

**ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SUSTAINABILITY STUDY – Meeting # 1**  
**COLES ISLAND SCHOOL**  
**November 20, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**

➤ **Sustainability Study – Coles Island School – Meeting #1**

- David McTimoney, Superintendent of ASD-W welcomed everyone and presented a 74 page power point presentation called Coles Island Sustainability Study. David reviewed and discussed the content of the slides on school history, statistics and financial data with the public. This presentation can be found along with other pertinent documents and information related to the sustainability study of Coles Island School on our website [www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/sustainability/pages/coles](http://www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/sustainability/pages/coles)
- The next public meeting at Coles Island School will be held on **Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** where stakeholders will be allowed to present to the District Education Councilors. A stakeholder form is posted on ASD-W website. This document needs to be completed and sent to Carol Clark-Caterini one week prior to that meeting. The final meeting will be on March 19, 2015 and video linked from Priestman Street School. Based on the outcome of this study, if the Council agree to close the school, then a recommendation is made to the Minister of Education to make the final decision and public announcement.

➤ **Public Comments and Questions**

- A recent CBC article listed 39 schools that rated below average in functional capacity. Was CIS focused-on as they were the lowest one? David responded that there were several different factors to consider, such as enrollment and functional capacity, so no, this was not the only factor.
- What schools are being studied? David responded that Bath Middle School, Coles Island School and a unique situation at Stanley High and Elementary Schools as two schools operating in one building.
- Stephen McCready requested to share some facts with the District Education Council in an effort to save their school. The Councilors agreed to allow this time to Mr. McCready given that this presentation should be a part of the second meeting in Coles Island. Mr. McCready provided the history of a one-room school house built in 1776, which is still maintained and visited. In 1956-1957 the current school was built and continues to be in very good condition. At that time, the school housed grades K-12 until 1967 when there was a full graduation at CIS. At that time CIS lost grades 10, 11, 12 to Chipman High School. In 1997, grade 9 students were moved to Chipman Forest Avenue School and in September of 2007, grade 6, 7, and 8 were sent to middle school in Chipman. CIS has had a school since 1776 and the community feels that a school is part of their community. In 1987 the school became an election issue where the community was promised to bring back their students and a \$1.2M upgrade was made at the school. In 1992 the value of the school then raised to just over \$ 3M. Students do not want to go to CNCS, Sussex schools and the community has donated long enough to the Chipman schools. Mr. McTimoney – thanked Mr. McCready for his comments.
- A comment was made by the public about the enrollment at CIS being low (30 students) and why the community take their children out of their zoned school catchment area to another school or keep them at home to be homeschooled? Why is the district allowing this to happen? David responded that these choices (home schooling) were most likely for personal reason; religion, enrichment, and as long as we are told that students will be provided with an education, then we have to sign off on the requests as this is a parent responsibility.
- The government is concerned with money and this Sustainability Study is all about money and savings. Why can't other government departments use this school such as forest rangers, using

faxes, site to park trucks, etc. to assist with the cost associated with the school? David responded that this is a possibility and he is aware of one school in the eastern part of the Province that rents part of their school to a medical centre. This is a good example and a very good question.

- What about a small child on a bus for a long time at the age of 5, from 7:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. which is possibly a longer day than most. David responded that part of the presentation was calculations done for 30 students to the closest zoned school suggested for them to attend, should closure be the choice.
- Does the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offer any long distance education options? This could be a possibility for CIS with a teacher and 25 students in a class that is taught on-line courses. We are not there yet for elementary, but technology continues to change all the time. For example, on March 19<sup>th</sup> technology will stream a meeting from Priestman Street School to Coles Island, Bath Middle and Stanley Schools.
- NB has more rural communities, is the same formula used for functional capacity for urban and rural schools? David responded that this was not the defining piece of the puzzle. When it comes to student enrollment, it is only a piece; many other factors are to be considered. One school had 101 % capacity and we needed to add modular classrooms as an addition.
- What is the rationale document? Is this the document that determined the sustainability study on CIS, and who prepared this report? David responded that he prepared this document and that he provided this report to the District Education Council on October 23, 2014. This document is based on enrollment, functional capacity, cost per student, cost per square footage, minor repair costs, and options available if there was a decision to close. David encouraged the public to go onto our website under DEC and Superintendent Reports.
- Did you take the top worst schools and recommended a sustainability stud? David responded that he had identified nine schools in Anglophone West School District based on many various factors, for an original look, and narrowed it down to two.
- Bring Middle and High School Students back to CIS. David responded that we would have to look back at the process that occurred by a former DEC and Superintendent.
- A report of the Irving Mill in Chipman is to expand it. With this, the truck traffic from Coles Island to Chipman will increase. Is this all about money or is this about the safety of our students? Also, in all vehicles it is the law to wear seatbelts, so why are there no seatbelts on a bus from K – grade 4. Is it about money or other issues, we would not want to see a bus get hit by a truck in a few months ahead. David thanked the man for his input.
- Some parents have children attending a Chipman or Cambridge Narrows Community School already, what are we doing with sending students in two separate directions. David responded that a decision will be made on the best school for that family to attend. For example, if CNCS is the best place, as a K-12 school, you can transfer your children to one school rather than have them in located in two separate schools.
- What happens to the building? David responded that DEC declares the building as surplus and it is returned to the Province of NB. In some cases the Province has sold or torn-down the buildings, or used it as another capacity.
- When you are moving kids, have you considered the state of the school that they are moving to and what if they will be closing? David responded that this has been considered and would be a part of the study.
- Why can't you consider making CIS a K-12 school and bring all students back? Have you done any studies on how we can reduce the cost of sustaining the building? David responded that Lean Six-Sigma has been followed for many projects on finding efficiencies.

- Transportation – is this district willing to provide transportation for children to other schools. David responded that we are obligated to provide transportation to students within our catchment.
- Will there be better options/opportunities were kids can take immersion or additional academic courses? David responded that other larger schools offer more courses and that this will be a part of the decision, if a child is to be transferred to another school.
- Who should take the lead in searching out partners of this building? Does the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or local MLA take the lead with forestry combining with the school to fill the building? David responded that we have a Community Use of Schools Coordinator, Linda Dempsey-Nicholson. As a district we can facilitate this, but we will not go out and pursue this; if we were approached, we could examine this and determine the amount of space and location needed. This is workable.
- What do you feel this school needs for safety? David responded that a new ventilation system in the older part, fire integrity in stairwell and site improvements such as curbing and driveway refinishing; not immediate safety concerns but more long term.
- Can community volunteer time with assistance of helping with these projects? David responded that this would be appreciated and welcomed; insurance required.
- When did this list of physical plans be prepared and why weren't we told about this until now? David responded that the district maintains a list of all projects for all schools and if it was a priority of keeping your child safe, then it would be taken care of. Again, this is one piece of the puzzle.
- A comment was made that Universities and jobs take FI students first and we have our kids leaving the Province but not all students can learn French. If we give up our school are our kids going to have a better education, if not, we are giving them a ticket to leave the Province. David thanked her for her comments.

➤ **Closing Comments:**

- David asked if there were any other question to be clarified. A comment was made that this sustainability study has been presented much better than the one several years ago and that David had done a very good job with his presentation. The public thanked the District staff with applause.
- David reminded the public to be prepared for the next meeting in January by completing the Stakeholder Registration form, then forward to [carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca](mailto:carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca) a week in advance of the meeting with details of who will be presenting to the District Education Council. Information was provided on the screen for the public of who to contact.
- The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their questions and comments.

**Date for Next Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2015 – Coles Island School – Meeting # 2**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.**