

DATE: June 11, 2015



TO: Jody Carr, MLA, Oromocto-Lincoln (and Education Critic)
Ross Wetmore, MLA, Gagetown-Petitcodiac
David McTimoney, Superintendent District Education Council
Elizabeth Nason, Sub-District 9 Councillor
Eleanor Lindsay, Chairperson, Burton Local Service District

FROM: Evelyn Peddle (proud to be a member of the Burton Community)



This is in reference to an article in The Daily Gleaner dated Saturday May 23, 2015 entitled ***Future of Millville, McAdam Schools in Doubt; Tempers Flare over Burton***. At a recent local service district meeting held in Geary, sub-district 8 Council Member Ron Buck made a motion to study the Burton kindergarten to Grade 2 school. It was stated that the school has 59 students (with a maximum capacity of 63 students), meaning it was automatically targeted for study due to having fewer than 100 students. In 2011 the Burton School had undergone a sustainability study resulting in a decision to maintain the status quo.

The findings from the 2011 Burton School sustainability study revealed the following:

- Burton is and continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in the province. The 2011 census revealed a population of 5421. The 2006 census revealed a population of 5019. Burton has grown significantly since 2011 with the potential of continued significant growth.
- Currently there are over 1000 homes in the Burton community alone.
- Burton is a very high transient community due to the military population. This type of demographic is imperative for the continued use of a community school.
- Elementary children from the Burton Community were attending 6 different community schools.

- Due to a lack of community awareness, the Burton School had deteriorated substantially prior to the 2011 sustainability study.
- In 2011, there was a total of 163 elementary children in our catchment area alone.
- The catchment area for children attending the Burton School was diversified due to the growth of the community and the inability of the community school to sustain this growth.

The recommendation to restudy the Burton kindergarten to grade 2 school was made by a sub-district council member who has no affiliation with the Burton community whatsoever. What I am asking the individuals in a position of authority to do is to allow the community of Burton to decide on the fate of the school. A recommendation was forwarded to the School District in 2011 that ***the current school structure be sustained until such time that the provincial governments budget is sufficient enough to build a new school in the community.*** A new school is what this community needs. It is also important to note that the majority of elementary schools in the Oromocto area are in need of replacement or require major renovations.

Because of the vulnerability of the Burton community due to aging and transient demographics, it is a moral obligation to provide the community with the proper demographic and geographic information so they can make a decision on the fate of this community and not some elected sub-district council members who have no affiliation with this community whatsoever.

Sincerely,


Evelyn Peddle