

- The Burton Elementary PSSC Chairperson, Thomas Dinner stated that this was an emotional decision that the community heard tonight. It was his belief that communication about this decision should have been given to the community prior to tonight. He went on to say that the statement provided by Councillor Carr included information about a meeting with the Town of Oromocto, and that he believed that this information should have been made public and not under embargo until tonight. The PSSC Chairperson commented on Councillor Eden's statement about the premature nature of the location decision, and that this could change depending on the population growth. He asked the Council if the population growth had been taken into consideration when recommending the locations. Mr. Dinner went on to say that he understood that three new K-8 schools need to be built, but the locations are questionable. Therefore, he requested that when this timeline comes closer that these factors and more public consultation be taken into consideration with the public input being heard. Mr. Dinner acknowledged that the Sustainability Study meetings are not well attended but when it comes closer to the time to build, he anticipated a better public attendance. Mr. Dinner asked if the Department of National Defence land would be available and had they been approached to hand over their land? Chairperson Geburt responded that they had been invited to attend these meetings. The ownership of the Town of Oromocto land, Crown land and federal government land would be approached by the Province of New Brunswick and not the District Education Council. Mr. Dinner closed with a request for a response from the Superintendent and/or Council from his recent letter that asks for a catchment review of the area.
- Ms. Lindsay commented that she appreciated Councillor Eden's comments to support rural area schools. However, she disagrees with a Grade K-8 configuration and that a school should be Grades K-5 as younger children should be separated from older children. Ms. Lindsay stated that the Burton Elementary School students tested the highest in Provincial Assessment scores.
- Another member from the public asked if there will be larger class sizes or more classrooms? The Superintendent responded that their will be additional classrooms, and that the student ratio per classroom as stated in the Teachers Collective Agreement will be respected.
- It was asked what these new schools will have that will make it better for kids and if there will be protection in place for younger students? The Superintendent responded that we have Grades K-8 schools in ASD-W, where a positive environment has been established. Students with special needs will have improved facilities and the number of Educational Assistants is determined by a rubric. ASD-W is allotted 668 Educational Assistants and 31 School Intervention Workers for the 2024-2025 school year.
- A member of the public asked what type of assessment was completed to ensure this decision to build three new schools was in the best interest of the students, and did the Council consider what was best for the kids? Chairperson Geburt responded that students were considered, population numbers were reviewed and identified from rural areas.
- Ms. Peddle commented that without a school in the Burton community, it will mean no new families will move to the area. There are no streetlights in Burton and students will be standing at the end of the roads waiting for the bus in the dark. This decision will have a poor affect on the Burton economy and future of children.

- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at **8:18 PM.**

Thomas Geburt

Thomas Geburt, Chairperson

27 June 2024

Date

Carol Clark-Caterini

Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent & DEC

8 July 2024

Date