

Sustainability study of the three Nackawic schools

Second public meeting memorandum from Haut-Saint-Jean Library Region

My name is Patrick Provencher, I'm the regional director for the Haut-Saint-Jean Library Region, which is part of New Brunswick Library Service, which is part of the New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour. Phyllis Coffin, chair of the Nackawic Public-School Library Board, talked to you about the Public-School Library, its services and its involvement in the community. I will talk more about some technical and operational aspects to consider while studying the three different scenarios mentioned in this?? sustainability study.

Right now, the public-school library is located in the Nackawic High School. Its existence is based on a Memorandum of Understanding agreement signed between the former York Regional Library Board and the former Board of the School District 28 in 1978.

NBPLS is responsible for the general administration of the library and acts in accordance with provincial government policies.

NBPLS is responsible for planning and coordinating the establishment of the public-school library; for the ongoing administration, development and delivery of library services and programs; for the ordering, cataloguing and processing of all library materials; for the acquisition of library materials to serve the public; and for the management and development of the overall library collection. The ongoing administration of library automation is also the responsibility of NBPLS. In addition, all staff are hired, trained and managed by NBPLS (GNB) through the library region. All library employees are civil servants.

NBPLS is responsible for funding 50% of the library staff salaries and benefits, including cover-off costs. It is also responsible for funding staff professional development costs related to public library service. The school district is responsible for funding the other half.

On the establishment of the public-school library, the School District is responsible for the costs of construction, or renovations, associated with providing library service to the school population and to security.

Although the community school provides and maintains the facility, the municipality is also expected to make a regular and ongoing contribution to the facility operational maintenance of the library. The school district provides the library furniture and equipment, including computers, for provision of library services to the school population. The school and the school district are also responsible for the funding of curriculum-related library material collection, including the educational computer software that the school deems necessary to fulfill the curriculum.

The municipality is responsible for providing the library furniture and equipment, including computers, for provision of library services to the public.

If the School district decided to either move the library to another location in the building where it is currently located, or in another school, the Memorandum of Understanding agreement would need to be revised to make sure that the new agreement reflects the new reality.

Another important aspect to consider if the library would be to move to another location in the current school or to another school, and / or serves a larger school population, is the size of the facility. In such case, the Regional Director of the Haut-Saint-Jean Library Region would prepare and present a need analysis based on the size of the population of Nackawic and the school population to its partners (the municipality and the school district). In the event that the proposed space requires renovation or expansion, the parties would have to mutually agree on how capital costs would be shared or recovered.

A standard provincial allocation, per student, from the district's block funding, is targeted to the purchase of library materials to support the curriculum and school population's reading and information needs. It is the responsibility of the school district and the school to ensure that this allocation is assigned to this endeavour to NBPLS, and spent on target.

If we talk about a completely new construction, it is my understanding that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development would assume funding responsibility for the portion of the library capital construction costs proportionate to the space required to provide library services to the school population. It would be recommended that the library facility be constructed according NBPLS Policy 1003 – Public and Public-School Library Facility Standards. The municipality would assume funding responsibility for the portion of the library capital construction costs proportionate to the additional space required to provide library services to the public.

I hope this information will be useful to the discussion. I want to assure you of our support and commitment to assist whatever is the result of this consultation.

Thank you for your attention