

16 March, 2015

Parent School Support Committee
Edith Cavell School
125 Park Street
Moncton, NB E1C 2B4

District Education Council
Anglophone East School District
1077 St. George Blvd.
Moncton, NB E1E 4C9

Attn: Tamara Nichol, Chair

Re: School Sustainability Review

At our last meeting, the Edith Cavell School PSSC discussed the school sustainability reviews being conducted by the DEC, and in particular the sustainability of Edith Cavell School. The issue of low enrolment levels and under-utilization of the school resources has been recognized for some time. On numerous occasions in the past, we have requested action by the DEC to find a resolution to the issue. We question why the DEC has recommended another new school be built, and is spending funds to install portable classrooms, while other schools in the District remain underutilized.

We welcome the opportunity to review and improve the sustainability of our school, and look forward to participating in any review process. Many would say that a review of school boundaries within the District is long overdue. We are writing to request that Anglophone East School District carry out a comprehensive review and adjustment of school boundaries to improve utilization of all existing school facilities. The District should maximize the use of existing facilities while planning to accommodate future growth and development within our community.

We believe strongly in the viability of Edith Cavell School and acknowledge the many community benefits provided by it. We also maintain that there is a compelling need for a vibrant school in the center of the urban core of the Greater Moncton area. This is demonstrated by the following points.

- Improving the utilization of Edith Cavell School will help to relieve overutilization at other schools in the District.
- Increased enrolment will have a positive impact on the quality of education for all students attending Edith Cavell School.
- The school building is well maintained, well equipped, and provides a bright healthy environment for students.
- The physical condition of the building is very good, and there are few capital improvements required. Increasing the utilization of the school will only increase the financial savings to the District.
- The school is located close to families in downtown Moncton so that bussing is not required for any of the current student population. Students spend less of their school day travelling, and the District saves on transportation costs.



- The school provides an important focus for the families in downtown Moncton. Parental involvement in the school is high, and continues to increase, in part due to the fact that the school is close and accessible to them. Many of the families at the school cannot afford to own a car, or some even choose not to own a car, and the ability to walk to the school is an important factor in their engagement with the school.
- The school gratefully receives enthusiastic support from local businesses and service groups, such as the Rotary Club, who recognize Edith Cavell School as an important part of the downtown community.
- For many years a portion of Edith Cavell School has been used to support the programs at Moncton High School. Now that MHS has been moved into a new building, the space in Edith Cavell that used to be used by MHS can be rededicated to programs for younger grades.
- The school provides a number of amenities available to the neighbourhood including playground & recreational open space, and a facility for after school sports and community events.
- Due to its location, the school provides a critical piece of infrastructure for attracting new families and retaining existing families to live and work in the City's urban core. This is important to the overall economic well-being of the Greater Moncton community as it helps to support established local businesses and maintain property values.

In closing, we request that the District Education Council of Anglophone East School District carry out a comprehensive review and adjustment of school boundaries to improve the utilization of Edith Cavell and other underutilized schools, and relieve overutilization at other schools in the District. On behalf of the Students and Families of Edith Cavell School, we thank you in advance for your attention to this matter,



Graham McCrea,
PSSC Chair
Edith Cavell School

