

September 12, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at Burton Elementary School:

On February 22, 2011, the School District 17 Education Council (DEC) voted in favour of engaging a sustainability study of Burton Elementary School, under the process of Provincial Policy 409 – Multi-year Infrastructure Planning. This policy serves as a foundation for determining the sustainability of a school, taking into account many aspects, such as:

- Enrolment
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Health and Safety
- Impact on Community
- Impact on Other Schools
- Quality Education
- Finances

In line with the direction of the policy, the DEC hosted the first of three public meetings focused on this study on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at the Burton Lions Club. At that time, DEC Chair Marty Forsythe, District Staff, and I presented a factual look at Burton Elementary, guided by the categories mentioned above. We also outlined the process and timeline for this sustainability study. This presentation was made to the DEC and approximately 30 members of the public.

The second of three public meetings focused on this study will take place on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Burton Lions Club, with a 6:30 p.m. start**. This meeting will serve as a forum for parents of Burton Elementary School students, community members, and other stakeholders to present to the DEC, district staff, and general public regarding their thoughts on the sustainability of the school. The DEC Chair and I will host this session and moderate any questions that may arise from the DEC or the audience gathered for this meeting.

To form an organized agenda, I am asking presenters to register in advance of this meeting. Presenters can be individual or as a group and we can offer a laptop computer, an in-focus projector and a screen if you require these items to support your presentation. To register, please contact Cathy Buck (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent) at cathy.buck@gnb.ca or 357-4112 by Thursday, October 6, 2011 with the following information:

- Name of Individual or Group Presenting
- Names of Group Members, if Applicable
- Relationship to Burton Elementary or Community (ie. PSSC, Parent, Business)
- Approximate Time Required
- Need for Technical Assistance (based on items mentioned above)

While we hope to allow for as much time as needed for any presenter, a reasonable timeline may need to be established based on the registrations.

This public meeting is not the only manner in which interested parties may share their thoughts on the sustainability of Burton Elementary School. We have established an electronic conversation board (a blog) on our district website (www.district17.nbed.nb.ca) and click on "Sustainability Study > Sustainability Study Information") and we welcome emails to burton@nbed.nb.ca. You can also write to us at School District 17, 17 Miramichi Road, Oromocto, NB, E2V 2P6.

We encourage you to visit the "Sustainability Info" link on our website to see the following, all of which are posted there:

- Sustainability Study Timeline
- Burton at a Glance (brief document on Burton Elementary)
- Policy 409
- Public Meeting #1 – Presentation
- Parent Letter – April 4, 2011
- Parent Letter – May 10, 2011
- Parent Letter – September 12, 2011 (this letter)
- Advertisement for First Meeting
- The Blog

We are happy to post documents and presentations from the October 12th meeting to our website, as well.

The District Education Council has an important responsibility in deciding upon a recommendation to be made to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. To do this, they require an opportunity to hear the thoughts of parents, business leaders, and community members, regardless of the stance that may be held. The culmination of this study for the DEC will be a recommendation to:

- a) maintain the status quo,
- b) invest further dollars into the infrastructure and programming at the school, or
- c) to close the school and have students attend classes at another school within the Town of Oromocto.

We look forward to seeing you as either a presenter or member of the audience at our October 12th meeting.

Sincerely,



David McTimoney
Superintendent
School District 17

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