

Clark-Caterini, Carol (ASD-W)

From: Cole, Judy (ASD-W)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:25 AM
To: (ASD-W) District Education Council; Faith Kennedy (cyc@nb.aibn.com); (ASD-W) Senior Admin Team; Hayes, Anna Marie (EECD/EDPE)
Cc: (ASD-W) All Principals; (ASD-W) All Vice Principals; (ASD-W) Education Center Office Staff -Oromocto; (ASD-W) Education Center Office Staff -Woodstock; (ASD-W) Education Center Office Staff -Fredericton; Wilcox, Amy (ASD-W); Miller, Janice (ASD-W)
Subject: Media Stories Jan. 27 Florenceville Bristol Sustainability Study

NEWS

Florenceville-Bristol needs a 'right-sized school': MLA



Anglophone West District Education council members were told the Northern Carleton region school sustainability study should have two parts – a renewed commitment to complete the Bath Community School work and a 'right-sized' new school to house students from the other three schools at the Bristol Elementary School sustainability meeting held at the school Saturday afternoon.

Unlike the Saturday morning meeting in Bath, which had about 150 people turn out, the Bristol meeting had a handful of parents and presenters. Andrew Harvey, Carleton-Victoria MLA, said the three Florenceville-Bristol schools should be combined into one facility. He said the land that the three schools now occupy could be quickly sold by the province for commercial or other interests.

"A school should be right-sized, but also leave room for growth. I'm confident and hopeful that there will be lots of children in the future living in this area ... We have jobs here that are unfilled in Florenceville-Bristol. I have companies saying they could hire 10 to 12 qualified individuals tomorrow," Harvey said. "A new school would offer another attraction for [newcomer] recruitment."

The MLA said the Bath project "needs to happen immediately" after a positive DEC recommendation, and he asked the DEC to request the province circumvent the usual capital budget process to complete the renovation.

"You are talking four, five or six years to turn a key on a new school. I think whatever government is in power we should be building a new school for Florenceville-Bristol and complete Bath."

Sarah Pacey, chief administrative officer for Florenceville-Bristol, repeated a presentation she made on behalf of the town supported a new K to 8 school to replace Florenceville Elementary, Florenceville Middle and Bristol Elementary schools at an earlier meeting. Pacey stressed council wants to see a "learning campus" created in the community by building a new school next to Carleton North High School.

We think a (new) school would become a centre for youth socialization and become a learning campus for kids, parents and community members. It would help create a strong community where residents will form relationships with others," Pacey told DEC members.

The CAO said a new school would be more efficient and could result in decreased bussing costs for the area.

Charles McNair repeated his presentation on where a new school should be located. He said an ideal location would be on Route 130, away from industry but visible in the community. He clarified he didn't think a new K to 8 school in Florenceville-Bristol erodes the case to continue the renovations at Bath Community School, telling the DEC members to "right-size" the proposal.

David McTimoney, district superintendent read a letter from Nestor Gomez of McCain Foods reinforcing previous support for a new school for Florenceville-Bristol.

The District Education Council will make a recommendation on the four schools at its March 19 meeting in Carleton North High School at 6:30 p.m.

