

ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY – Meeting # 1b – General Notes
BATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
February 12, 2015
6:30 p.m.

➤ **Sustainability Study – Bath Elementary School – Meeting #1b**

- David McTimoney, Superintendent of ASD-W welcomed everyone and presented a 78 page power point presentation called Bath Elementary 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 Elementary School and 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, March 26, 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 April 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. and video linked from St. Mary's Academy School. The outcome of this study will be decided then. The Council can vote to maintain the status quo, invest in infrastructure and programming for the school(s), or close a school(s) and place students in another school. For the second and third option, the DEC makes the recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, who will make the final decision.

➤ **Public Comments and Questions**

- Andrew Harvey, MLA for the area thanked the district staff and DEC for their attendance tonight. Mr. Harvey says he has been in consultation with Parent School Support Committees for both schools and the idea of a K-8 has been discussed at length. He indicated that there are many benefits in keeping our students in the Village of Bath. Examples include the fact that this is a safe location, the Step Ahead Program is functioning well, and upcoming economic renewal. Mr. Harvey gave his recommendation to the public to go through the process and respect the process. Mr. Harvey acknowledged the good work of the PSSC Groups and welcomed individuals to speak with him individually after the meeting or at his office.
- A community member asked what the school capacity would be if the Bath Elementary School was to move to Bath Middle School. David responded that we have not done the calculation on this scenario but has looked at the floor plans and can confirm that the Bath Middle School can house both the students and Step Ahead Program at Bath Middle School. An approximate number would be above 80% capacity.
- A member of the PSSC from Bath Middle School suggested that \$10,000.00 cannot possibly cover the move and upgrades needed to the building to accommodate elementary students. Bath Middle School was designed and built for a high school. David responded that the district acknowledged that there would be an associated cost to upgrade bath Middle School and that he would speak to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for financial support to help us get to where this building needs to be, if needed. David spoke earlier about a self-sustaining sharing budget, and if there was something that was needed right away, then this budget could be accessed. David will try to make the cost of this move available to the public. The \$10,000.00 estimate was provided after consultation with the Facilities Department. As a snapshot for minimum requirements and without formal review and estimates. A more formal estimate will be made.
- A member of the PSSC from Bath Middle School asked if a vote for a move was given, would this happen in the next school year. David responded that if the DEC made a decision before the end of April 2015, their recommendation would be submitted to the Minister of Education who

has 30-60 days to make his decision, then it could happen in the upcoming school year. If there was a delay in the process, then we could expect a delay until the following school year.

- Mr. McNair shared his experience as a Councillor several years ago where a recommendation was made for a closure but was overruled by the Minister. He acknowledged that all our schools are experiencing declining enrollments and a study should be done on all schools in the Province collectively. Mr. McNair encouraged the DEC Committee to have a look at all schools in the North Carleton area and take more time with their decision making.
- Mike Blanchard asked if thought had been given to how we could maintain both schools by joining the two schools with a cafeteria instead of closing a school or the cost of building a new school. David responded that during the sustainability study, the District Education Council will be requesting many reports of different scenarios for the Bath Elementary and Bath Middle Schools.

➤ **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 March by completing the Stakeholder Registration form, then forward to carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca a week in advance (March 19th) 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, March 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**
- The meeting was adjourned at **8:15 p.m.**