

November 1, 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 took place on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Burton Lions Club. This meeting served 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. There were approximately 125 people at the Lions Club that night and there were three formal presentations as well as one letter read.

The third of three public meetings focused on this study will take place on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the School District 17 Office on 17 Miramichi Road in Oromocto. This is a regular monthly meeting of the District Education Council and a motion/vote will be conducted to decide upon a recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development on the sustainability of Burton Elementary School.

Interested parties may continue to 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:

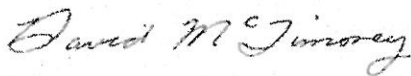
- Sustainability Study Timeline
- Burton at a Glance (brief document on Burton Elementary)
- Policy 409
- Public Meeting #1 – Presentation
- Public Meeting #2 – Presentations and Notes
- Parent Letter – April 4, 2011
- Parent Letter – May 10, 2011
- Parent Letter – May 19, 2011
- Parent Letter – September 12, 2011
- Parent Letter – November 1, 2011
- Advertisement for First Meeting
- Advertisement for Second Meeting
- The Blog

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. The DEC has spent much time deliberating and considering the information that has been shared and will continue with this process until a decision has been made. 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.

You are welcome to attend the District Education Council meeting on November 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely,



David McTimoney
Superintendent
School District 17

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