

## ANGLOPHONE EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

1077 St. George Blvd., Suite 2000 • Moncton, New Brunswick E1E 4C9  
Telephone: (506) 856-3222 • Fax: (506) 856-3224  
www.asd-e.nbed.nb.ca

November 19, 2014

Parents of Students at EPS and NFS,

Last school year I sent you a letter describing the situation in the North End related to student enrollment at Northrop Frye and Evergreen Park Schools (attached). Given that the situation has not improved, we are approaching the time when decisions have to be made regarding the plan for the fall of 2015. I want to let you know how the process will unfold.

### Expansion Request for Northrop Frye

In June, the District Education Council made the addition to Northrop Frye a priority in their request for Major Capital improvements. We anticipate the decision on that request will be known early in the New Year.

If the expansion request is approved, we will need to put a short-term plan in place for a couple of years while the addition is designed and completed. That plan would not involve changing the school configurations or boundaries. It would likely mean that some students would be displaced from their home school, which is the same situation we are in at the moment.

### Alternative Planning and Process

In the event that the extension is not approved, I will propose to the District Education Council in December that I begin consulting with parents early in the New Year regarding the options available for September 2015. This consultation will include public meetings on the options as well as providing opportunities for parents to give their feedback on the proposed options (ie: portables, boundary changes, one school to become a middle school and one school to become an elementary school) and to propose other options. Once this process is completed, a decision will be made on the overcrowding solution for the fall of 2015. Provincial Policy 409 outlines this process and you can access this policy through our website.

It is important to remember that we need a solution for September – and doing nothing is not an option. What the solution will look like will be determined after the consultation period in the New Year. No decisions have been made yet. Below is the timeline the process will take during the next few months:

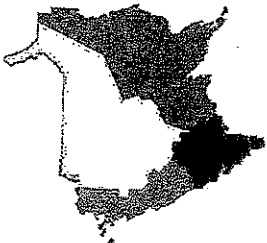
1. December – ask District Education Council to start the consultation process
2. January/February – get answers on extension
3. January – start the consultation process (exact information on the process will be available closer to that time)
4. March – final decisions on solution
5. April-August – implement new solution

All of the numbers and data we have on each possible solution are being compiled now and will be provided to parents once the consultation process begins.

I would like to thank you for your continued patience with this situation.

Gregg Ingersoll

Superintendent



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January 23, 2014

North End Update for Parents and Staff

Population growth in any community creates pressure for local schools as they attempt to accommodate the growth. Such growth forces the school system to come up with potential solutions to alleviate the pressure. This scenario has played out in many of the communities in the Anglophone East School District in the past. Today the population growth in the North End of Moncton (specifically the catchment areas of Northrop Frye and Evergreen Park School) is creating a situation where the two schools will soon reach a point where they will no longer be able to accommodate the growth.

The District Education Council has again this year made a major capital request to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that an extension be added to Northrop Frye (NF). If this option gets approved then the issue will be resolved. The other options to solve the overcrowding issue are to either reconfigure the two schools making one an elementary and the other a middle school or to change the boundaries for the North End and bring other Moncton area schools into play.

In the fall of 2013 we convened a committee to look at the issue and to examine the options. We invited the Parent School Support Committee Chairs from the two schools, the District Education Council representative, the Principals and several staff from the Office of the Superintendent to participate. One of the options that was considered, in addition to the three mentioned above, was moving the Late French Immersion Program (LFI) from NF to Evergreen Park (EPS). In September 2013 we moved the LFI program to EPS which did free up three classrooms at NF and allowed us to avoid a serious overcrowding issue this fall. That change alleviated the issue in the short term but will not solve the issue in the long term. The numbers for the next few years at NF are listed below. NF was built to house twenty seven home room classrooms.

- **2012/13** 28 Homerooms 615 students
- **2013/14** 28 Homerooms 614 students (LFI program removed)
- **2014/15** 30 Homerooms 651 Students
- **2015/16** 34 Homerooms 701 students
- **2016-2018** 25 – 50 more students each year
- Evergreen Park School (EPS) will lose a few students next year and then enrollment will remain stable. All of the classes at EPS are currently being used.

This year NF is using one of their music rooms as a homeroom class and next year they will have to find two additional spaces for two more homeroom classes. The following year we will not be able to accommodate the number of classes. There are more than twice as many students coming into Kindergarten than are leaving in grade eight each year.

The idea of changing the configuration of the two schools so that one becomes an elementary and the other a middle school would solve the issue. In this scenario, EPS would be a K to 4 and NF would be a 5 to 8 school. EPS is larger and would have 37 home rooms where NF would have 27 home rooms. (EPS has 39 home room classes this year)

When you combine all of the students in each grade level from the two schools into one school, fewer classes are needed and the classes tend to have more space for new students to move in. This is the case with this scenario and would allow for more families to move in. Currently EPS takes the overflow for NF school when new students arrive after the start of the school year. The final option of a boundary change would mean that students who currently attend one of these two schools would become part of another schools catchment area.

I presented this information to the District Education Council on Tuesday night so they are aware that we will need to do something by September of 2015. We will wait until March when we hear whether or not the major capital request has been approved. If it is not approved this year the Council could consider requesting the addition again. If we find out that there will be no extension added to NF, we will begin the process of considering the other options. That process will include the sharing of the details on each option and consultation with parents and educators from all schools that will be potentially impacted by the changes.

I hope that this information will help you understand what the issues are and what the potential options and timelines are going forward. I will continue to keep the school staff and parents informed as more information becomes available.



Gregg Ingersoll  
Superintendent  
Anglophone East School District