



School Sustainability Review – Morna Heights Elementary School

Oct. 2019



SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW and SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The Anglophone South District Education Council (DEC) will host Public Consultations as per Provincial Policy 409 *Multi-Year School Infrastructure Planning* to study the sustainability of **Morna Heights School**.

Under Policy 409, the DEC will be holding two public information sessions at the school. The initial meeting will be to deliver the proposal to the public and to allow the DEC and staff to explain the process involved in a Policy 409 review and be available to answer questions about the process.

A second meeting will be scheduled in November to allow the public an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal, voice their concerns and provide feedback to the review.

The first meeting for Morna Heights School is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 pm at Morna Heights School.

Everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to do so. Throughout this process, written feedback can be submitted via email to: asds.schoolreview@nbed.nb.ca or you may send a letter to the attention of Robert Fowler, Chair, District Education Council, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John, NB E2K 5N3.

Policy 409 – Section 6.5

Determining a School's Sustainability

6.5.1 A DEC must consider the following criteria when studying a school's sustainability. This list does not preclude a DEC from considering other factors relevant to their local circumstances.

- ▶ 1. Low/declining enrolments:
- ▶ 2. Health and Safety:
- ▶ 3. Quality of Education Programs and Services:
- ▶ 4. Transportation:
- ▶ 5. Finances:
- ▶ 6. Impact on the local community:
- ▶ 7. Impact on other schools:
- ▶ 8. Economic development.

Policy 409 – Section 6.6

Public Consultation on School's Sustainability

- ▶ **6.6 Public consultation on a school's sustainability**
- ▶ **6.6.1** Following a public meeting at which the DEC has indicated its intention to conduct a sustainability study, the DEC must hold a minimum of three public meetings as part of a school sustainability study.
- ▶ **6.6.2** The **first meeting** will inform the school community of the DEC's intention, the criteria and factors to be considered and the steps to be followed. The DEC must ensure that affected persons are provided with information relevant to the proposal.

Policy 409 – Section 6.6

Public Consultation on School's Sustainability (continued)

- ▶ **6.6.3** The **second meeting** will provide affected persons with the opportunity to make a presentation to the DEC (i.e., let their views be known either in writing or orally). The DEC must provide them with adequate time to express their views and ensure they are heard impartially. The DEC must also ensure that affected persons have adequate time to prepare and consider the information received during the first meeting.
- ▶ **6.6.4** The **final meeting** will provide the public with the results of the consultation and the resulting recommendations being submitted to the Minister, as per section 6.7.

Policy 409 – Section 6.7

Ministerial Approval of a School Closure

- ▶ **6.7.1** A DEC will inform the Minister in writing of a recommendation to close a school, following the public consultation process. The DEC must provide supporting documents that demonstrate to the Minister how the requirements of this policy have been applied.
- ▶ **6.7.2** Any DEC recommendation to close a school as a result of a sustainability study must be submitted to the Minister no later than January 31, if the DEC intends for the school to close during the current school year. An extension of this timeline may be granted to the DEC with approval of the Minister.

Anglophone School District - South

▶ Quick Facts:

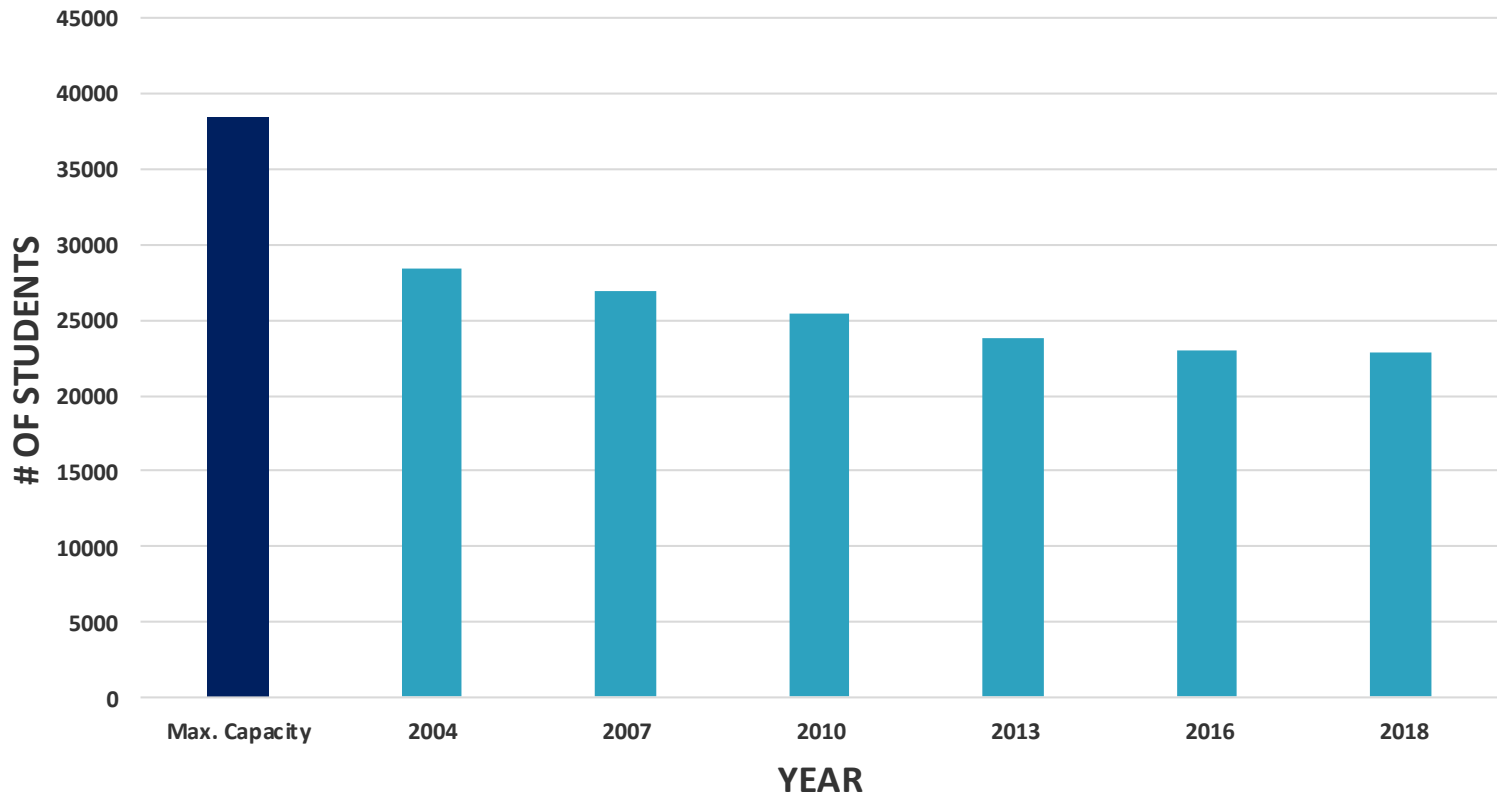
- ASD-S runs from Sussex Corner to Campobello Island

Three Education Centres:

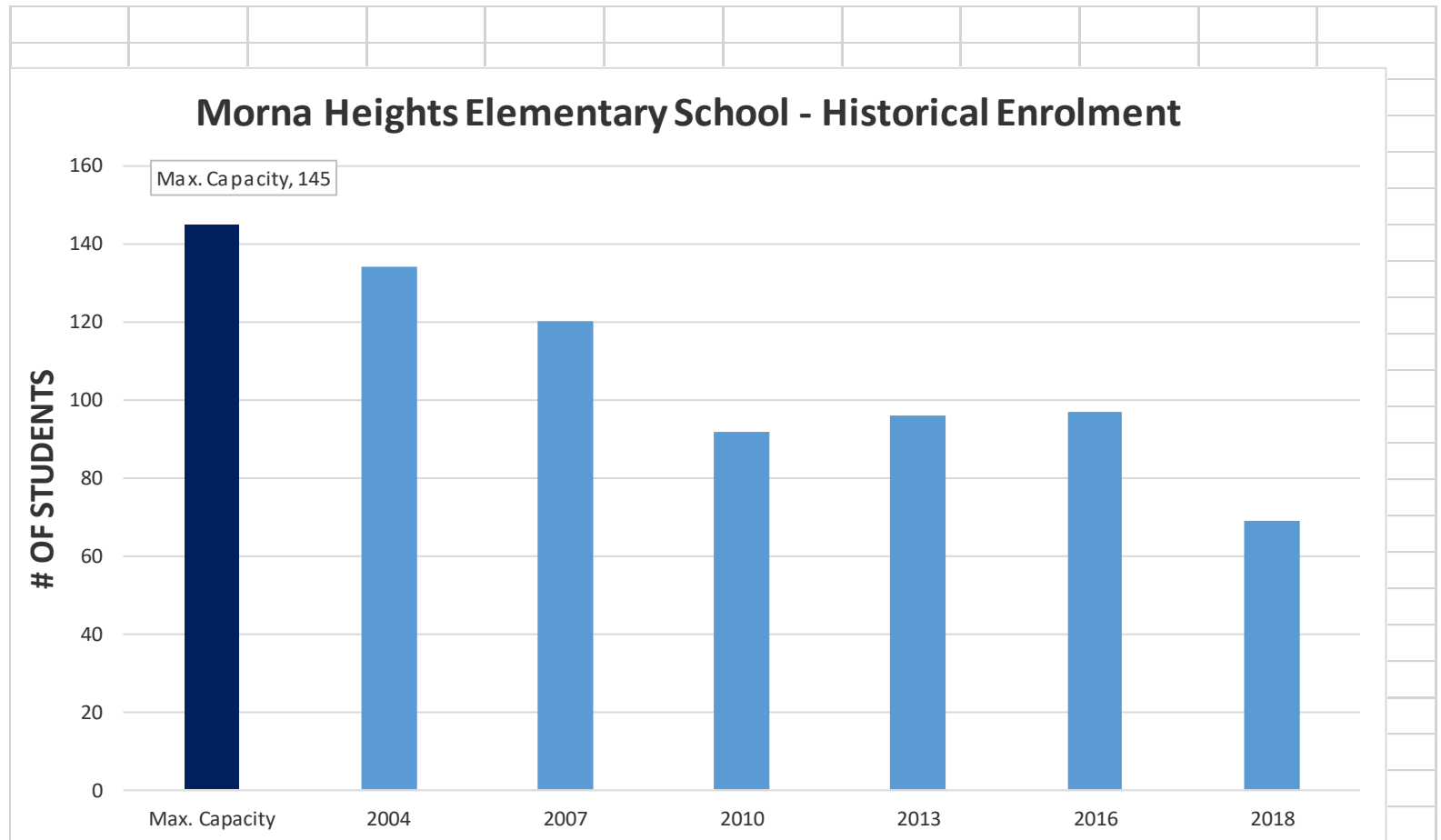
- St. Stephen Ed. Centre (SSEC) – 15 schools
- Saint John Ed. Centre (SJEC) – 30 schools
- Hampton Ed. Centre (HEC) – 25 schools
- \$244 million budget, 3400 permanent employees
- Major challenges:
 - Fiscal reality
 - Aging infrastructure 47–57 avg. yrs. of age depending on Centre (oldest are in SJEC)
 - Declining enrolment

Anglophone School District - South Historical Enrolment

20% Enrolment Drop in 15 Years (5555 students)



Max. Capacity	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2018
38806	28458	26879	25401	24257	22969	22903



Max. Capacity	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2018
145	134	120	92	96	97	69

Enrolment by Year by Grade for Morna Heights Elementary

Actual 2013 – 2018

Forecast 2019 – 2023

		Grade Level						
Sept 30		K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Actual:	2013	16	19	19	17	9	16	96
	2014	19	17	22	19	18	11	106
	2015	17	17	17	15	19	17	102
	2016	16	15	18	14	17	17	97
	2017	17	10	15	7	12	17	78
	2018	12	13	12	13	7	12	69
Forecast:	2019	12	12	13	12	13	7	69
	2020	12	12	12	13	12	13	74
	2021	12	12	12	12	13	12	73
	2022	12	12	12	12	12	13	73
	2023	12	12	12	12	12	12	72

1) Used K enrolment from 2018 and 2019 (i.e. 12 K's).

2) Moved all grade levels ahead by one year.

Morna Heights Elementary - Background

- ▶ K-5 Elementary school built in 1963
- ▶ Max capacity for Morna Heights is 145 students
- ▶ Has 6 classrooms, 2 modulars are used for Library and Music
- ▶ Modulars were not new when placed at school 22 years old
- ▶ 69 students enrolled as of Sept. 2018
- ▶ Morna Heights is at 48% capacity as of Sept. 2018
- ▶ Enrolment has declined by 49% since 2004 (65 students)
- ▶ For French Immersion, if room, students go to Grand Bay Primary then Inglewood, if not to Westfield Elementary
- ▶ Morna Heights students go to River Valley for Middle & Saint John area for High School
- ▶ Morna Heights has a gym, playground, basketball court, sufficient green space and parking space
- ▶ Morna Heights is not wheelchair accessible
- ▶ Morna Heights has ongoing Health & Safety issues including air and water quality (no central ventilation and on potable water)

Morna Heights Elementary - Capital Improvement Projects Required

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
▶ Building Exterior – Roof	\$262,500
▶ Building Exterior – Windows	150,000
▶ Mechanical & Electrical – Heating and Ventilation	220,000
▶ Building Exterior – Brick Repointing	60,000
▶ Building Interior – Washrooms	120,000
▶ Building Interior – Floors	40,000
▶ Building Interior – Interior Accessibility – Lift	<u>150,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,002,500</u>

Morna Heights Elementary - Capital Improvement Projects Completed Since 2014

No Major Capital Improvements projects completed over the last five years.

Morna Heights Elementary

STAFFING:

<u>Description</u>	<u>FTE's (Full Time Equivalents)</u>
▶ Teacher FTE's	6.90*
▶ Clerical Staff (1 - 10 month)	.86
▶ Custodial (40 hrs. week)	1.00
▶ Ed. Assistants (EA)(5–10 months, 30 hrs. wk.)	<u>4.13</u>
Total	<u>12.89</u>

* includes Administration

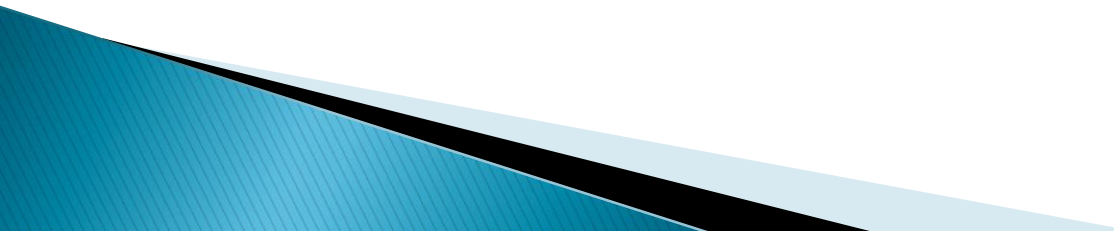
Morna Heights Elementary - Annual Operating Costs 2018/19:

Light and power	\$ 9,809
Sewage	1,045
Minor repairs	6,009
Snow plowing	5,456
Garbage removal	1,705
Heating fuel	18,831
Cleaning supplies	<u>1,238</u>
Sub-total	\$ 44,093
School Instructional Budget	7,136
School Salaries & Benefits	<u>786,000</u>
Total Yearly Operating Costs	<u>\$837,229</u>

Morna Heights Elementary School – School & Community Involvement

- ▶ **Lunch Program** 2–3 times per week
- ▶ **Breakfast Program** daily, sponsored by Superstore
- ▶ **Intramural Sports** (Flag football, badminton etc.) – seasonal
- ▶ **Movie Nights** – 4 times per year
- ▶ **District Jamboree Participation**
- ▶ **Host for District Jamborees**
- ▶ **Community Enrichment Activities** (baking, astronomy, gardening, yoga, photography)
- ▶ **Monthly Helping Hands Assemblies** based on Code of Conduct, citizenship and PBIS
- ▶ **Christmas Shopping Bazaar**
- ▶ **Skating at the Peter Murray Arena** (2–3 times per year)
- ▶ **Christmas Dinner**
- ▶ **Field Day and Community BBQ**

Morna Heights Elementary School – School & Community Involvement (continued)

- ▶ **Student Leaders**
 - ▶ **Green Team**
 - ▶ **Reading Buddies – older children read to younger students**
 - ▶ **Grade 5 DARE**
 - ▶ **Mad Science – yearly**
 - ▶ **ELF Tutoring**
 - ▶ **Science and Heritage Fairs**
 - ▶ **Literacy and Math Family Nights**
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Morna Heights Elementary – Businesses Located in and/or Supporting the School Community

Derek's Custom Cabinets

Peter Claessen and Sons Ltd.

Ridgewood Veterans Wing


Seely's Lodge

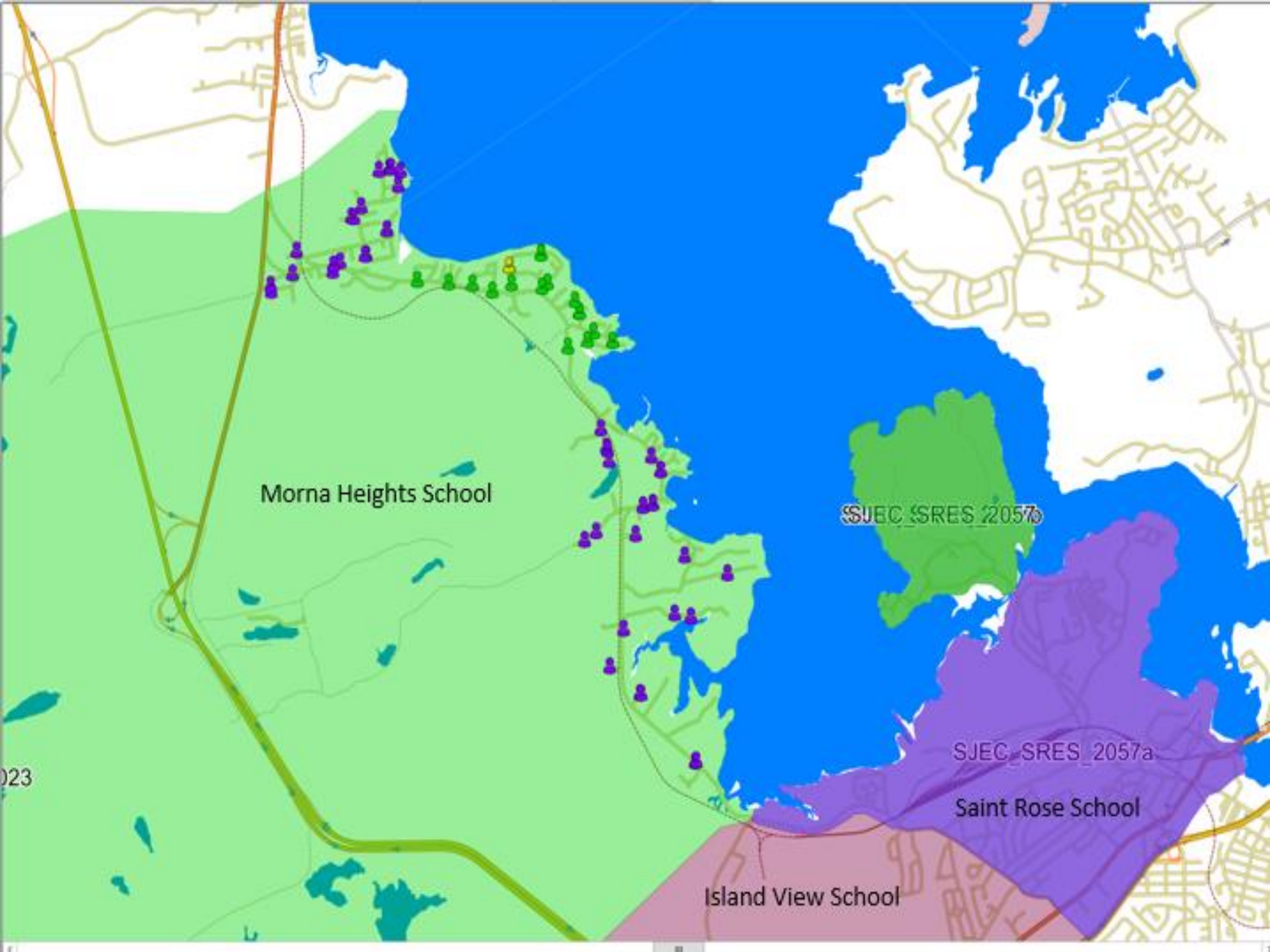
Subway – hot lunch provider

Multi-year Infrastructure Planning:

- ▶ DEC requested update of proposal for the Grand Bay – Westfield and Morna area that was studied in 2015/16
- ▶ Proposal was to close Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood and Morna and build new K-5 School
- ▶ Project was on the list 2008/09 then updated in 2015/16
- ▶ Project did not garner any interest at Dept. level so it was moved to 3rd on Capital Construction list in 2019
- ▶ Morna's population has dropped 33% since last study
- ▶ New proposal is to close Morna, review school boundaries and move students to Saint Rose (K-5 Eng.)
- ▶ Grade 6 & 7 students in River Valley will be grandfathered
- ▶ Saint Rose has excess capacity 205 students (Sept. 2018) @ 43% capacity
- ▶ Distance from Morna Heights to Saint Rose is 9.2 kms

Morna Heights - Transportation

- ▶ Two busses currently serve Morna, 2 AM routes and 2 PM routes
 - ▶ Have 18 walkers, 6 out of zone, & 46 on buses
 - ▶ Average distance to Morna Heights for bussed students is around 4 kms
 - ▶ Max. bussing distance to Morna is 7 kms
 - ▶ Bussing to Saint Rose will add average of 5 kms, max. of 9 kms to the bus runs, depending on the students' home address
 - ▶ All Morna area students would be entitled to bussing to Saint Rose
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Morna Heights School

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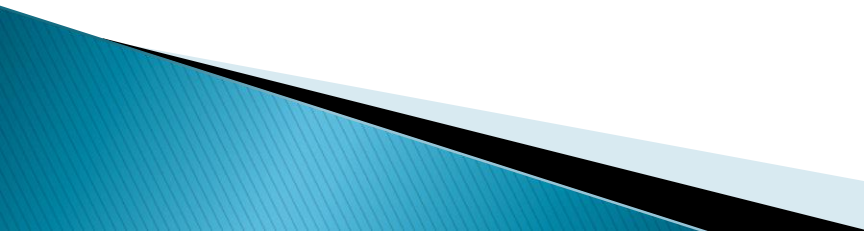
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Saint Rose School


Island View School

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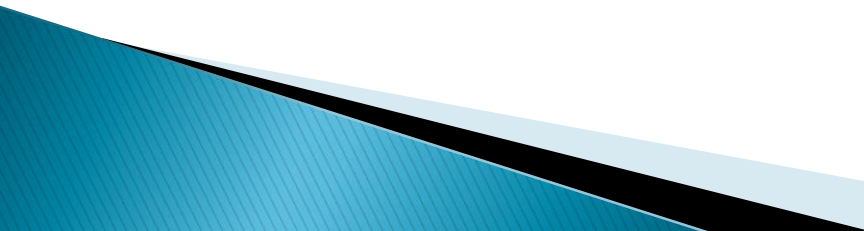
Saint Rose Elementary - Background

- ▶ K-5 Elementary school built in 1960
 - ▶ School is owned by the Diocese
 - ▶ Max capacity for Saint Rose is 483 students
 - ▶ 205 students enrolled as of Sept. 2018
 - ▶ Saint Rose is at 43% capacity as of Sept. 2018
 - ▶ For French Immersion, students would go to Island View
 - ▶ Students would go to Barnhill for Middle & Saint John area for High School
 - ▶ Saint Rose has a gym, playground, basketball court, sufficient green space and parking space and is located near a ballfield and soccer field
 - ▶ Saint Rose is wheelchair accessible and has a lift
 - ▶ Saint Rose has no ongoing Health & Safety issues
 - ▶ Saint Rose has an afterschool program located inside the school
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Saint Rose Elementary – School Programs and Clubs

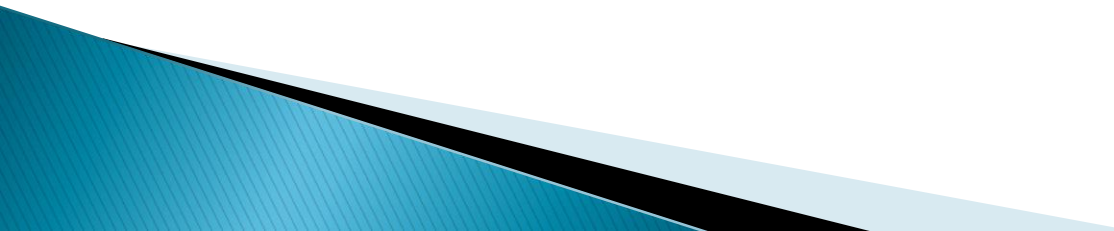
- ▶ **School Programs:**
 - ▶ Hot Lunch three times per week and milk sales daily
 - ▶ Breakfast Program daily
 - ▶ Safe Arrival
 - ▶ Parent Involvement Committee
 - ▶ PSSC
 - ▶ Writers In the School Program annually
 - ▶ Fish Friends – raising fry from eggs for Hammond River release
 - ▶ STEAM challenges
 - ▶ Soup program twice per week
 - ▶ Guidance two days per week
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Saint Rose Elementary – School Programs and Clubs (continued)


- ▶ **School Programs (continued):**
 - ▶ School wide presenters
 - ▶ Soap Box Derby
 - ▶ ELF – Early Literacy Friends
 - ▶ WOW Writers – monthly celebrations of exceptional writing
 - ▶ Monthly themed (around character traits) assemblies
 - ▶ **Social Programs:**
 - ▶ Roots of Empathy
 - ▶ Mind Up
 - ▶ Zones of Regulation
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Saint Rose Elementary – School & Community Involvement

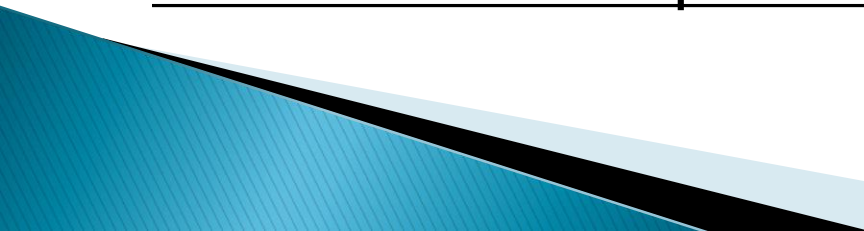
School Trips:

- ▶ Grade five Elmhurst Outdoor trip annually
 - ▶ Grade 4 PALS train ride
 - ▶ Hammond River to release Fish Friends fish
 - ▶ Trips organized by the Parent Involvement Committee (apple picking, Pink Bus tours, sugar bush etc. depending on the year)
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Summary of Factors that Determine a School's Sustainability:

- Low/declining enrolment: Morna Heights enrolment has dropped by 49% since 2004, 68 students.
 - Health and Safety: There have been on-going air quality concerns (i.e. smell in gym) and there is no central ventilation system in the school. Potable water is provided to the school as the well water continues to fail the monthly bacteria test.
 - Quality of Education Programs: Both schools offer strong education programs. Our experience has been that community partners will follow students when schools are closed.
 - Transportation: The boundaries of both schools border on each other and can be combined for transportation purposes.
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Summary of Factors that Determine a School's Sustainability:

- Impact on local community: The enrolment at Morna Heights has continued to decline to the point where nearby schools can absorb the population of the school. Morna is located within the City of Saint John boundary as is Saint Rose Elementary.
 - Impact on other schools: Morna Heights would be closed and the students moved to Saint Rose Elementary for K–5 and then Barnhill Middle for 6–8. River Valley Middle would see a decrease in their future enrolment because of this change.
 - Economic development: No impact noted.
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Thank You for Attending!

- ▶ Next meeting – TBA
- ▶ This presentation will be posted to ASD-S website at: **<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/>**

Written feedback can be submitted:

- ▶ via email to **asds.schoolreview@nbed.nb.ca**
- ▶ Or send a letter to the attention of:
Robert Fowler, Chair
District Education Council
490 Woodward Avenue
Saint John, NB E2K 5N3