

# **School Sustainability Review – Morna Heights Elementary School**

**Nov. 2015**



## **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, Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood School.**

Under Policy 409, the DEC will be holding two public information sessions for each school. The Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood School meetings will be combined. 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 December 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 Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Morna Heights School**

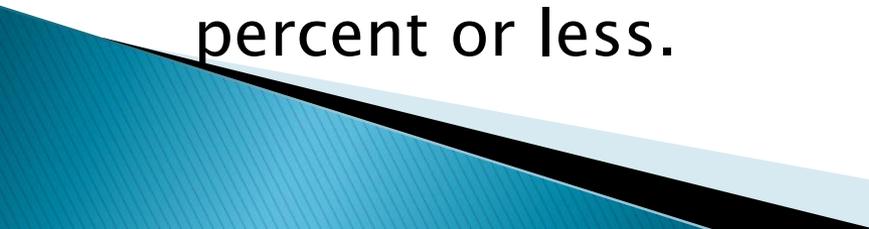
**The first combined meeting for Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood School is scheduled for Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at River Valley Middle School.**

Everyone is welcome to attend, and encouraged to do so. Throughout this process, written feedback can be submitted via email to: [asds.schoolreview@gnb.ca](mailto:asds.schoolreview@gnb.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 – School Sustainability

- ▶ **6.4 Determining a school's sustainability**
- ▶ **6.4.1** A sustainability study will be undertaken if a school falls below one of the triggers as defined in section 3 or if the DEC determines that a study is warranted.
- ▶ **3.0 Definitions**
- ▶ *Trigger refers to measurable and objective criteria consistently applied to all schools. When a school meets or falls below the established thresholds, a sustainability study must occur unless there is an exemption to this process.*

# Description of Triggers:

- ▶ The criteria to be used are:
  - ▶ **Student enrolment trigger** – refers to a specific threshold based on the current enrolment in the school. For the purpose of this policy, the enrolment threshold is 100 students or less.
  - ▶ **Percentage occupation trigger** – refers to the current student enrolment as compared to the school's physical capacity. For the purpose of this policy, the percentage occupation threshold is 30 percent or less.
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# Policy 409 – Section 6.4

## Determining a School's Sustainability

*6.4.4 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 6.5

## Public Consultation on School's Sustainability

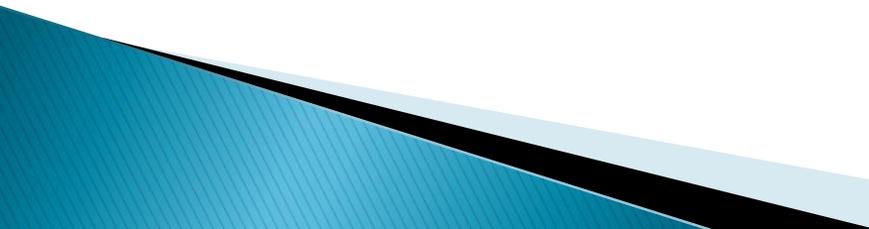
**6.5.3** *The DEC will ensure that affected persons:*

- ▶ *are provided with information relevant to the proposal;*
- ▶ *have adequate time to consider the information provided; and,*
- ▶ *have adequate time and opportunity to make a presentation to the DEC (i.e. let their views be known either in writing or orally) and are heard impartially at an open DEC meeting.*

# Policy 409 – Section 6.5

## Public Consultation on School's Sustainability

**6.5.4** *There will be a minimum of three public DEC meetings on the possible closure – one meeting to inform the school community of the DECs' intention and the steps to be followed, a second meeting to provide the opportunity to make a presentation (in writing or orally) and a final meeting to provide the public with the results of the consultation, including an account of the factors considered, as per section 6.4 of this policy, and resulting recommendation being submitted to the Minister.*



# Policy 409 – Section 6.6

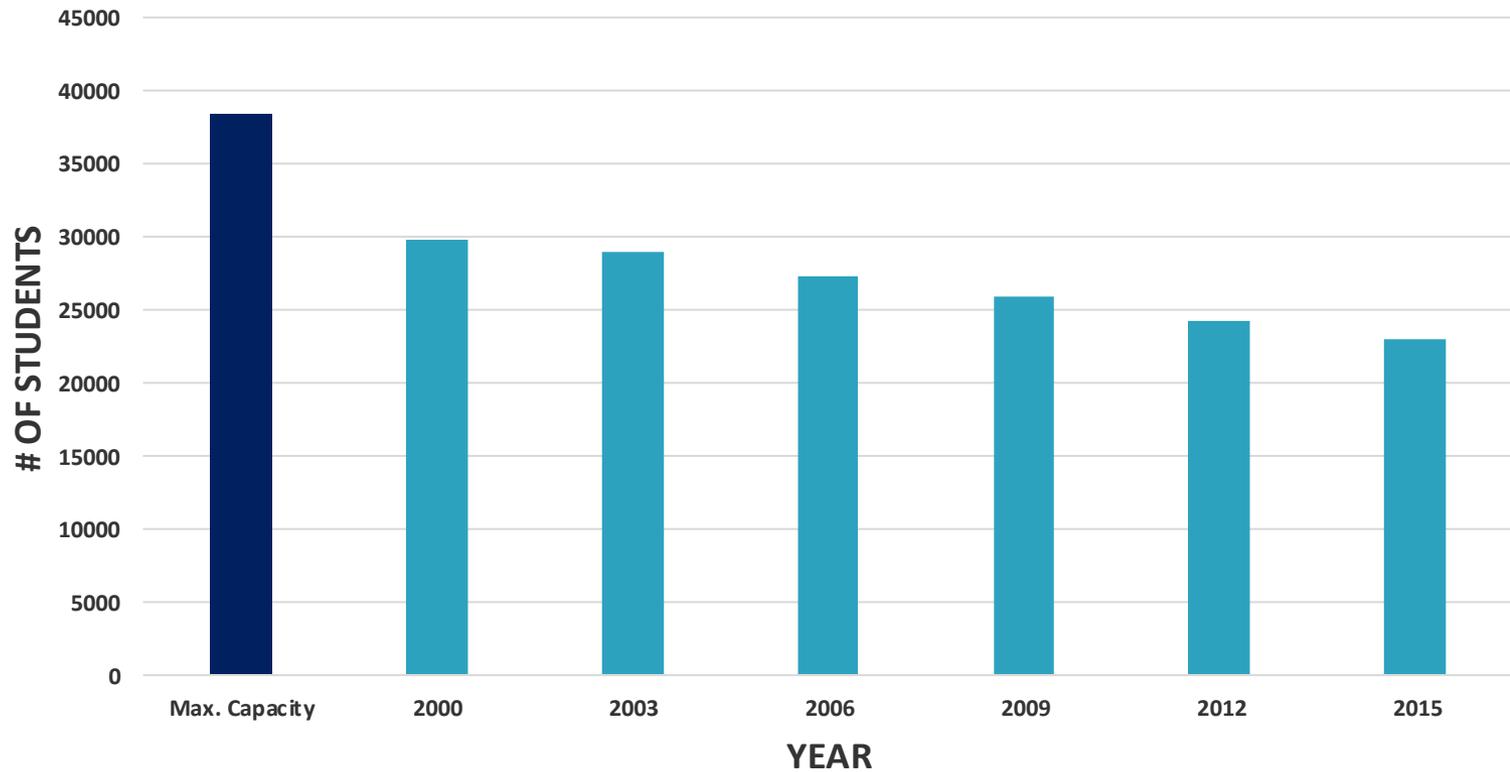
## Ministerial Approval of a School Closure

**6.6.1** *A DEC will inform the Minister in writing of a recommendation to close a school, following the public consultation process. The DEC must demonstrate how the requirements of this policy have been applied.*

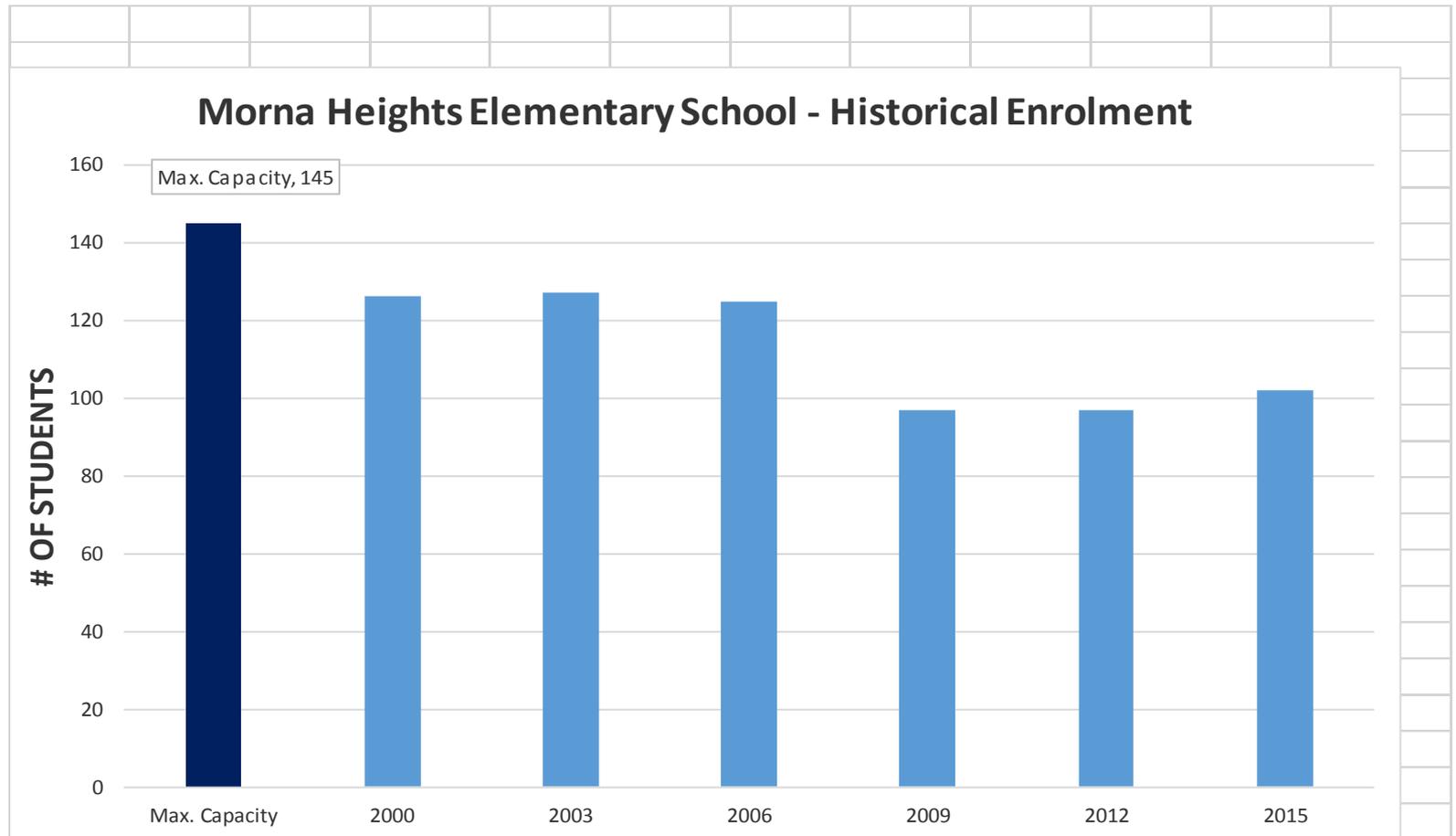
**6.6.4** *The Minister shall normally respond to a recommendation to close a school within a period of time no less than 30 days and not exceeding 60 days.*

## Anglophone School District - South Historical Enrolment

21% Enrolment Drop in 15 Years (6397 students)



Max. Capacity	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
38505	29773	28917	27259	25964	24257	23376



Max. Capacity	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
145	126	127	125	97	97	102

# Enrolment by Year by Grade for Morna Heights Elementary

Actual 2009 – 2015

Forecast 2016 – 2021

## Grade Level

	Sept 30	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Actual:	2009	14	16	19	13	13	22	97
	2010	15	14	17	18	14	14	92
	2011	17	17	12	16	18	13	93
	2012	19	18	18	8	16	18	97
	2013	16	19	19	17	19	16	96
	2014	19	17	22	19	18	11	106
	2015	17	17	17	15	19	17	102
Forecast:	2016	17	17	17	17	15	18	101
	2017	17	17	17	17	17	14	99
	2018	17	17	17	17	17	16	101
	2019	17	17	17	17	17	16	101
	2020	17	17	17	17	17	16	101
	2021	17	17	17	17	17	16	101

1) Used average K enrolment over last 7 years for K projections.

2) Moved all grade levels ahead by one year, +/- the average gain/loss from grade transition over the last 6 yrs.

# 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 18 years ago
- ▶ 102 students enrolled as of Sept. 2015 (unofficial)
- ▶ Morna Heights is at 70% capacity as of Sept. 2015
- ▶ Enrolment has declined by 19% since 2000 (24 students)
- ▶ For Early French Immersion, students go to Westfield Elementary
- ▶ Morna Heights students go to River Valley for Middle and 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	\$120,000
▶ Building Exterior – Windows	140,000
▶ Building Exterior – Foundation	130,000
▶ Mechanical & Electrical – Heating and Ventilation	100,000
▶ Building Exterior – Site Improvement	50,000
▶ Building Interior – Washrooms	30,000
▶ Building Interior – Interior Accessibility – Lift	<u>50,000</u>
Total	<u>\$620,000</u>

# **Morna Heights Elementary - Capital Improvement Projects Completed Since 2010**

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	8.00*
▶ Clerical Staff (1 - 10 month)	.86
▶ Custodial (40 hrs. week)	1.00
▶ Ed. Assistants (EA)(3–10 months, 30 hrs. wk.)	<u>2.48</u>
Total	<u>12.34</u>

\* includes Administration

# Morna Heights Elementary - Annual Operating Costs 2014/15:

Lights, power and heat	\$ 9,241
Minor repairs	4,242
Snow plowing	4,667
Garbage removal	2,800
Cleaning supplies	<u>235</u>
Sub-total	\$ 21,185
School Instructional Budget	11,358
School Salaries & Benefits	<u>838,000</u>
Total Yearly Operating Costs	<u>\$870,543</u>

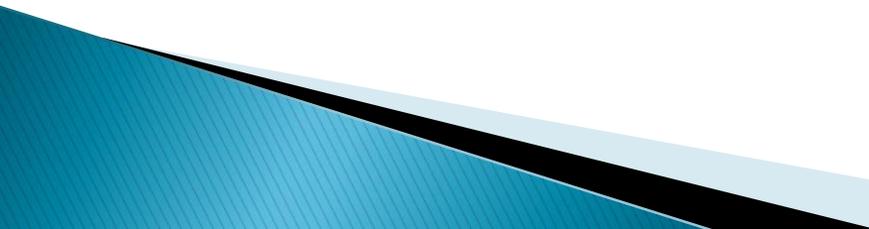
# Morna Heights Elementary School – Local Community Involvement

- ▶ **Hot Lunch program** - 4 times per week
- ▶ **Breakfast program**
- ▶ **Walking Club** - seasonal
- ▶ **Intramural sports** (such as flag football) - seasonal
- ▶ **Ball Hockey team** - participates in tournaments at Westfield
- ▶ **Movie Nights** - bi-monthly
- ▶ **District Jamboree participation**
- ▶ **Host for District Jamborees** - sports
- ▶ **Community Enrichment activities** (multi-age activities in extra curricular areas such as Yoga, astronomy, baking, etc.)
- ▶ **Monthly CARE assemblies** based on citizenship themes to teach appropriate behavior
- ▶ **Helping Hands** - a reward system for students being kind

# Morna Heights Elementary School – Local Community Involvement (continued)

- ▶ **Christmas Shopping Bazaar** - students are able to purchase Christmas gifts for their families at a low price
- ▶ **Coats for Kids** in conjunction with the Legion
- ▶ **Skating at the Peter Murray Arena** (once per week for 3-4 weeks per year)
- ▶ **Christmas Dinner**
- ▶ **Field Day and Community BBQ**
- ▶ **Field Trips** (Apple Picking, Interaction Theatre, Sugar Bush etc.) sponsored by the Morna Fitness Group
- ▶ **Peer Mentors** - to help older children establish leadership skills
- ▶ **Green Team** - a recycling club
- ▶ **Reading Buddies** - Younger and older students partner to encourage a love of Reading
- ▶ **Grade 5 DARE**
- ▶ **WITS** assemblies and lessons

# Morna Heights Elementary School – Local Community Involvement (continued)

- ▶ **Mad Science** - yearly
  - ▶ **ELF tutoring**
  - ▶ **Safe Arrival** - in conjunction with Attendance Matters
  - ▶ **Butterfly project** - K-2 raise and release butterflies yearly
  - ▶ **Science and Heritage Fairs** - switching one per year
  - ▶ **Kindness is Contagious** -a week dedicated to anti-bullying & kindness / empathy building
  - ▶ **Literacy / Math Nights** - to encourage an understanding of curriculum outcomes and strategies in the parent committee
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# **Morna Heights Elementary – Businesses Located in and/or Supporting the School Community**

**KBM Community Center** – hosts Christmas Dinner & is evacuation site

**Shades of Green** – provides mulch & gardening material for community clean up day

**Co-Op** – now closed – was a supporter of breakfast program, Christmas Dinner, etc.

**Crane Mountain Landfill** – Grant and Educational Field Trip Provider

**Fun Food Concessions** – provides concessions at movie night, etc.

**Sobeys** – now soliciting their support

**No Frills** – West Side – Breakfast for learning grant

**Pizza Delight** – hot lunch provider & hosts contests for area schools

**Saint John Marina**

**Owens Towing**

**All Aboard Moving and Storage**

# **Morna Heights Elementary – Businesses Located in and/or Supporting the School Community (continued)**

**Derek's Custom Cabinets**

**Peter Claessen and Sons Ltd.**

**Ridgewood Veterans Wing** – send Holiday cards to Veterans

**Seely's Lodge**

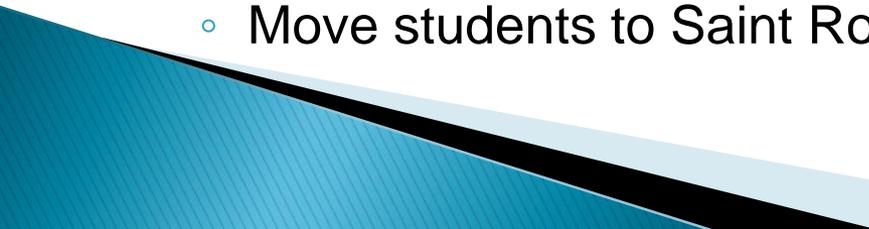
**Jodi's Pizza**

**Subway** – hot lunch provider

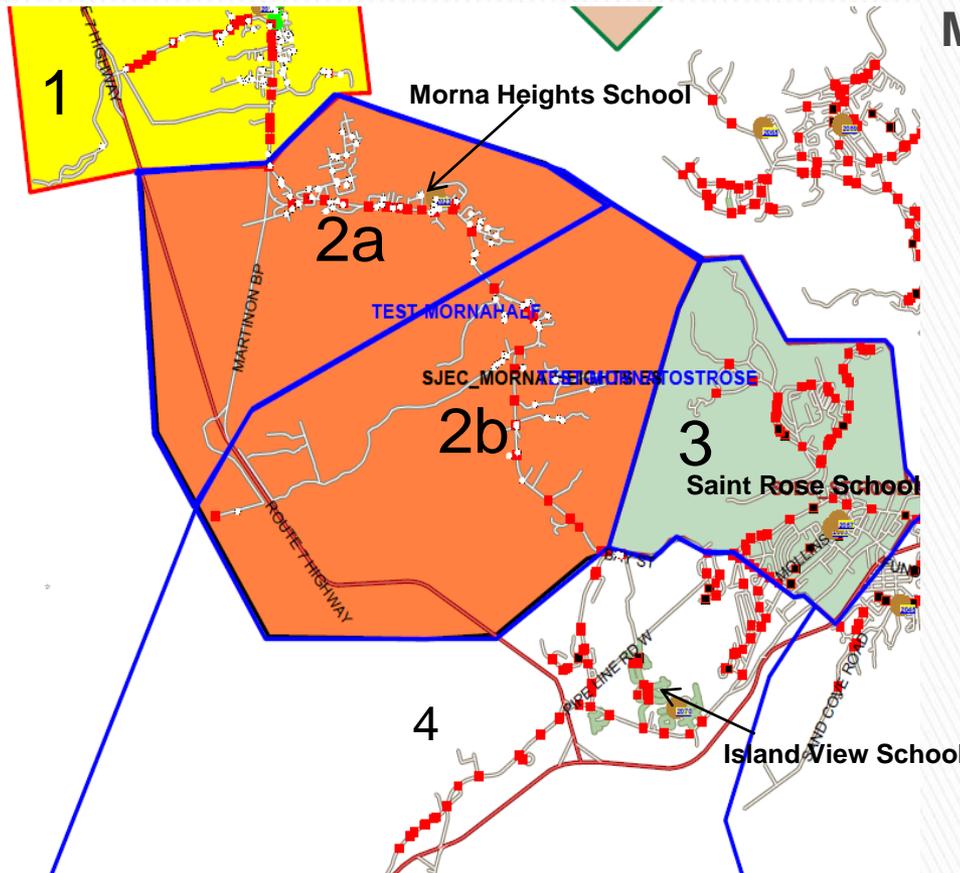
# Multi-year Infrastructure Planning:

- ▶ DEC requested review of schools in the Grand Bay – Westfield and Morna area
- ▶ The Dept. of EECD provided the funding
- ▶ Ernst and Young (E&Y) was commissioned
- ▶ The following schools were visited by E&Y and District staff in Spring 2015 – Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood, Westfield, Morna Heights, & River Valley
- ▶ Other schools possibly impacted – Saint Rose & Islandview
- ▶ Report received by the DEC in Oct. 2015
- ▶ Four possible scenarios presented to the DEC
- ▶ E&Y 4<sup>th</sup> scenario is not included in this report as it did not involve Morna Heights School

# Recommended Proposals for Morna Heights Elementary:

- ▶ Proposal 1: Close Morna and review school boundaries
    - Move students to Westfield Elementary, Saint Rose School and Island View School
  - ▶ Proposal 2: Close Morna and review school boundaries
    - Move students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley School
  - ▶ Proposal 3: Close Morna and move students to a new school once it is built in Grand Bay/Westfield area
  - ▶ Proposal 4: Close Morna and review school boundaries
    - Move students to Saint Rose School and Island View School
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# Proposal 1: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary, Saint Rose and Island View:



## Morna Heights School boundary change: Proposal 1

Proposed division of Morna Heights school boundary was made slightly to the north of Sutton Road (SR) and the Saint John Marina (Section 2a students would go north to Westfield and section 2b would go south to the Saint John schools)

Acamac Backland Road (ABR) is within the boundary, but it has sections not suitable for buses

Section 2b is not easily divisible between two schools, as Westfield Road (WR) is the main access to Saint John. The boundary is a narrow corridor and it would lead to buses driving through the Island View School boundary to get to Saint Rose School

The distribution of students within section (2b) makes it difficult to select which school to attend (unless one side of the road is used for each school, which is not ideal)

- *Note: From Ernst and Young Study*

### Legend

1. Existing Grand Bay Primary/Inglewood school boundary
- 2a. Proposed division of Morna Heights boundary to Westfield School
- 2b. Proposed division of Morna Heights boundary to Saint Rose and Island View schools
3. Existing Saint Rose School boundary
4. Existing Island View School boundary

# Proposal 1: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary, Saint Rose and Island View:

Total Enrolment by Grade Level for 2014-15							
School Name	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Brown's Flat School	5	8	7	9	6	8	<b>43</b>
Grand Bay Primary School	30	40	33	-	-	-	<b>103</b>
Inglewood School	-	-	-	27	22	33	<b>82</b>
Westfield School	40	42	37	46	74	45	<b>284</b>
Morna Heights School (Part 2a)	11	10	11	12	13	10	<b>67</b>
<b>Total for Scenario 1 (Part a):</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>579</b>

French Immersion Enrolment by Grade Level for 2014-15							
School Name	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Brown's Flat School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Bay Primary School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inglewood School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westfield School	-	-	-	35	55	22	<b>112</b>
Morna Heights School (Part 2a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total for Scenario 1 (Part a):</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>112</b>

## Westfield Elementary potential for amalgamation

- Proposal 1: Westfield amalgamation would have a student population of 579 (based on 2014-15 enrolment)
- This exceeds the District's preferred capacity for K-5 schools in the Grand Bay area (max of 400 - 500 students)
- Minimum number of classrooms required for the student grade configuration is 29
- Westfield has 19 spaces originally designated as classrooms. Potential to add classrooms in existing space does not meet capacity for Scenario 1
- Removing Morna Heights from the scenario leaves 512 students, which still would require 25 classrooms
- Proposal 1 is not considered feasible based on the difficulty to divide Morna Heights school boundary, the District's maximum number of students would be exceeded and the number of required classrooms exceeds capacity

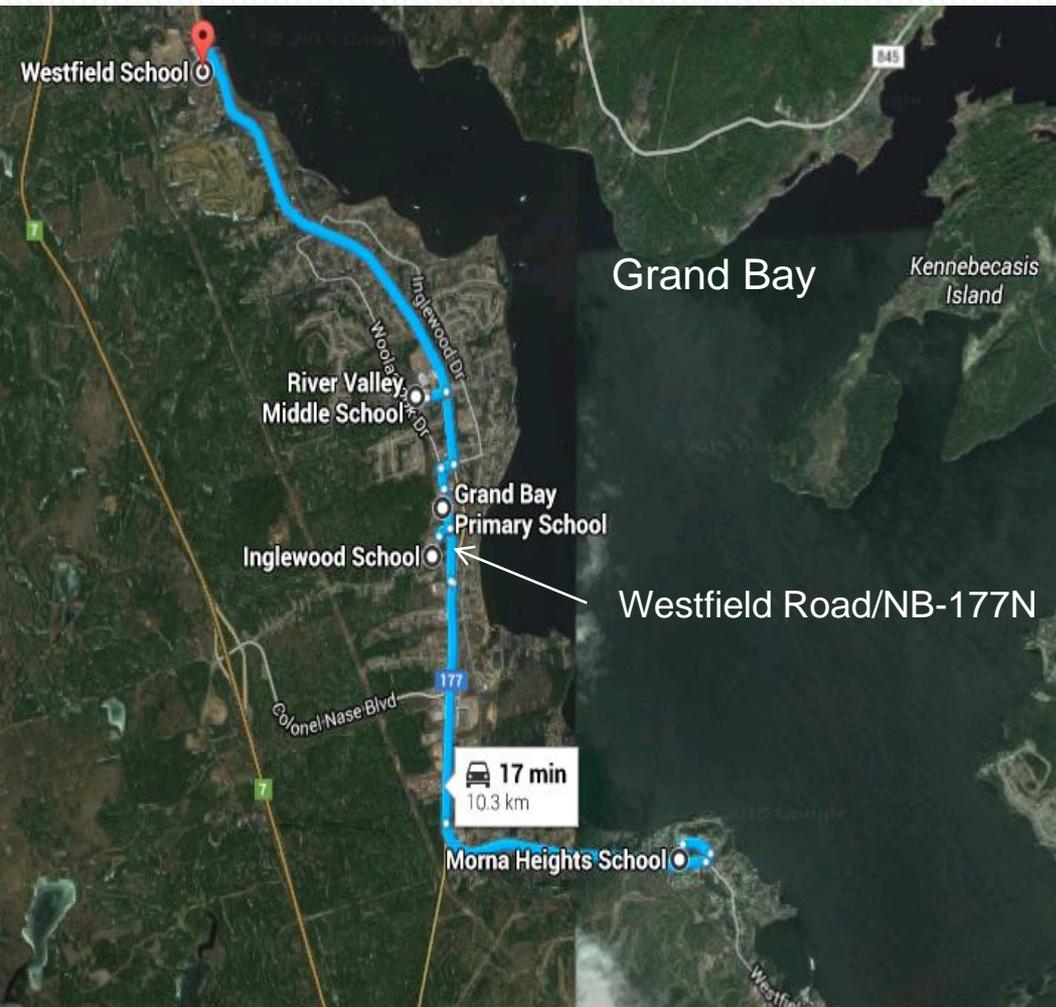
• Note: From Ernst and Young Study

# Proposal 1: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary, Saint Rose and Island View

## – Summary:

- ▶ Proposal would also include closure of Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood
- ▶ Morna Heights boundary is not easily divisible between the three schools
- ▶ Busses would drive through one school boundary to get to another
- ▶ Westfield would be over capacity & would exceed District's preferred range of 400 – 500 students for K-5
- ▶ Uncertainty of EFI moving back to grade 1 - possible impact
- ▶ Challenging topography & property boundaries at Westfield would limit possible additions
- ▶ Therefore, this proposal would not be recommended

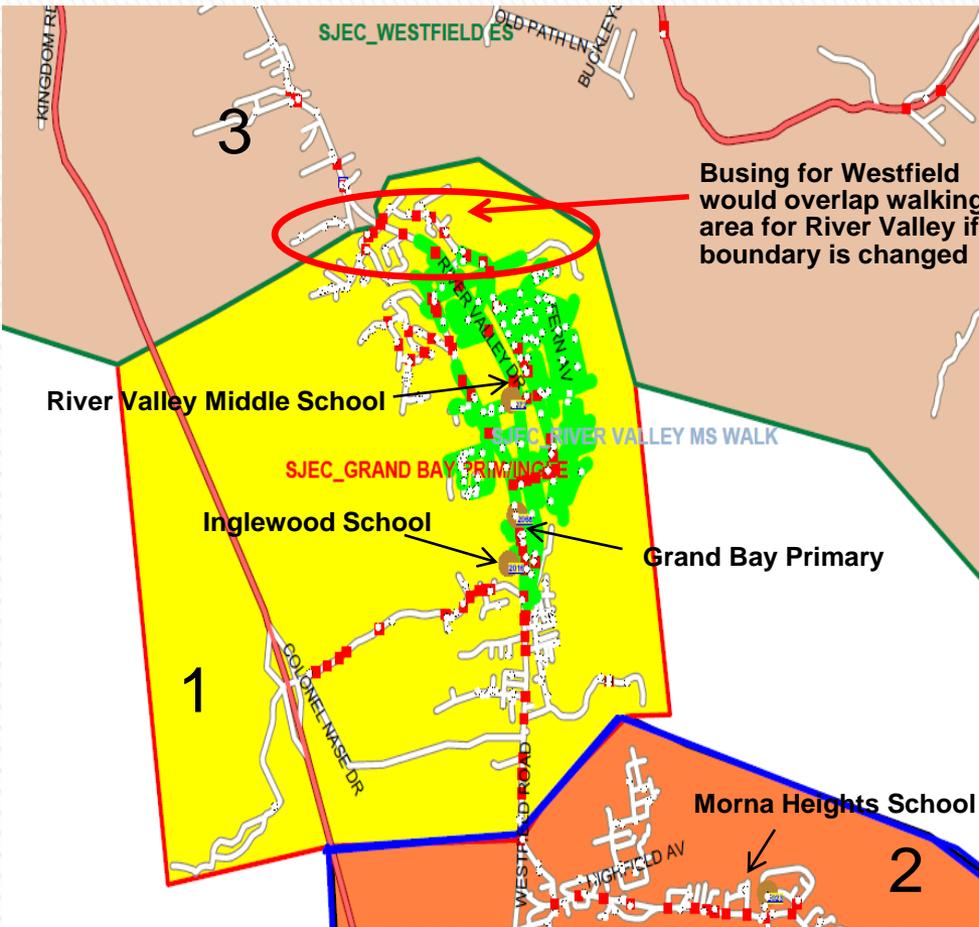
# Proposal 2: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley



## River Valley Middle School changed to K-8 with Westfield amalgamation: Scenario 2

- Proposal 2 included Morna Heights to move some students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley Middle School (changed from 6-8 to K-8). Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood students attend Westfield Elementary
- Scenario 2 to accommodate students from Brown's Flat Elementary
- Morna Heights School is 10.3 km (approximately a 17 minute drive) from Westfield Elementary via Westfield Road
- Morna Heights School is 6.4 km (approximately a 13 minute drive) from River Valley Middle School via Westfield Road
- Morna Heights School is 5.4 km (approximately an 8 minute drive) from Grand Bay Primary via Westfield Road
- *Note: From Ernst and Young Study*

# Proposal 2: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley:



## New school boundary difficult to establish in scenario 2

- School boundary between Westfield Elementary and Grand Bay Primary was reviewed. Westfield (K-5) student busing would overlap the walking area for River Valley (K-8) if the school boundary were moved further south
- Changing River Valley to a K-8 for this scenario means elementary students (Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood School) would be bused to the further school (Westfield Elementary), due to the number of students (see the following pages)
- Morna Heights students would be bused to River Valley, due to the number of students (see the following pages)
- Otherwise, Morna Heights students would be bused past the nearest K-8 school (River Valley) to go to Westfield Elementary. Neither of the possible boundary changes would be ideal
- *Note: From Ernst and Young Study*

### Legend

1. Existing Grand Bay Primary/Inglewood school boundary
2. Existing Morna Heights school boundary
3. Existing Westfield Elementary
4. (Green colour) Existing walking area to River Valley Middle School

# Proposal 2: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley:

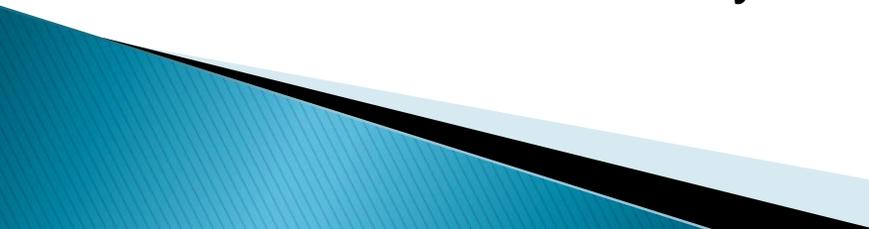
Total Enrolment by Grade Level for 2014-15										
School Name	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
River Valley Middle School	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	98	120	324
Morna Heights School	19	17	22	19	18	11	-	-	-	106
<b>Total for Scenario 2:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>430</b>

French Immersion Enrolment by Grade Level for 2014-15										
School Name	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
River Valley Middle School	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	46	64	176
Morna Heights School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total for Scenario 2:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>

## River Valley Middle School potential change (6-8 to K-8)

- Proposal 2: If all Morna Heights students move to River Valley Middle, the student population would be 430 (based on 2014-15 enrolment)
- This would be an acceptable sized school based on the preference for K-8 schools (maximum 650 students)
- Minimum number of classrooms required for the student grade configuration is 21 without combining classes or 20 with combined classes (based on 2014-15 enrolments)
- River Valley Middle has 20 spaces originally designated as classrooms, with potential to add classrooms in existing MSTE space (although there are noise considerations near the specialty spaces on the first floor)
- Maximum capacity of the school would be 526 when combined classes are utilized (for 20 classrooms)
- There would not be enough gym space with the additional Morna students
- Utilization would be 81.7%
- *Note: From Ernst and Young Study*

## **Proposal 2: Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley - Summary:**

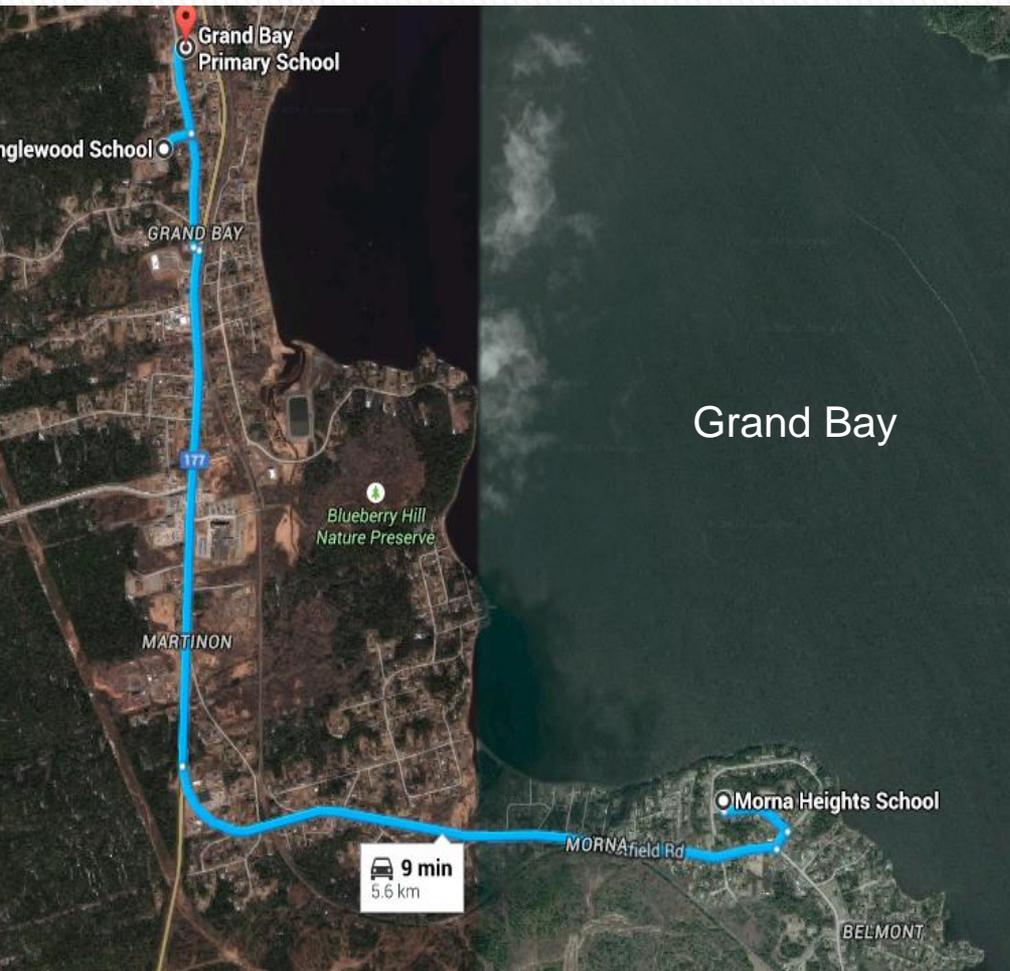
- ▶ Proposal would also include closure of Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood and reconfigure of River Valley to K-8
  - ▶ Moving Westfield boundary further south would overlap walking area of River Valley
  - ▶ Some students would be bused past the nearest elementary school which is not ideal
  - ▶ Reconfiguration at River Valley would involve interior spaces on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor that do not meet current Ed. Specs. for natural light (i.e. lack of exterior windows)
  - ▶ Difficult to separate Elementary from Middle students based on school layout of River Valley
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# Proposal 2: (Continued) Close Morna, Move Students to Westfield Elementary and River Valley

## Summary:

- ▶ Infrastructure requirements would be needed at River Valley for Elementary students (i.e. bathrooms, classrooms) & additional gym space required
  - ▶ Westfield would be over capacity
  - ▶ Uncertainty of EFI moving back to grade 1 – possible impact
  - ▶ Therefore, this proposal would not be recommended
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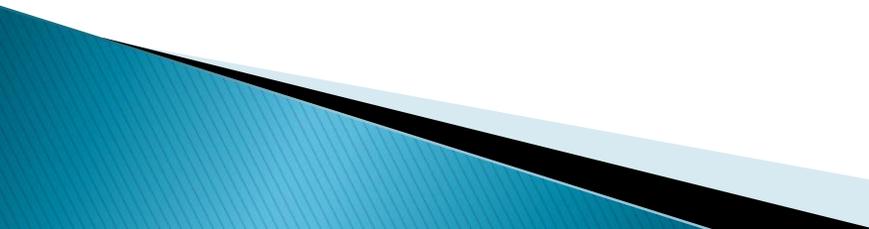
# Proposal 3: Build New K-5 School to Replace Morna, Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood :



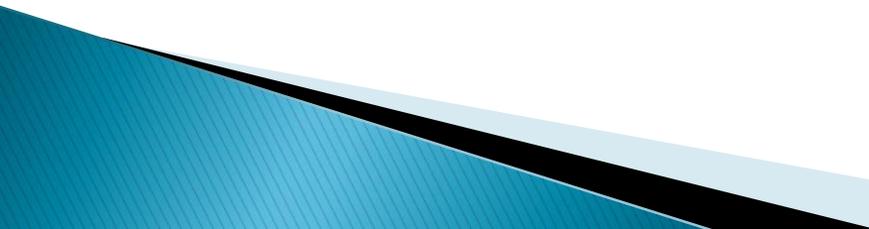
## Construction of a new K-5 Grand Bay school: Scenario 3

- Proposal 3 included closing Grand Bay Primary (K-2), Inglewood (3-5) and Morna Heights (K-5) for replacement with a new school (K-5) that is centrally located (possibly near Grand Bay)
- The District noted there has been discussion about a potential new school for this area with the DEC
- Morna Heights School is 5.2 km (approximately an 8 minute drive) from Inglewood School via Westfield Road
- Morna Heights School is 5.6 km (approximately 9 minute drive) from Grand Bay Primary via Westfield Road
- New school boundary is easy to create by merging the current school boundaries for Grand Bay Primary and Morna Heights School
- Proposal 3 eliminates students having to switch from Grand Bay Primary to Inglewood School at grade 3
- *Note: From Ernst and Young Study*

# Proposal 3: Build New K-5 School to Replace Morna, Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood - Summary:

- ▶ New school boundary would be easy to create by merging the current school boundaries for Grand Bay & Morna
  - ▶ Morna Heights School is 5.2 km from Inglewood School via Westfield Road
  - ▶ Morna Heights School is 5.6 km from Grand Bay Primary via Westfield Road
  - ▶ If proposal is approved, the new school design would be based on 330 projected students(435 Max. capacity EFI)
  - ▶ If proposal is approved, to reduce impact on student transportation, a central location would be recommended
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## Proposal 4: Close Morna, Move Students to Saint Rose and Island View School - Summary:

- ▶ Saint Rose and Islandview have excess capacity
  - ▶ Saint Rose has 226 students @ 49% capacity
  - ▶ Islandview has 342 students @ 70% capacity
  - ▶ Majority of Morna students could fit into Islandview
  - ▶ It would be difficult to split the Morna boundary between Saint Rose and Islandview
  - ▶ As per proposal 1, busses may have to drive through one school zone to get to another
  - ▶ Shortest distance from Morna Heights to Islandview is 9.1 kms and to Saint Rose is 9.2 kms
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# Morna Heights School Zone



# Morna Heights - Transportation

- ▶ Two busses currently serve Morna, 2 AM routes and 2 PM routes
- ▶ Currently have 10 walkers and 92 on buses
- ▶ Average distance to Morna Heights for bussed students is around 3 kms
- ▶ Max. bussing distance to Morna is around 6 kms
- ▶ If proposal is accepted & new school built at central location, it would add average of 3 kms, max. of 7 kms to the bus runs, depending on the students' home address

# Summary of Factors that Support Recommendation to Close Morna Heights

- ▶ **Low enrolment:**
  - Max capacity for Morna Heights is 145 students, 102 enrolled as of Sept. 2015
  - Schools in close proximity have excess capacity & can take Morna's population
- ▶ **Quality of Education Programs: New School serving a larger population will be able to provide more programs and services:**
  - Early French Immersion
  - Larger gym facilities and full accessibility
  - Full service cafeteria with a cafetorium
- ▶ **Finances:**
  - Possible yearly savings of up to \$720,000 in operational expenses
  - Future capital repair costs of \$620,000 would be eliminated
  - All school equipment including technology & furniture would be put to use in other schools – this would save in equip./furniture replacement
  - More efficient use limited resources - i.e. Facilities, Information Tech., Subject Co. – all will have fewer schools to cover
- ▶ **Health & Safety:**
  - On-going air quality and water issues at school
  - Long list of outstanding capital improvement projects required

# Thank You for Attending!

- ▶ Next meeting –scheduled for Dec. 7, 2015.
- ▶ 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@gnb.ca](mailto:asds.schoolreview@gnb.ca)**
- ▶ Or send a letter to the attention of:

**Robert Fowler, Chair  
District Education Council  
490 Woodward Avenue  
Saint John, NB E2K 5N3**