

Opening 1

Thank you for the opportunity to present our thoughts on the sustainability of Millville Elementary School. We read with some interest the Sustainability Study presented by Anglophone School District West and are familiar with provincial policy 409.

School Programs

Millville Elementary School is a wonderful, small, rural school providing its students with high quality educational and enrichment opportunities and has been a keystone in the community for over 60 years. The quality of education and the numerous experiences students have been exposed to are second to no school in the province of New Brunswick.

Millville Elementary School is a welcoming and vibrant place of learning, sharing, and caring with activities such as fundraising, art, music, drama and dance, field trips, physical activities, cultural, literacy & community events.

In addition, Millville Elementary School has had international outreach to Uganda, Haiti, and India and has participate with students around the world in International Walk to School, Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution Day, Project Well India, CHAT to the future, and Hour of Code.

2007-2008 School Events		
Community	Art & Music	School Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Driver Breakfast • Christmas concert • Christmas Dinner • Christmas Tea & Craft Sale • Community Yard Sale • Crabbe Mountain • Cross Country Run • Disability NB- Walk & Roll Challenge • Fire Prevention • Fund raising for the Salvation Army – food & toy drive for Kindness Tree • Grade Five Farewell • H & S-Staff Appreciation Week • Hot Lunch Program • Legion members Rem. Day & Luncheon • Monthly Pre- School Library Day • Movie Night • Pre-K Visits & Parent Workshops • RCMP Liaison- Halloween Safety, Bike Rodeo- Rick Dionne & Rhonda Stairs • Support our Troops • Talent Show • UNB Center for Musical Arts- Alex Good (vocals), Janice Wilson (piano) • Volunteer Luncheon • Walk with the Premier- Fredericton • Year End BBQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Good & Janice Wilson- UNB center for musical Arts • Artist- In- Residence- Whitefeather Hunter- Felting • Artist-In-Schools- Yvonne Kershaw- Saint John String Quartet • Dennis Connor- Trumpet performance • Joel LeBlanc- music performance • Shawn & Brett Sullivan-Yuzuk- Guitar & Drum Performance • Terry Kelleger- Bulling/ Music Performance • TNB Play- A Promise is a Promise • Writer’s In Schools- Heidi Jardine- Stoddart- artist & writer • Yvonne Kershaw- Atlantic Symphonia- musical performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts of Kindness • Block Parents- Abby Stairs • Caught In the Act- Acts of Kindness • Family Literacy Day-Margie Cummings & Norma Jean Jones • Family Tree Project- Library • Student Council • Year Book Cover Design- Library
		<p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K Classroom visits • Pre-K library visits • Read-A-Thon • Writers in Schools-Heidi Jardine- Stoddart
		<p>Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama – Little Mermaid • Outstanding use of voice • Adjudicator’s choice • Audience Participation • Outstanding Ensemble
	<p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Tea & Craft Sale • Cookbook Fundraising • Jelly Bean Guess • Gift Basket • Heritage Calendar- • Library-Read-a-Thon -\$583.00 • Movie Night • Student Council- monthly fundraising 	<p>Physical Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joy Hansen workshops & noon hour activities • Running Club • Snowshoeing
		<p>Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chess Club • Drama Club • Running Club

2008-2009 School Events		
Community	Art & Music	School Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt-a-School Walmart-S2200. Beaverbrook Art Gallery Block Parents- Hot Lunch Program Breakfast Program Bus Driver Breakfast Christmas Concert Christmas Dinner Cross Country Run Disability Awareness NB Environmental Workshop- Sonya Hull H & S Staff Appreciation Pre-K Parent Information Meeting Pre-K Roll out Pre-School Library Day RCMP- Const. LeBlanc – 911 Presentation Remembrance Day Service & Luncheon Terry Fox Run Tony's Music Box- donation of bongos UPS- Donation Breakfast Program \$25.00 Volunteer Luncheon Walk with the Premier Winter Carnival Woodstock Food Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist-in-Residence- Bug Hooking & Literacy- Elizabeth Bastin Artsmarts- Bronwyn Gallagher- Writing & Senses Artsmarts- Joan Meade- Storytelling Artsmarts- Wat ercolour- Rachel Macdonald Atlantic Symphonia Strings Performance- Andrew Miller & Katherine Riding Greg Harrison- musical performance - percussionist Richard Hornsby & Julian LeBlanc- musical performance Ross Neilson-musical performance- singer song writer The Paper Garden & the King- Art display- Beaverbrook Art Gallery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts of Kindness Breakfast program Project Well- SOPAR- Well in India Roots of Empathy- Lily McGuigan Screen Free Week Sleigh Ride Student Council Winter Carnival
		Awards
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premier's Award of Excellence- Mrs. Martin Drama: Charlotte's Web-Miss Carroll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjudicator's Choice Best Actress Best Narrator Best Supporting Actress Best Use of Costumes
		Literacy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue NB Pen Pal program Family Literacy Day- Norma Jean Jones, Marge Cummings Tom McLean- cartoonist & writer Top Cop Reading Program
		Clubs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chess Club Drama Recycling Worm Composting
		Field Trips
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaverbrook Art Gallery Science East
Physical Activity		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Munch & Move Noon hour Intermural Sports- Trevor Gullison Running Club Skating in Millville Community Rink Walk & Roll Challenge 		
	Fundraising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Basket draw Christmas Tea & Craft Sale H & S ticket draw MES Quilt ticket draw Mother's Day Basket Movie Day Penny Drive for Well Project Sock Hop for Food Bank Student Council Fundraising Thanksgiving Basket draw Variety Show & Auction-S2367.48 	

The school has been recognized on numerous occasions for its strong art, music, drama and dance programs.



Population

The population in the village of Millville has remained constant at about 300 for the last 20 years (Statistics Canada, Census of Canada 2001-2011). Likewise, the student population in Millville has been about 20 school age children between the ages of 5 and 9. There is no data for Upper Hainesville, Central Hainesville, Lower Hainesville, Nortandale, Hawkin's Corner and Maplewood where children within our catchment area also live. The potential student population for MES has remained constant at 45-50 students for the past 9 years. This does not include the children buses out of the community to take French Immersion.

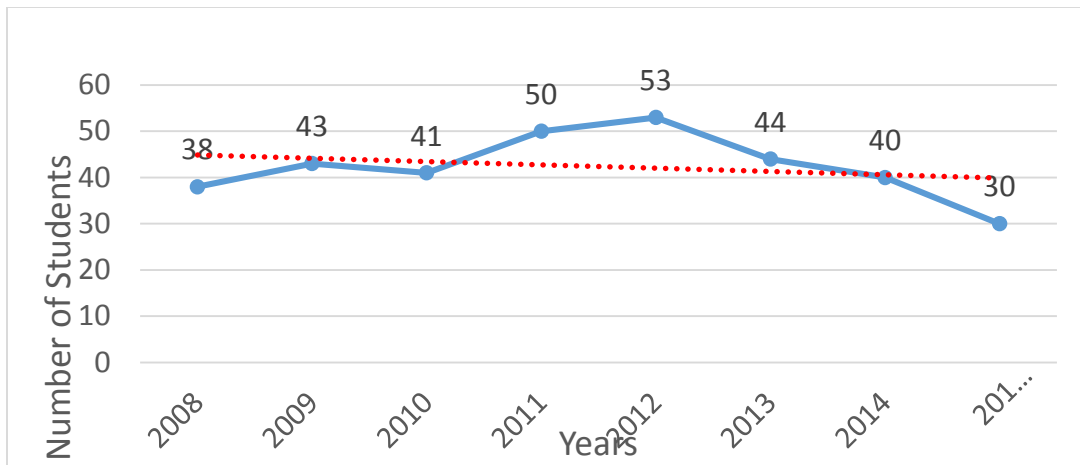
Catchment Boundaries

The practice of not following catchment boundary guidelines has had a direct impact on enrolment numbers at Millville Elementary School. This year, it also resulted in the need for Nackawic Elementary School to hire 2 additional teachers due to the fact that transfers in from Millville and other catchment areas brought the classes over the allowed limits. Millville Elementary School could have easily accommodated the additional students. Considering the fiscal restraints under which this province is operating, why would this district allow additional expenditures for unwarranted teacher salaries at Nackawic Elementary School?

It should be noted for the school year 2015-2016, there are 16 students in the Millville catchment area that have been granted permission to attend other schools. This does not include students enrolled in French Immersion. Little effort has been made to enforce catchment boundaries. It is a common fact that providing a false address will not be challenged.

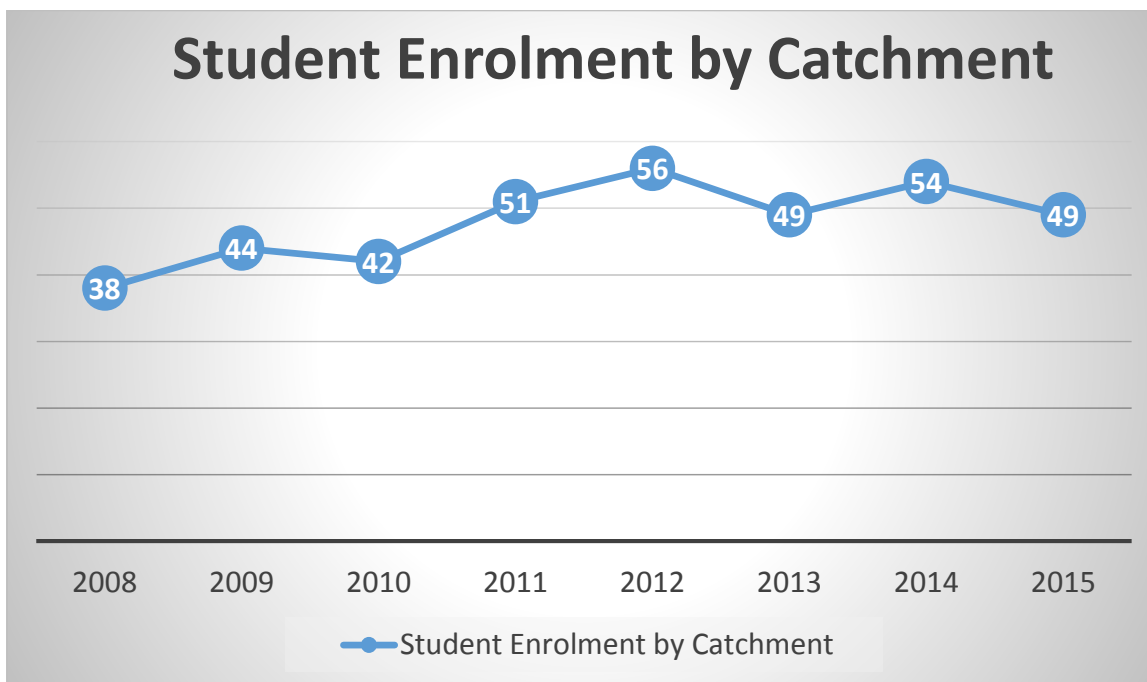
The District slide, Enrolment Millville Elementary School, is somewhat misleading in that the **perception** is that student population in the Millville catchment is in a **decline**.

(Slide provided by district)



The following slide shows what the actual enrolment would look like if all students (with the exception of French Immersion students) in the catchment area were registered at the school.

From this slide you can see that the student population has remained relatively stable in Millville and surrounding areas.



Enrolment

Enrolment is impacted by a number of external influences such as threat of school closure, French Immersion, catchment boundaries, perceived opportunities for

more student activities and breakfast and hot lunch programs. These will be elaborated on.

- **School Closure**

Some parents have said that they were reluctant to enroll their students in Millville Elementary School because of threatened school closure. They felt the instability was too difficult, so chose to enroll their child in another school to minimize potential disruption to student learning.

The community of Millville is tired of dealing with the continuing threat of school closure. This is wearing and erodes the peoples' confidence in the education system.

- **French Immersion**

Traditionally parents who wanted to their children to go into French Immersion would send their children to Millville for grades K-5 and then have them enter late Immersion. The impact of the **threat** of closure of late French Immersion (grade 6) has resulted in parents withdrawing children from Millville Elementary School earlier than they had wanted to. Some choose not to enroll their children at all as they did not want to have them switch schools at such a young age.

Options for entrance into Late French Immersion programs should be available to all students. Opportunities for students to obtain the necessary prerequisite French for entry into late immersion could include on-line programs, tutoring and earlier introductions into Intensive French programs.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Some parents believe there are more opportunities at a larger school. The reality is however that an overwhelming majority of students from our catchment area who attend other schools are not engaged in any extra-curricular activities for a number of reasons.

Students who live out of catchment must travel home during the time that many extracurricular activities are offered. For those who are able to stay, there are costs involved for some of the activities, travel arrangement have to be made and due to the large number of students, some activities are not offered to students of all ages.

Many of these same students were active in drama, choir, art, music and sports when they attended Millville Elementary School. All students at our school, not just an elite or select few, have been exposed to a multitude of art, music, dance, drama and sports activities as well as many worldwide educational and social activities and events. Every student is encouraged to take part in all activities that are offered.

- **Breakfast and Hot Lunch Programs**

We would like it to be noted that up until the new set of health guidelines were implemented, Millville Elementary School had a hot breakfast program and an affordable and healthy hot lunch program. In order to comply with the new regulations, pre-packaged food item had to be served. All students at Millville Elementary School are able to have a breakfast snack consisting of cheese, crackers, some fruit and breakfast bar options. In addition, students can order a Subway meal once per week.

As of last month, the necessary upgrades to our kitchen were completed. Our application for a license to prepare meals has been approved and we are in the process of having a volunteer trained in the Safe Food Handling Course. We hope that early in the New Year we will be up and running and able to provide a hot lunch or breakfast option.

Provincial Assessment Results

Our Provincial assessment results clearly indicate the advantage that students have attending Millville Elementary School. Grade 2 and grade 4 Provincial Reading Assessment scores over the last 5 years clearly demonstrate that our students consistently perform above district and provincial averages. Some years Millville students exceeded the provincial average by 20%. Is it important to note Millville Elementary School students scored substantially better than students attending Nackawic Elementary School. Millville Elementary school averages 32% more students than Nackawic reading at the appropriate level by the end of grade two.

Provincial Assessment Results

Grade 2 Reading
Millville Elementary School

Year	Millville Elementary	District	Province
2009-10	88.9%	72.5%	83.6%
2010-11	100.0%	75.8%	80.3%
2011-12	100.0%	78.0%	79.1%
2012-13	100.0%	80.3%	79.5%
2013-14	70.0%	76.8%	77.5%

Grade 4 Reading
Millville Elementary School

Year	Millville Elementary	District	Province
2009-10	83.3%	78.4%	83.4%
2010-11	100.0%	74.3%	80.5%
2011-12	75.0%	77.5%	77.1%
Results not available after 2011-12 due to changes in the Provincial Assessment system.			

Provincial Assessment Results

Grade 2 Reading
Nackawic Elementary School

Year	Nackawic Elementary	District	Province
2009-10	68.4%	72.5%	83.6%
2010-11	53.2%	75.8%	80.3%
2011-12	50%	78%	79.1%
2012-13	72.4%	80.3%	79.5%
2013-14	51.6%	76.8%	77.5%

Grade 4 Reading
Nackawic Elementary School

Year	Nackawic Elementary	District	Province
2009-10	86.1%	78.4%	83.4%
2010-11	72.4%	74.3%	80.5%
2011-12	68.1%	77.5%	77.1%
Results not available after 2011-12 due to changes in the Provincial Assessment system.			

Provincial Assessment Results

Grade 5 Numeracy Millville Elementary

Year	Millville Elementary	District	Province
2009-10	62.5%	54.3%	59.4%
2010-11	83.3%	60.4%	60.8%
2011-12	66.7%	63.7%	63.7%
2012-13	62.5%	64.0%	62.9%
2013-14	NA	60.0%	59.4%*

* Based on a 20% sample of students.

Generally MES students in Grade 5 numeracy also exceeded district and provincial averages.

The exceptional test scores can be said to be a result in part to the smaller class size at Millville Elementary School. Decades of research highlight the positive impact small classes have on student performance. The results of the National Educational Policy Center paper, *Does Class Size Matter?* (Feb. 2014) clearly supports this. One of the recommendations noted that, "Money saved today by increasing class sizes will be offset by more substantial social and educational costs in the future."

Research indicates the initial benefits of small class sizes are:

- the children are taught in a 'family like' environment and are less likely to misbehave
- small class sizes reduce the gap between children who attend preschool and those who don't and lead to improve attendance at school
- students score substantially better on reading and mathematics tests
- children show higher levels of engagement and are more likely to participate in school
- teachers spend less time on classroom management and more time on instructing students
- students receive more individualized instruction and one-on-one or small group help
- more lessons are taught through the use of 'hands-on' activities and the teacher and students have more positive interactions. In fact, children in a class of 15 students participated 2 or 3 times more in positive interactions with their teachers than their peers in a class of 30 students.
- their teachers are more engaged with their learning and are less likely to burn out

Initial Benefits of Small Class Sizes

- taught in a 'family like' environments
- reduces effects of not attending preschool
- improved attendance
- score substantially better on reading and mathematics tests
- higher levels of engagement
- participate more in school
- less time is spent on classroom management
- increased instruction time
- receive more individualized instruction
- more one-on-one and small group help
- more lessons are taught through 'hands-on' activities
- more positive teacher and student interactions
- teachers are more engaged with their students
- teachers 'burn out' less often

Small class sizes lead to significant gains in the early years but researchers are finding gains later on in life as well.

-children who attend small classes are almost a full year ahead of their peers by 8th grade

-they are less likely to become pregnant as a teenager or to participate in juvenile criminal behavior

-children who were in smaller elementary school classes are more likely to graduate and enroll in college

-small class sizes are linked to a decrease in health care costs and children who were in small classes live an average of 2 to 5 years longer

Benefits of Small Class Sizes Over Time

- almost a full year ahead of their peers by 8th grade
- lower teenage pregnancy rates
- less juvenile criminal behavior
- more likely to graduate
- more likely to enroll in college
- increased savings in health care
- live on average 2 to 5 years longer

Research indicates that the benefits of small class sizes are cumulative. The more time children spend in smaller classes the greater the improvements they will make. To receive long-term benefits the students must spend at least 2 years in a small class but children who spend four years reap the greatest benefits.

Increasing class sizes by combining Millville and Nackawic elementary aged students could, in the long run, negatively impact the academic, social and physical wellbeing of our rural children.

Technology

Data line upgrades were completed at Millville Elementary School within the past 5 years. Millville Elementary School now has a symmetrical 10 MB fibre-optic connection to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This is the same as most middle and elementary schools with a population below 400 students.

All students have access to a variety of technological equipment: Smart boards, lap tops, desk top computers, net books, wireless keyboards, document scanners, cameras and in the near future, i-pads.

Outdoor Play Space

Students at Millville Elementary School have an impressive outdoor play space which borders on the community Friendship Trail and includes a natural sliding hill which is enjoyed all winter. There is also a large baseball field/soccer field. The grounds are used by the community year round as well.

Millville Elementary School students have a stunning view as they play on natural grounds and have frequent opportunities to interact with and observe nature.



According to Dave Mc Ginn (Globe and Mail, Nov. 12, 2012) “Advocates say that natural playgrounds promote much more imaginative free play, foster social interaction and cut down on bullying, and encourage... risk-taking...”. Schools across Canada and United States are putting in what Millville Elementary School has in spades!

Mc Ginn quotes Richard Louv who coined the phrase “nature deficit disorder”. He cautioned that cutting children off from nature was linked to rising rates of obesity, depression, and attention deficit disorder. Relocating our students to Nackawic Elementary or Nackawic Middle School would deprive them of the rich experiences and natural outdoor opportunities that they presently enjoy.

A major overhaul to the Millville Elementary School playground was completed in the fall of 2014. Antiquated and unsafe equipment was removed to make way for the new \$31,891 outdoor basketball court. This was a huge school and community effort that spanned almost 4 years. Students enjoy the outdoor facility and the opportunity it provides to have outdoor gym classes for at least 6 months of the year. As well, it bears mentioning that this new facility is well used by the community. Plans for phase 2 of the playground project were halted last spring when the notification for a sustainability study was received.



In conclusion, our examination of the programs at Millville Elementary School with its extensive enrichment opportunities for all students, small class size, impressive literacy and math scores and natural outdoor play space show that students at our school can and do receive a quality education. Given that these advantages exist only at Millville Elementary School, the children's greatest opportunity to achieve academic excellence and overall school success will be if they remain in their community school.

According to the Education Act, students have the right to be educated ... "in their neighborhood school..."

Millville Elementary School is an exceptional neighborhood school that serves our children well. It should remain open.