

Burton Sustainability Comments from Website (Effective January 20, 2016)

David McTimoney • 3 days ago

As we continue pulling together the final report, the discussions on this discussion board will come to a close on January 20th. You will find the transcript printed and included in the final report. Thank you for contributing to the study! DMcT

David McTimoney • 16 days ago

We will organize the documents into folders in the days and weeks ahead. This will take the shape of the final report at the conclusion of the study. If you see that something is missing that you believe should be included, please let us know. DMcT

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

I will be making two revisions to the financial document. First, I now see that the cost of cleaning was accidentally counted twice. This reduces the annual savings by approximately \$19 000. I apologize for this error and will make the correction and repost. When I repost, I will also note that the annual savings from the responsibility allowance of the principal would only begin when either her 5 year term is finished or if she assumed another position of responsibility of similar school size. So while it is fair to include it in annual savings that could begin next year, it should be noted that those specific savings may be deferred for as many as a few more years.

A revised document will be posted in the days ahead.

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

The K-12 template doesn't impact the staffing analysis; the K-5 FTE remains the same whether it is in a K-2, K-5, K-8 or K-12 configuration for a school. The administration, guidance and resource are all student ratio amounts and are consistent regardless of grade.

My statement about Assiniboine is correct, although I can tell you there are three capital improvement projects in our database. The biggest one is a priority #2 (ventilation system) and then there are two priority #3 projects. The three projects, together, amount to an estimated \$807 000 (with the ventilation system being the biggest ticket item, by far). I will post the Assiniboine capital improvement project document.

I can't speak as to why other districts reveal their estimates. I maintain that it is important to not provide this information as it would have an impact on the tendering process should the project be approved. Perhaps some additional information may help, however, and not impact the process. As you see, there is only one priority #1 project at Burton (siding). This estimate is less than \$50 000. There are six projects in total, although two of them are really big. The elevator (priority #2) and the ventilation system (priority #2) would combine for just over 67% of the \$573 000. The remaining 4 projects are all less than \$60 000.

Over the weekend, I corresponded with Kristen Brown regarding some specific questions that were very

relevant. I will post this correspondence soon and it will provide some further details.

DMcT

Sarah Jardine-Bonnell • 2 months ago

David - Thanks for the reply. I'm less concerned about the origins of the policy, and more concerned with actually getting the data set (when the public affected by other sustainability studies has free access to such data).

Again on the topic of finances, I have some concerns regarding the document "Sustainability Study - Burton Elementary School Financial Considerations." I will address them on 08 Dec, but I think some of the confusion can be resolved in the this forum:

1) Page 2, Bullet 4 makes reference to "Annual Savings due to staffing process for the K-12 Scenario." I'm not sure if a "K-12" scenario has been discussed regarding Burton Elementary Sustainability; if it has, I haven't been privy to it. Might this be a misprint; a holdover from the similarly structured Nackawic study?

2) Page 3, "Faculty Improvements" describes Assiniboine as "already a successful and safe functioning K-2 elementary school," with no "requirement for any immediate building improvement" except for relocation of Smartboards and furniture from Burton. Is this actually correct? Please confirm that Assiniboine has zero capital improvement projects. If there are such projects for Assiniboine improvements, does the public have access to the details?

Thanks, Ross

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

I have read your questions and will try to find the answer. It was just an understanding that we had on our team that we didn't provide the estimated costs (in fact, we used to do so, as well). I am not certain if it is entrenched in policy or not, but I am going to find out. DMcT

Sarah Jardine-Bonnell • 2 months ago

As a "Part 2" to the below request: I have reviewed some of the other sustainability studies from across the province. Other studies do in fact give the estimated costs of specific capital improvement projects, despite any perceived impact on the contracting process. For example, the study for North and South Esk Elementary in Sunny Corner (recently approved to remain open / status quo) estimates "Roof replacement" cost at \$300,000 and "Interior wall finishes" at \$15,000.

Is the policy to not disclose such information on Burton Elementary a district decision? I plan on speaking on the financial piece at the next public meeting, so such information would be critical. It has been divulged that Burton Elementary has a capital improvement list totalling \$573,000, but it's unknown how much of this is for "Priority 1" projects, and how much is dedicated to "nice-to-haves." Moreover, it's difficult to comprehend how the public is entitled to such info on a school in Sunny Corner, and not in Burton. Thanks again, Ross

Sarah Jardine-Bonnell • 2 months ago

David, I acknowledge that you can't provide costing estimates on individual projects; such estimates could influence the contracting process. However - can you provide the costing for the different priorities of projects? For example: it's estimated that if all Priority 1 projects were tendered, it would cost X dollars; all Priority 2 projects cost Y dollars, and so on. Thanks

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

I am actually working on a report that is going to break down the savings if the school were to close and the kids were to move to Assiniboine. Watch here in the days ahead...I hope to have it complete mid to late week. I have Millville and Nackawic finished if you want to check their sites to see what to expect.
DMcT

candace clowe • 2 months ago

How much is really being saved? You still have a similar cost per student, as well as the teachers are tenure. I am just curious on the overall actual cost saved vs other schools and compared as a whole with the overall provincial budget.

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

To answer Candace's question below, I am now working on a full financial document. As soon as I get it done, I will post it to this site. It will answer some financial questions that you may have...for transportation and other categories. If you want to see what to expect, have a look at the Nackawic site...I finished that one first. For a quick answer, should the DEC vote in favor of closure and the Minister approved the recommendation, the savings would come from the fact that the run to collect the students around the Burton catchment area would not be necessary in the morning for a delivery to Burton Elementary School. The transportation team believes that the current bus runs going into Oromocto could accommodate the K-2 students as well. The annual savings is difficult to pin-point as we may need to re-do some routes. An early estimate suggests \$10 000 to \$15 000 savings in transportation costs. This amount will be presented more precisely in the document that I am working on. The numbers for students in the Burton catchment area and the Oromocto catchment area of Burton are listed in a document to the right.

DMcT

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

Please note that the 2011 Burton Sustainability Study has been scanned and posted to the right, under its own folder. To keep things tidy, the current study now has a folder of its own, too. This just means one additional click. This will hopefully ensure documents from both studies don't get mixed together.

DMcT

candace clowe • 2 months ago

Wondering about the plan for bussing our children if you decide to close our school? It was said in the Oct mtg that transport will cost less if the school close as you can make one bus run with one bus. Could you please explain this further? How many kids will be on the one bus in total? Can you provide this financial plan and comparison? I can't seem to wrap my head around the fact that we require 2 seperates runs now, but can easily become one if we close, although we are unable to do it now?

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

In response to a question raised below regarding Assiniboine Infrastructure...
An engineer visited Assiniboine on January 13, 2012, and followed up with our Facilities Manager the next day.

In April, 2012, the engineer wrote to us with four items to be repaired; he noted a follow-up inspection was not required as the repairs were not addressing any structural load carrying deficiencies.

The repairs to be done were: 1. Cracking in the exterior gym wall masonry, 2. Cracks in the gym west wall/gym stage wall masonry, 3. Corrosion of stair treads at north and south stairs (clean and seal the gaps between tread and risers), and 4. Cracked and deteriorated exterior brick masonry - mortar point.

The first of these four items was repaired through the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) in the summer/fall of 2013 at a cost of \$30 050. The remaining three are classified as minor repairs and not structural deficiencies; having said this, we have had on our capital improvement list for Assiniboine a project described as "fixing small cracks in the mortar" (comparable to #4 above, but was listed on our capital database prior to this). The three have been classified as not requiring immediate attention. Our staff is following up on the deficiencies at this time.

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

While we have a copy of the 2011 Burton Sustainability Study in a binder format, we don't have it, as a report, in an electronic fashion. We are going to scan it and post it soon.

I was asked if we did projections in 2011. I looked back and we only projected one year into the future...the 2012-13 school year where we projected 44 (18,12,14) students. As it turned out, there were actually 53 (22,12,19) students that year.

DMcT

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

I was asked for an estimated cost of building a small sized school. The estimate would be \$8.6 million to \$9.6 million, not including the land. The dollar values get tweaked as the plan is built through the Education Specifications document.

DMcT

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

I am still trying to confirm the work done at Assiniboine Avenue Elementary School, if any, following the report mentioned below. We have the request submitted to EECD and DTI. As soon as I know the answer I will report it. If the work was not completed, we will ask why.

DMcT

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

The power point presentation that is found to the right of this screen provides some information on busing. Pages 32-36. If Burton were to close and the kids were to go to Assiniboine, there would be no impact on the number of buses and the number of drivers and there would be fewer kilometers because the Burton Elementary School runs would no longer be needed. The K-2 kids would join the 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 kids, based on the schedule that would be made. I don't believe the buses are overloaded in this area at this time. I can't confirm what the pick-up and drop off times would be at this time, as I expect the transportation team would review the runs and adjust accordingly. Teachers are on duty as a part of their regular routines...there is not an extra financial cost to teachers doing duty. The duty is supposed to be shared equally among all the staff. The schools in Oromocto would not be considered to be full or meeting capacity. We don't see this happening in the foreseeable future. In schools where there is overcrowding, we do install modular classrooms. These are not required in the Oromocto schools. I agree that students at Burton Elementary School receive a quality education!

DMcT

Kim Keddy Howe • 3 months ago

I have wondered if the costs of bussing these students for the long run have considered. Do we require a different bus as our buses are already overloaded? Are our children going to need to be bussed even earlier? Our children are up so early in the morning as it is; they sit at/in school for an hour before school starts. Are we paying extra for teachers to be there at 7:30 in the morning or are they just being told they have to be there as part of their contract? I have always wondered about that. Not sure if that is fair to anyone one, students/teachers. What are these long term costs?

The schools in Oromocto are full now. With Base Gagetown so close we cannot afford to lose a school. It takes but one posting

season for the schools to be filled to capacity and over flowing. If that happens then what, we get portable classrooms, build a bigger school somewhere? That would all cost money as

well. When we have a school right here, right now, and if I have read my information correctly, on land that was donated! Communities surrounding military bases are unique communities; our census can change very rapidly. Some people choose to move to Burton for the school. I give great credit to the teachers in our community of Burton (and Oromocto) as they provide not only their spectacular level of education to our children but have an understanding of what our military children require. We have personally had 2 out of 4 children attend Burton Elementary and have heard from teachers at schools in Oromocto how pleased they were to get children from Burton Elementary

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

I have read your question (Kristen Brown-Mcmullin) and will find an answer for you by consulting with our facilities team. Stay tuned.

There wouldn't be a formal expenditure report on the 2011 sustainability study of Burton Elementary Schools. Costs would have included securing the Lions Club (small, if any), advertising in the newspaper, expenses for DEC members related to travel and meeting expenses (claims for meals, if required). There would have been "human resources costs" that couldn't necessarily be calculated in dollars in that a dedicated team of district leaders worked many hours at providing the DEC with information they needed to make an informed decision.

The costs are similar this time around, in 2015, with some increases in mileage costs due to the fact that the DEC members are travelling further (our DEC membership covers a much larger geography now, compared to 2011).

DMcT

Kristen Brown-Mcmullin • 3 months ago

In 2011, the province hired consultants to look at how structurally sound schools over 50 years old were in the province. Burton had no issues, but big concerns were raised at Assiniboine. The biggest area of concern related to cracks in the load bearing wall in the gym. Was this ever looked into and repaired?

Jeff Beyer • 3 months ago

I am just wondering if documents are available for the public showing how many tax dollars are being spent for this "study" that should only be for schools that have k-5 grades. How Much was wasted...sorry spent four years ago and how much should we expect to spend every four years from now.

Patrick • 3 months ago

Burton Elementary is the heart of our community. our daughter has such a good foundation for her future schooling.

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

There are a number of new documents that have been posted to this site. Among them is a list of the "Burton Capital Improvement Projects Prioritized", with a "1" being the highest priority.

Also, there is a document called "Burton Catchment and Community Enrolment Figures - Summer2015" that shows requested information from below. Within this document, there is enrolment data for students who live in the Burton Elementary School catchment area as well as students who have an address that includes "Burton" as the community; the biggest difference between the two would be those homes between "Goan's On" and the Burton/Oromocto limits; these children are zoned for Assiniboine Elementary. The document also shows some Oromocto school enrolment comparisons and some kindergarten information. This document was constructed at the end of last school year and next week I am going to post a revised versions with some more recent numbers.

You will see some official documents related to water testing and air quality testing for Burton, Assiniboine and Hubbard Elementary Schools. PSSC leadership made a request for this information. Water tests are conducted at Burton Elementary monthly, with records kept by us. Assiniboine and Hubbard water tests don't fall under our umbrella as the Town of Oromocto supplies the water. As such, we don't have similar reports. Further to this, there is information on the provincial water (fountain) review that was completed in 2013...there is a provincial summary sheet as well a report specific to Burton, Assiniboine and Hubbard.

Air quality testes were also requested. We don't conduct regular air quality tests on a prescribed schedule. Air quality tests are triggered by symptoms and concerns brought forward by those who are in the building. This process is guided by ASD-W Policy 450-2. This policy is found at the end of the document titled "Burton-Assin-Hub Radon Tests" which provides information about air quality specific to radon. That information was gathered through a provincial program.

I am trying to track down an electronic version of the 2011 Burton Sustainability Study to post here. I have the binder and will scan it as a document if I can't find the electronic version. It may be that we simply printed a number if independent documents.

I also will try to get some ball park estimates of the cost of building a small school.

These were requests made of me at the public meeting.

DMcT

David McTimoney • 3 months ago

Updates on the last two posting are going to be made in the days ahead.

DMcT

commonsense1 • 3 months ago

Have the numbers of 1 2 Or 3 been put on the needed repairs yet?

Sarah Jardine-Bonnell • 3 months ago

If the statistics are available from the district/superintendent, I would like to know how many children with a Burton address (kindergarten to grade two) attend a school other than Burton Elementary because they are not in Burton's "catchment area".

Sarah Dussault • 3 months ago

Burton school is the heart of our community. The quality of education that our little minds receive is the cornerstone of our province's future.

Burton Elementary is one of the primary reasons why we bought a house in Burton. The community impact that this school has is instrumental to the very core of Burton as a community.