



Back Bay Elementary School
980 Route 172
Back Bay, NB E5C 1Y1
Phone Number (506)755-4028
Principal: Aldena Higgins-Harris

December 18th, 2014

To Parents of Back Bay Elementary School,

The Anglophone South School District (ASSD) has proposed that grade 6 from Blacks Harbour School and St. George Elementary School be moved to Fundy High School (FHS) beginning in September, 2015. Under this proposal, middle school would include grades 6 through 8 while high school would include grades 9 through 12.

The Back Bay Elementary School (BBES) Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) has been involved in consultations with other local PSSC's, our District Education Council (DEC) representative and ASSD to gain further clarity on the proposal. Following consultations earlier this fall we submitted a list of questions listed below on October 29th to Superintendent Zoe Watson:

1. What are the *key driver's* behind the decision to reconfigure grade 6 in the region?
2. What is the *regional plan* for other local schools such as Back Bay Elementary?
3. What *other model schools* can serve as a successful middle school/ high school approach?
4. What is the *impact at St. George & Blacks Harbour* including budget, teaching positions etc.?
5. What are the *design specifics* for the proposed middle school/high school model at FHS?
6. Will a *tour* of FHS and proposed layout be provided?
7. How will the proposed middle school plan ensure a *separation of the students* throughout the school day, specifically: recesses (indoor/outdoor), lunch, gym time, recreation etc.?
8. A *distinct identity* is important for middle school – what is the proposal, including budget?
9. What *recreation and physical activity upgrades* are proposed for middle school students?

10. How will the *after school activity program* at FHS accommodate grade 6?
11. Will *French immersion* continue to be offered in grade 6?
12. How will *transportation/busing* be impacted? Routes, times, drop off area, dismissals, interaction with high school students etc.
13. What is the proposed *administrative structure*, specifically will dedicated middle school administrators and a guidance counselor be provided?
14. What is the overall *fiscal budget* to accommodate the proposed reconfiguration?
15. What is the *timeline* proposed to evaluate this proposal and will further consultation with affected communities be accommodated?

On December 2nd, a meeting was held with the PSSC members from the local schools affected by this proposal, please visit BBES website at <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/2101/Pages/default.aspx> to view the presentation. While information was provided to address many of the questions listed above, the BBES PSSC has since requested further written clarification, specifically to the following key points:

- The specific advantages for students of the middle school model at FHS over the current configuration at Blacks Harbour and St. George.
- The specific plan to move grade 6 including FHS reconfiguration, fiscal budget requirements and timelines.

A BBES parent meeting has been scheduled by ASSD for Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30pm at the school, all parents are encouraged to attend. ASSD Superintendent Zoe Watson will present the proposal and provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

The BBES PSSC has been clear that any proposed reconfiguration needs to clearly benefit students, include parent input and a detailed plan including additional financial resources required.

Sincerely,

Shane Borthwick
PSSC Chair - Back Bay Elementary School

cc. Mr. Larry Boudreau – DEC representative
Ms. Aldena Higgins-Harris – BBES Principal