



**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sustainability Study Meeting #2
Bath Community School
Meeting Notes
Saturday, January 25, 2020
10:00 AM**

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Saunders – SD 02 • Heather Hogan – SD 03 • Miriam Grant – SD 04 • Andrew Corey – SD 05 • Laura O’Brien – SD 06 • Sean Winslow – SD 08 • Kimberley Douglass – SD 10 – Chair • Thomas Geburt – SD 13 <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Adams – SD 01 • Jane Buckley – SD 09 – Vice Chairperson • Faith Kennedy – SD 11 • Wallace Carr – SD 12 • David Perley – First Nations 	<p>ASD-W Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David McTimoney, Superintendent • Jay Colpitts, Director of Schools – WEC • Judy Cole, Director of Communication • Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and District Education Council • Stacey DesRoches, IT Support <p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 145–150 Community Members, including MLA Andrew Harvey, Troy Stone, Mayor of Bath and Karl Curtis, Mayor of Florenceville-Bristol, Media (2) and school staff <p>Vacant Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD 07
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➤ **Sustainability Study – Bath Community School – Meeting #2:**

- Kimberley Douglass, District Education Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the second Sustainability Study meeting for the Bath Community School at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were provided by Councillors.
- David McTimoney, Superintendent of ASD-W introduced staff in attendance and acknowledged the Mayor’s Troy Stone and Karl Kurtis and MLA Andrew Harvey in attendance.
- Presentations began with the Village of Bath Mayor, Troy Stone who spoke about the importance of a local school in the Village of Bath. Mr. Stone’s speaking notes can be found on ASD-W website under Bath Community School Sustainability Study.
- Scott Oakes and Sean Kilfoil, representing the Bath Community Parent School Support Committee (PSSC), spoke on the importance of a French Second Language program and trade programs needed in the Village of Bath. Such programs would align with the recent Green Paper Report from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. The PSSC goal is to see a K-8 community school located in the previous Bath Middle School. This facility, with the continuation of previously approved capital renovations, would support the programs of today. Sean Kilfoil referenced a section of the Superintendent’s Policy 409 presentation called “School Challenges”. It was suggested that catchment areas should be reviewed to support student population as there is no need for a 5M dollar parking lot next to the pool in the Village of Bath should the two Bath facilities be torn down. Sean Kilfoil also suggested staff have input into the study.
- Step Ahead Early Learning Centre representatives, Jenna Harvey and Somer Drost, provided a presentation that supported their program within a school setting where families can drop off their children of all ages prior to leaving for work in the mornings. It was said that the Step Ahead Early Learning Centre has endured hardships since relocating to the former Bath Elementary School, as a lower enrollment was needed due to the lack of space, which affected the revenue. There is also a lack of washroom space for smaller children as washrooms needed to be shared with elementary and middle school students. The Green Paper Report was referenced with emphasis on a statement given in this report where the current Provincial Government will expand and improve the current childhood education system.
- Mike Blanchard, on behalf of the Bath Lions Club, acknowledged the financial restraints brought on by the Higgs government and recognition was given to ASD-W and the District Education Council to again study the Bath Community School as the previously approved project to update the former Bath Middle School was placed on hold by the current government. Mr. Blanchard stressed that should the project not continue, a significant impact would be seen in the Village of Bath. The Bath Lions Club supports a community environment, which includes a school. The Bath community environment (community events and the Step Ahead Centre) have been affected by the closure of the Bath Community School and the needs of the community cannot be met at the current facility due to a lack of space, washroom and gymnasium size. Mr. Blanchard requested that the District Education Council reflect on Policy 409 Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning, Section 5.3 which states: ***EECD recognizes schools are integral to the promotion and preservation of the local culture and community, especially in rural areas.***

- Community Member and former Bath Middle School Principal, Gerald Sullivan, referenced the anxiety felt by staff over the past 5 years wondering about the outcome of their school. It was stated that approximately 5 years ago, the District Education Council met at the previous Bath Middle School and then the Bath Elementary School to conduct a Policy 409 review. At that time, the Council's recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development was to close the previous Bath Elementary School and to refurbish the previous Bath Middle School to allow Bath students to remain in their community in a newly refurbished Bath Community School. Throughout the study, everyone was encouraged to allow this process to unfold. It was expected that the decision made by the Council at that time would not be changed as nothing had changed in the area that would support a different decision. A one- year transition period for staff and students to be housed in the former Bath Elementary School was acceptable with the hopes of a new refurbished school next door. Now with the Bath Community School project being placed on hold, the lack of space, shared washrooms including 1 washroom for 20+ staff and no room for the Step Ahead Program has caused great frustration in the community. It was the belief of the former Principal that the refurbishment of the previous Bath Middle School could be completed with a school opening at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the staff hardships within the past 3 years of many changes, including three different Principals, two Superintendents, and two Provincial Governments. A final request was made that the hardships of the school staff, students and Early Learning Centre be considered when the Council are deliberating the recommendation they will be making to the Minister Education and Early Childhood Development on the future of the Bath Community School.
- Community member Charles McNair spoke. His presentation, including maps of the area, can be found on the ASD-W Website. Mr. McNair focused on the concept of a new K-8 for Florenceville-Bristol while still maintain a K-8 school in Bath.
- Community Member Rachel Smith spoke of the Bath School being a model for other rural area schools. Several community members were recognized for their positive impact on the children who reside in the Village of Bath. Strong relationships have been built in the community and the previous District Education Council recognized the importance of a school in the community.
- Community member Margaret Johnson referenced the many years she has spent working in the school system as a Resource Teacher. Ms. Johnson referenced the Bath Community School fitting nicely in all Green Paper initiatives. It was said that bigger is not necessarily better, as the needs of all children are known by the staff of a small school. Over 30 Bath students were lost to a neighboring community due to the French Immersion Program. In a small community, the overachieving students assist the struggling children. They work together and are not lost in a bigger school.
- MLA Andrew Harvey, speaking today in a non-partisan manner referenced the emotional roller coaster that this project has caused on the community of Bath. Mr. Harvey thanked those in attendance, and he recognized the many hours of hard work by the presenters to prepare for this day for the Bath Community School. Mr. Harvey provided the history of the project beginning approximately 5 years ago when a recommendation was made by the previous Council for the Bath Middle School to be refurbished. This recommendation was approved by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and the first step of the Province was to conduct a building assessment study to determine if the facility was structurally secure. Step two, after determining the building was structurally secure, was to issue a \$3.8 M capital project (June 2018 – June 2019) tender, which was awarded to Simpson Building Contractors. Construction began, staff and students were excited and willing to accommodate the move to the Bath Elementary School for 1 year with intent to be back into a refurbished school in June 2019. Construction of the exterior building began but when the interior construction started, asbestos was found that halted the project. A meeting was held on December 21, 2018, between Mr. Harvey, Simpsons Construction and DTI where a decision was made to remove the asbestos substance and continue the construction project. Not long after, the project was halted. As summer approached demolition tender was issued by the current government and has been since rescinded. Mr. Harvey suggested the project to be 75% completed that included a new sprinkler system, windows, exterior and much of the interior to a \$4.1 M. costs. Additional funding would be needed to remove the remaining asbestos (1/3 already removed) and continue the refurbishment of Bath Community School. A recommendation was made to continue moving forward with a \$2 M investment to refurbish the Bath Community School to keep K-8 students in the community. Should the DEC recommend in favor of continuing the project of the Bath Community School, Mr. Harvey believed that the Province of NB would move quickly to have the students in the building by the 2020-2021 school year.

➤ **DEC and Public Comments and Questions:**

- Councilor Hogan asked if the catchment changes mentioned earlier could be further explained. Mr. Harvey suggested that the Village of Bristol students be included in the Bath Community School boundaries and consideration be given for the French Immersion Program be offered at the Bath Community School.
- Mr. McNair confirmed that he supported the continuation of the Bath Community Project.

➤ **Closing Comments and Date of Next Meeting:**

- Chairperson Douglass thanked the community for their attendance and a review of next steps was provided with reminder for public meeting (# 3) to be held on **March 19, 2020** at Carleton North High School. At that time, the District Education Council will make a recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development concerning the Bath Community School.

➤ **The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM**