

ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY – Meeting # 1
BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL
December 11, 2014
7:00 p.m.

➤ **Sustainability Study – Bath Middle School – Meeting #1**

- David McTimoney, Superintendent of ASD-W welcomed everyone and presented an 82 page power point presentation called Bath Middle School Sustainability Study. David reviewed and discussed the content of the slides on school history, statistics and financial data with the public. This presentation can be found along with other pertinent documents and information related to the sustainability study of Bath Middle School on our website www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/sustainability/pages/bath
- The next public meeting at Bath Middle School will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. where stakeholders will be invited to present to the District Education Councilors. A stakeholder form is posted on ASD-W website. This document needs to be completed and sent to Carol Clark-Caterini one week prior to that meeting. The final meeting will be on March 19, 2015, and video linked from Priestman Street School. Based on the outcome of this study, if the Council votes to close the school, then a recommendation is made to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development who will make the final decision.

➤ **Public Comments and Questions**

- Why is the water and sewage more at Bath Middle School than Bath Elementary School and when has an energy study been done on the building? Philip Cliff and Shawn Tracey assisted with these questions. In 2001 a government led initiative resulted in an energy study on all Provincial buildings. They were unsure why the water and sewerage cost was more at the Elementary School.
- Gus Hargrove asked why the statics from the power point presentation only indicated that 68% of Middle School students expect to graduate from high school. He would assume that not all of the students are telling the truth and perhaps the statics are inaccurate. David responded to Mr. Hargrove that we would like to see all students graduate from high school. This is what the data indicates based on the students at Bath Middle School. However, we expect there would be more than 68% of graduates across ASD-W and in this community.
- A request was made to review the Provincial assessments again. It was asked, what was the purpose of this graph? David responded that this graph provided educational data and within policy 409, there is a requirement to provide this information during a Sustainability Study. As well, teachers may also be interested in this slide. A sharing of the information is the reason for this graph.
- Julie Craig commented that she was proud of what the school was accomplishing in their small school. According to the assessments results, Bath is doing well. Julie asked how to be added to the upcoming Sustainability Study Agenda for bath Middle School. David reviewed the application form and reminded everyone to send their information to carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca or phone or mail. We will also post any documents to the website that the public may have, if requested and appropriate.
- Julie Savage commented that she had children enrolled in Bath Middle School and she has noticed that the school population has decreased significantly since 2008, what happened? She would assume that this was when the French Immersion students moved to Florenceville Middle School and asked why we could not keep our French Immersion Students in our own community? David thanked and responded to Ms. Savage explaining Policy 309 and what needs to happen when it comes to offering a French Immersion program in a school. David showed comparable schools and class a size of 16 students was required. At this time, Bath Middle School would not

have this many students if we did bring back the students from this community to sustain an FI Program.

- Alicia Peterson commented that she has a child attending the Step Ahead Program. Ms. Peterson asked why we did not recognize the 37 students downstairs that will be attending this school in our enrollment numbers. David thanked Ms. Peterson for her comments and agreed that this is a staple in the community and her point was well taken and understood. These students are not considered school aged children funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- Elma Kilfoil commented that this is a family community and she offered a book for the committee to read before a decision is made. Ms. Kilfoil commented that Bath Middle School was a flagship site and she appreciated the hard work involved by the Superintendent for tonight. However, she has noticed from the power point presentation, the Step Ahead Early Childhood Centre is not accurately identified and Rebekah's name was spelled incorrect. David corrected these errors at the end of the meeting.
- A question was asked from the public if we could add the enrollment from the Early Childhood Program to Bath Middle School enrollment? David reminded the public that we would not get funding from the Province for the Early Childhood Program enrollment but that we do recognize this program as being self-sustaining and a flagship program in the Province.
- Charles McNair commented that the Principal, Mr. Gerald Sullivan needed to be commended for his hard work and school community spirit as reflected in the power point presentation. David agreed and also acknowledged other staff members that were present in the audience.
- A comment was made that Florenceville Middle School stats are also low and that there were three municipalities in close proximity to one another. So the solution to him was to study all the schools in the area and build two new schools with one that would house the French Immersion Students. David thanked him for his comments.
- Zach Hargrove asked a procedural question, on how the Council makes their decision? Mark Noël, Chair spoke on behalf of the Council that at the end of the day in the public meeting on March 19th, the Council takes a vote by a show of hands. In these meetings, we document questions that we may have to look into further. Is there a score card that you use? No, we look at all areas, financial, assessments, etc. March 19th the DEC will have a final vote. What you are doing as a community has already spoken volumes...Mark
- David reviewed Policy 409 with the public and showed them how they can access this policy from the Sustainability Study section of ASD-W website.
- Rachel Smith asked if students at Bath Middle School were receiving a good quality of education and how many children are on a SEP. David responded that 19 students were on a SEP which is about 48%. Ms. Smith commented that teachers need to be able to teach those students at a ratio better than at a larger school. So a smaller school setting is better. David responded that every school provides a description of their SEP needs in September to the Director of Education Support Services Team, and then the district assigns E.A allotment based on the need. Students on SEPs and other identified plans are treated at other schools as they would be at this school. Ms. Smith commented that students with identified needs are given individual attention at Bath Middle School and the teachers know them all by name and know their situations. If you send them someplace else they are not going to get the same one on one attention. In addition, Provincial Assessments prove that we should not be talking about closing a school when 3 out of 10 students cannot read or write.
- A comment was made from the public that the DEC needs to know the number of children that are in other schools that could be attending Bath Middle School before making a decision. David promised that he would provide the number of students attending other schools for the French Immersion Program that are zoned for Bath Middle School before the next meeting.

- Vance Cannon commented that he is very proud of every employee that works so hard at the Bath Middle School. Mr. Cannon also asked the DEC Chair if he had enough information from this power point presentation to make a recommendation to the Minister to combine Bath Middle and Bath Elementary School and if this would even be possible. Mark Noël responded that we do not have enough information but that they were hoping for a number of presentations in February from the public. David also spoke that it was his responsibility to provide the Council with various data of different scenarios before a decision will be made. Also, if a specific report was requested by the DEC, this report would also be posted to the ASD-W website for the public to view.
- A question was asked of how many Centreville Community School students were in middle school and how do you become a community school? David commented that there were 50 students enrolled in Centreville Community School. David referred to Cambridge Narrows Community School where an application was submitted and approved to be a community school that housed a community schools coordinator. There are some schools in our district but this option is no longer available to us. Centreville Community School has a 0.5 Community School Coordinator.
- A comment was made about French Immersion Students come back to Bath Middle School to participate with sports team. Also has anyone considered the impact of not having the school available for sports? The cost of running a sport program from another school and travel would not be economical for most families. David acknowledged the comments and said that these were good points to bring up at the next meeting when the community has an opportunity to present to the Council.
- Why is the catchment areas not reviewed and realigned? David thanked him for this question and that Policy 409 allows this to happen during the process.

➤ **Closing Comments:**

- David asked if there were any other question that needed to be clarified.
 - David reminded the public to be prepared for the next meeting in January by completing the Stakeholder Registration form, then forward to carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca a week in advance of the meeting with details of who will be presenting to the District Education Council. Information was provided on the screen for the public of who to contact.
 - The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their questions and comments.
- Date for Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 12, 2015**
- The meeting was adjourned at **9:07 p.m.**