

STANLEY COMMENTS ONLINE EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2015

David McTimoney • yesterday

I wish to remind everyone that the sustainability study for Stanley will come to a close this week. There will be a Public DEC Meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 PM at Nashwaaksis Middle School (note the change from Priestman Elementary School...Nasis Middle will provide more space). We have made arrangements to stream the meeting into the cafeteria at Stanley and the Director of Schools, Director of Curriculum and other staff will attend in Stanley. We are also trying to provide the opportunity to watch the meeting online from anywhere, with a link...once we arrange this, we will post the link on our website. As I continue to prepare the final report for Thursday, I will print a copy of this discussion below. Thank you for your comments and questions...it has added to the study and will be included in the final report. After 4PM on Monday, March 16, the discussion board will be removed and printed. If you have specific questions between now and March 19th, be sure to email the sustainability study email address or Carol or me directly. Thank you. DMcT

David McTimoney • 2 weeks ago

The sustainability process is a DEC process. Any relevant staff, including the superintendent, have a responsibility to serve as a source of information so that the DEC can make an informed decision. Staff do not shoulder the responsibility of formulating an opinion. The DEC makes this decision based on information from staff and from the community. Most, if not all, times the community information comes with a clear indication of which direction they hope the DEC will follow. This is understandable. Staff can be placed in an awkward position if they are called upon to share their views, as opposed to sharing relevant information to help the DEC make an informed decision. For their protection, we advise that they don't speak publically one way or another. If staff feel compelled to share their opinion, then they should speak with their employer to discuss the pros and cons of doing so.

Lawrence Wuest • last month

In contradiction of the "unique circumstance" premise for the initiation of the consolidation study of Stanley Elementary and Stanley High Schools, ASD-W has filed evidence of multiple occurrences of separate K-5 and 6-12 administrations in physically joined facilities elsewhere in the province. In a separate post, ASD-W has also filed a report of opinions of its K-12 principals on the pros and cons of consolidation of K-5 and 6-12 administrations. However, ASD-W has shown a bias by not providing a similar compilation of the views of individual principals from K-5 and 6-12 schools that share a facility. It is my experience that teachers and administrators within the Stanley school system feel constrained to not voice their opinion on this consolidation proposal. There is something inherently wrong with a process that solicits the opinions of one population of educators but ignores and/or suppresses the opinions of another population of educators. Would teachers and administrators employed by ASD-W be welcome to voice opinions at the upcoming stakeholder meeting on Feb. 16, 2015? Are teachers and administrators permitted to voice their opinions individually or collectively through their PSSCs or in another public forum? Given the imminent stakeholder meeting, these questions require answers.

David McTimoney • last month

The merger of the two schools could not occur without going through the 409 process.

Lawrence Wuest • last month

A question directly to the Superintendent of ASD-W and the Chair of the ASD-W DEC:

“Is it true that under the Education Act, regulations and policies, the superintendent could have unilaterally approved the consolidation of Stanley Elementary and Stanley High into a K-12 school without approval by the DEC?”

A simple Yes or No answer will suffice.

Josh Dickison • last month

I have received a message that Meeting 2 has been rescheduled for Monday February 16, 7:00PM. Would it be possible to make this announcement public on this website and in other District media outlets.

Thank you

Josh Dickison • last month

DEC Members,

Although both the District and the Community have made significant efforts to promote the public consultation meeting scheduled for tonight, Thursday February 5 at 7:00 PM, considering the current conditions you would be risking the safety of both the DEC members and of the Community who hope to take this opportunity to participate in this process. It is evident that the snow will persist through the day and I was unable to climb the hill in the Stanley Village and was forced to take an alternative route. In following Policy 409 that "...affected persons: have adequate time and OPPORTUNITY to make a presentation to the DEC..." the public consultation should be postponed to ensure the fairness of this Sustainability Study.

Thank you for your consideration.

David McTimoney • last month

The revised document title "Sustainability Study Finances Comparison - Stanley" was posted Sunday night. As noted below, I had missed the Administrative Assistant cost savings. The document, as posted now, has a more accurate picture.

The letter and agenda that went home to parents today are both posted, as well. I look forward to the meeting this Thursday.

A question was asked earlier...could the decision be reversed if the DEC voted to recommend to the Minister an amalgamation of the two schools as they are now? The Minister will review the recommendation of the DEC, if they vote in favour of consolidation, and make a decision based on procedural fairness. He has no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days to do so. If the Minister feels the process was not fair, he could decline the recommendation. If the consolidation went forward, could it be reversed in the future? It would need to go through a process, again, that would engage the DEC and community and require the approval of the Minister.

DMcT

Bethany Ryan • last month

Thank you.

Anglophone West School Distric • last month

Here are some answers:

1) FTE stands for "Full Time Equivalent". 1.0 FTE is one full time teacher. 0.5 FTE, for example, would be a half-time teacher. We see various FTE allotments in schools throughout the Province.

2) A resource teacher (official name is Education Support Teacher - Resource) is a teacher who is responsible for working with classroom teachers and students surrounding support for students with special needs and exceptionalities. When needs are documented on a "PLP" (Personalized Learning Plan), the resource teacher is responsible for overseeing this formal documentation. The document is in a transition from being an "SEP" (Special Education Plan) to the PLP. This is in alignment with the recently developed provincial policy on inclusion...Policy 322. Likewise, a guidance teacher (Education Support Teacher - Guidance) is a teacher who is responsible for supporting the emotional, social and behavioral needs of students, beyond what is done by the classroom teacher. A resource teacher and a guidance teacher don't have "homeroom classes" and make up the school based education support services team with the school administration. There is also FTE to support specialty classes...physical education, music and fine arts. This is allocated at an amount of 0.1 per elementary classroom and 0.2 per middle school classroom.

3) The "what if" scenario is described as how it would have been if the school was K-12 when we did the staffing for this year. The 1.3 is administration time...time allocated to conduct the business of a principal or vice-principal. Whereas it is assigned based on enrollment (1.0 FTE : 275 students), it would not change. What would change, however, is the number of people assigned to the administrative FTE. Currently, the principal of the Elementary is 0.5 admin and 0.5 teacher. At the high school, the principal and the VP share 0.8 admin time and 1.2 teaching responsibilities. If it were a K-12, there would be one principal and one VP who would share 1.3 admin time and 0.7 teaching time.

4) The red font shows the actual FTE that was assigned. Each year, we examine the FTE that a formula would provide and do what we can to top it up based on the needs of the school and in balancing the other schools in the district and the total FTE provided. The 11.2 in red indicates we topped-up the FTE by 0.7 to try and help the school with its teaching load.

5) I am sorry that I missed this calculation. I will go back and do it. There is a formula for administrative assistants and I will calculate it and revise the report, as necessary.

6) The principal has the responsibility of assigning teaching responsibilities within the FTE assigned and taking into account the expertise on staff. It could be the same person but not necessarily. It would be a principal decision. Timetabling would come into play as well.

7) Those costs are the expected costs due to a new contract that has been signed. It won't make sense if you compare it to the old values as it changes regardless of the outcome of the study. This is why there is not a reflection of added costs or savings in the final column.

All good questions! I will get back to the board on the Admin Assistant update.

DMcT

Bethany Ryan • last month

I have questions on the "Sustainability Study Finances Comparison - Stanley" document:

- 1) It would be helpful for some if "FTE" was explained somewhere in the document - many people outside of the school system do not know what this stands for.
- 2) Resource FTE - what positions are these? Phys-Ed? Music?
- 3) Assuming that Administration FTE are the principals - how is it shown in Appendix A that we will be losing a principal? The "What if" scenario shows 1.3 FTE for a combined K-12 school, which is the very same as it is now.
- 4) What is the significance of the red font for the Guidance, Resource and Administration columns? Also, why the (11.2) in red under Classroom FTE?
- 5) Would we be losing Administrative Support positions if the schools were to amalgamate, and if so, where is this shown in Appendix A?
- 6) Would there be one Phys-Ed teacher and one Music teacher for a combined school, responsible for teaching children ages 5-18?
- 7) Under Facilities Costs on Appendix B - these numbers don't make sense to me. They also don't add up. How is it expected that Garbage Removal costs will decrease if the schools are combined? Similarly, how is it expected that Ground Maintenance will increase? When everything is totaled, it results in an increased Facilities Cost of \$1,110, but this is not shown on the chart.

Amy • last month

As a parent from Coles Island I can say that we received this report on Financial Comparisons on January 15/15. THIS WAS THE DATE OF OUR MEETING GIVING US MERE HOURS TO ATTEMPT TO REVIEW THESE STATS. If we are to put an honest and just effort into these meetings and truly have opportunity to work towards effective decisions for the benefit of all our schools, I agree we have an unfair advantage. We are not all privy to the same information and it is not always easily available despite what is being said. EVERY child in EVERY community in our province, rural or urban, should have the same opportunities for the best education possible. This cannot be decided simply on \$. It is unfair to expect smaller communities to be as cost effective as larger ones. We pay taxes in our communities and the same % of our taxes goes to education as someone in a larger area. Why then should our children be treated any differently. I would urge the Minister and superintendant to take time to really search for ways to cut costs at all schools across the province without the need for closure.

Anglophone West School Distric • 2 months ago

The convention followed by the District Education Council and staff of ASD-W for a sustainability study is outlined in Provincial Policy 409. The policy was created under the legal authority of the Education Act, specifically Section 6(b.2). Within Policy 409, Section 6.6.2 indicates that, if there is a recommendation for closure (merger in the Stanley case), the Minister will review the process in relation to procedural fairness, with consideration of the factors taken into account during the public consultation process. I have confidence in the process as it is unfolding and believe policy is being followed. If DEC votes in favor of the merger, the Minister would need to evaluate process prior to a final decision being made.

There is much information on this site that provides individuals with an opportunity to prepare for February 5th. The financial comparison document is now included among those documents. Since December 4th (and including that date), 9 documents have been posted to the site in an effort to provide all stakeholders with information to help formulate considerations for the study and ensure communications lines are open. Among these, are 3 specific documents that the public from Stanley asked me to create...the K-12 information document, which was posted on December 4; the provincial summary of "schools operating within one building", which was posted on January 8, and the financial document, which was posted today. These three documents took some time to create and involved communications with many within my team and outside of our office. Other documents have been posted, upon request in this discussion board.

I have forwarded your specific comments to the DEC, as you made a call for a delay in the study and/or postponement of the February 5th meeting. If they ask for my recommendation, I will provide it to them.

Should you wish to challenge the process legally, we would appreciate direct contact so that we can act accordingly.

The study to date - one of three in ASD-W - is moving along with credible fashion. The interactions between public and staff, whether online or in public, have been respectful. I, personally, will continue with the respectful interactions and facilitating the study the way it is supposed to unfold.

There is no need for public suspicion of fear that we are hiding anything. It does take time, however, in working through the process.

DMcT

Lawrence Wuest • 2 months ago

The latest post by ASD-W promising information on FTE numbers and financial comparisons in the near future is a cause for concern, legally, in terms of due process, and socially, in terms of courtesy and respect for the parents and other stakeholders involved.

The usual convention for issues involving public input is

that all relevant information to be addressed is placed in the public domain 30 days in advance of the deadline for public input. This protocol is used for everything from Environmental Assessment to Mine Hearings.

We are fast approaching the 5 Feb., 2015 meeting in Stanley and a number of people are preparing while under the handicap of a lack of information. This is a tremendous injustice and burden for people who are volunteering their time and effort to address this issue.

If ASD-W and the DEC do not postpone this Policy 409 process immediately and correct this discrepancy, they are leaving this whole process open to public mistrust and later legal challenge. This failure threatens to embroil the district in turmoil for months to come.

There is an opportunity here for ASD-W and its DEC to gain credibility by doing the right and just thing, or they can continue to fuel the suspicion that this whole process is just an attempt to create an illusion of public consultation. while working toward a pre-determined outcome. Simple courtesy and respect

for the public would demand that the Feb. 5th meeting be postponed until these shortcomings are addressed in an appropriate manner.

Anglophone West School Distric • 2 months ago

I am working on it for all three studies and hope to have it complete soon. I have started building a chart for the FTE and I have the finance team working on a chart for the global budgets. I know the DEC is interested in seeing the same information. I hesitate to put a "deadline" on it as it is always a balancing act of what needs to be done on any particular day. DMcT

Bethany Ryan • 2 months ago

When can we expect to see the FTE and financial comparison chart posted?

David McTimoney • 2 months ago

We have placed a new document on the site that shows other scenarios around the province with respect to "two schools and one building". DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

In our five K-12 schools, we see children of all ages doing well. You can check out their provincial scores online, if you wish. I have also posted a K-12 information document on this site. You will see some of the best practices mentioned, as well as some of the challenges. I am not aware of any research, but that is not to say there isn't any.

DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

There are many considerations that need to be taken into account when the DEC makes its decision...the financial piece is one of them.

DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

There is a Code of Conduct that the DEC follows...it is DEC Policy ASD-W-GP5 and this will be posted to the Stanley Sustainability Study site. There is a section on Conflict of Interest.

The DEC is a publically elected body that self-monitors. If there are concerns about the actions of the DEC, then an individual would address them with the Chair. One may also choose to seek counsel from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

In a sustainability study, more is considered than just money.

DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

The goal of the study is to find out this information...and we continue to work on this. I am going to create a comparison document that will compare the FTE and the money for the way it is now and the way it would be if there was a K-12 school. This will be shared with all. Then the DEC has the difficult decision to weigh all the pros and cons and decide on a direction for the future.

DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

The costs associated with the study include some travel costs to the community and some advertising costs to ensure that the public is aware of the opportunities to engage. The work associated with the study is a part of our roll within the framework of the district office setting.

I need to remind people that we are not conducting our work as supporting one direction or another...the district staff has the mandate to provide the DEC with the information required to make an informed decision on the best course of action.

DMcT

Anglophone West School Distric • 3 months ago

I am going to work through many of the questions today. I wish I would have had time to do them earlier. You are correct...a goal of the study is to engage the parents and community stakeholders in the process. This discussion board is one way of doing this. The public meetings are very important too. Other formats include email and the regular mail. All is collected and organized and will be used by the Council as they try and decide what the best course of action might be.

I feel that the first meeting achieved its goal of stating facts about the two schools and describing the process. We spent much time answering questions of clarification, too. If there is specific information that you deem is lacking, you can request it. The Stanley schools were selected due to the unique circumstance of two schools operating in one building. It was not selected due to many of the other traditional categories that may be used to help narrow down other schools that may be studied. The rational document is a public document found under "Superintendent Reports" in the DEC Section on our website.

A main purpose of the study is to determine if substantial efficiencies would result...not all of the answers have been found yet as we continue to respond to inquiries and reflect on ideas. For instance, one of the requests from the first meeting was to have a comparison chart of FTE and finances for the schools as they are now and what it would look like if they were together. I am going to prepare this document and post it publically.

The second meeting in our process is set for February 5. I am sure more ideas will come from that. I am not aware of another consultation meeting outside of the December 4th meeting. The October 23rd Public DEC meeting is where the studies were initiated. The district and DEC remain committed to a fair process.

DMcT

Josh Dickison • 3 months ago

It is my understanding that one of the objectives of including Stanley Elementary and High Schools in a Sustainability Study was to encourage parents to be engaged with the District Education Council and to be comfortable with the transparency of the process. To date, this study has not only failed to accomplish either of these goals, but it has actually created further distrust between the Stanley Community and the District Administration.

A quick review of the questions below reveals a number of specific concerns that many parents and members of the community have expressed from the study's outset. While some questions were acknowledged at the last meeting on Dec. 5, many of the questions remained unanswered. This lack of information persists despite the message from the Superintendent in his second letter that we would have answers: "At this meeting, district staff will describe the process and outline the facts about Stanley Elementary and High Schools." Therefore we expected at the very least to leave the meeting with an appreciation of the facts that led the DEC to choose our schools to be selected to be studied. Despite this promised clarity, we were not given any facts about how consolidation would provide any substantial efficiencies. Therefore it is no surprise that community members expressed their frustration at this second meeting. Yet again, the community was told that their questions and concerns would be addressed, but the district has continued to fail to do so.

It has been more than a month since community members began asking these questions, and we are still waiting for a response. More than two weeks have passed since the last public meeting, and the District and DEC have neglected to respond substantively to either the specific questions that have been submitted to the feedback board or questions coming from the second public meeting. If parents and community members are to contribute to this study, the relevant information should have been made available before the coming holiday break. This lack of communication from the District and DEC further fuels the suspicions and assumptions that this proposed consolidation has nothing to do with saving any substantial costs or improving the quality of education of the students of Stanley High and Elementary Schools. In actuality, it would appear that if the process is to proceed properly, substantial architectural study costs and construction costs would be incurred, outweighing any potential cost savings on administrative salaries.

If the goal of this Sustainability Study is to provide parents and community members with an opportunity to participate in an open and transparent process, then it is necessary for the ASD-W Administration and DEC to provide us with the answers to our questions and the reasons why the Stanley Schools are being subjected to this costly study.

[Lawrence Wuest • 3 months ago](#)

Given the new government's stated commitment to the Sisson Mine, this is not a time to be diluting the protections for our youngest citizens. Given the drug, alcohol, family violence and sex trade problems that will inevitably come with mining work camps, an unstable workforce and fast money, this is the time to be strengthening protections for our elementary and high school students. This is not a time to be compromising our schools. To be cost cutting at the expense of our students is bone-headed and wrong, and is in direct contradiction to the government's stated goals for the Stanley area.

How much are we taxpayers wasting to go through this useless exercise?

How much are we paying civil servants to work in support of contradictory objectives?

[Andrea Harding](#) • [3 months ago](#)

More people in the community need to speak out. We do not want these changes. The more that voice their concern, the more likely we are to help keep our school the way it is, and should stay!!

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[Concerned parent](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Thank you for the time and energy it took to present the facts of the sustainability study. Before attending this meeting I was on the fence as to my opinion on the school amalgamation. Now after some consideration of the data presented it is clear to me that the only way efficiencies are going to be found by amalgamating the elementary and high schools are going to have a direct negative effect on the students. This will be in the loss of FTE, which means we will lose valuable teachers and administrators that teach and advocate for our children's education and well being. As was said many times during the meeting the statistics gathered from our children's assessments was on average or above average in most categories. We are already using many shared facilities and services, our library is funded through the community (which is not common practice in school libraries) and our children have an abundance of extracurricular activities. With the amalgamation of the schools we will loose teachers that provide these extra curricular activities along with some of the classes that are provided by these teachers. If my perception of the sustainability study is unfounded I challenge you to state exactly where the efficiencies are going to be found? And how this/these efficiencies will not have a direct negative effect on my child's education?

[Lawrence Wuest](#) • [3 months ago](#)

The motivation for this consolidation study is based on a belief that the Stanley School Complex is a unique situation receiving unwarranted funding. In ASD-W estimation, this qualifies the complex as a suitable target for cost cutting measures. I find this quite disturbing, given all the compromises small rural schools make to maintain their existence.

Given this money driven assault on the status quo in Stanley, is ASD-W prepared to address all the funding inequities that exist in the district? If all schools in ASD-W were forced to accept the minimal programs available in these and other small rural schools, there could be substantial financial savings for the province, if money is the bottom line.

Cease this money driven initiative, and let Stanley Schools get on with what they have done well under serious constraints for many many years.

[Lawrence Wuest](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Under the Governance Regulation of the Education Act, all District Education Council members have a vote on decisions affecting any school in ASD-W. When a Conflict of Interest exists on an issue before the DEC, DEC members must declare the conflict and withdraw from meetings, discussions and votes on the issue. What office in ASD-W or the Dept. of Education has the responsibility to verify that no conflicts of interest exist on the part of any DEC member on any particular issue?

At times, a perceived conflict of interest can exist outside the narrow confines of the financial guidelines in the regulation. Is there a Code of Conduct that guides the DEC in determining if there are grounds for a perception of a conflict of interest to exist?

[Wendy Morrell](#) • [3 months ago](#)

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[Wendy Morrell](#) • [3 months ago](#)

How would the decision to amalgamate Stanley Elementary and Stanley High School affect the elementary children both academically and socially? Are you aware of any recent studies that support the children's educational needs are improved in a combined environment? What are the best practices around this?

[Anglophone West School Distric](#) • [3 months ago](#)

The location of the office has not been determined at this point, should the complex become one school. We would work together with the school to determine the best way forward, if this were to occur.

[Anglophone West School Distric](#) • [3 months ago](#)

I will try to find this answer! DMcT

[Anglophone West School Distric](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Staffing is done according to formulas, rubrics (ie. for student services needs) and collective agreements. The most apparent change would be having one principal and one vice-principal for the K-12 school, if it went that way. Others would all fall into place through these processes. DMcT

[Anglophone West School Distric](#) • [3 months ago](#)

FTE is provided to schools based on a formula. That formula is 1.1 FTE for every elementary classroom, 1.2 FTE for every middle school classroom, 1.0 resource per 140 students, 1.0 guidance for every 502 students and 1.0 admin time for every 275 students. We then try to top up in bits and pieces around the district where we can. DMcT

[Anglophone West School Distric](#) • [3 months ago](#)

I have not examined these statistics at this time. My experience from working at a K-12 school for four years showed that there were benefits of interaction between secondary and elementary students for specific initiatives. The data could present more information. The data is available publically on the EECD website, going to publications and then achievement results. There is a bullying report for schools. Our K-12 schools are St. Mary's Academy, John Caldwell, Hartland, Canterbury, and Cambridge-Narrows. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

There will be a sharing of financial information. We are working on organizing that now. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

The presentation on December 4th will outline facts. Some conclusions may be drawn from that...the biggest bonus that would stand out to me would be the advantages of staffing with respect to guidance, resource, specialties and administration. This is what the study is all about...for the DEC to hear the facts about the school, hear the ideas of the public, put them into context and then make a collective decision. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

As mentioned earlier, we have 5 K-12 schools in our district. I will gather some further information on how they handle SRC. DMcT

As mentioned earlier, we have 5 K-12 schools in our district. I will gather some further information on how they handle SRC. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) •

This is the first comprehensive look at the Stanley scenario since amalgamation. We have 5 schools in our district that are K-12 and they each have their positives and negatives. I am sure that the DEC will want to consider these ideas and how they would relate to the Stanley scenario. I am not aware of any other situations in our province where two schools exist as separate entities within one building. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) •

I am going to do my best to answer them today...plus, we will provide the presentation to the public after it is presented on December 4. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Thanks for sharing your comment. This will likely be discussed during the process and something for the DEC to consider. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Yes, they do. When we talk about the "debate", it will be the DEC that will need to consider all of the information that is presented and make the decision on whether to recommend to the Minister consolidation, investment or whether to maintain status quo. The people of Stanley have their voice through a public meeting in February (5th) and by writing through the discussion board, email or regular mail. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

These are the types of points that we need to look at as the study progresses...Meeting #1 will be where factual information about the school settings will be presented. Meeting #2 will be where stakeholders can present their thoughts on the sustainability of the schools. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

These are factors that will be taken into account as the study proceeds...DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

It is always a priority for all of our schools to have qualified teachers in place at all grade levels. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Thanks for your comments. They will be helpful as we continue to gather information. If you would like to share the 88/89 report I would make it available to the DEC for their consideration. You may wish to make a presentation at Public Meeting #2 on February 5. Decisions on sustainability studies are made on an annual basis, although there has not been any in ASD-W since amalgamation. You mention that the study we are conducting is expensive...I am not sure which expenses you might be thinking about. I would respectfully disagree with your use of the word "assault" on Stanley. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

This is the type of question for which we would be looking for answers...those answers would come from examining the data, listening to the presentations, and hearing from stakeholders. DMcT

[Anglophone West School District](#) • [3 months ago](#)

Thanks for pointing this out. We will contact the Department of Energy and Mines about the potential for a re-opening of a potash mine in Berwick. I would need you to expand further on your point about gas licenses. The quality of consultation for all three studies will be high. Having said this, if we miss something, we appreciate someone pointing it out. DMcT

Lawrence Wuest • [3 months ago](#)

In the ASD-W presentation at Coles Island on the possible closure of that school, this statement was included in the presentation:

“Although there is local talk of the possibility of a potash mine reopening in the Berwick area (approx. 35 minutes away), there is no economic development plan for the area, no indication of any businesses that might open in the area, and the mine was not mentioned by any of the contacts made with government.”

However, in the list of government departments consulted by ASD-W, there is no mention of the Department of Energy and Mines. I find it quite disturbing that ASD-W was aware of the possibility of a mine opening in the area, yet did not consult with the government department directly responsible for mining.

It is equally disturbing that the Coles Island catchment area includes sections of several gas licenses, yet that fact was not considered in the discussion of future economic possibilities, and again the Department of Energy and Mines was not consulted.

Can you explain why the Department Energy and Mines was not consulted in the Coles Island study? Is this the quality and level of inter-departmental “consultation” and information gathering that we can expect in Stanley on this proposal for consolidation?

[Wendy Morrell](#) • 4 months ago

How will the proposed amalgamation of Stanley Elementary and Stanley Middle/High Schools improve the students academically and socially?

[Lawrence Wuest](#) • 4 months ago

Submission to the DEC of ASD-W regarding Superintendant Monitoring Report EL7

As the former community representative on the School Planning Committee for the 1992 renovations to the Stanley School Complex, I take extreme exception to the proposal by Anglophone School District West (ASD-W) to consolidate Stanley Elementary and Stanley High Schools. In its 1988/89 report, the planning committee strongly encouraged the architects to maintain the integrity and character of the individual schools in the Stanley School System.

The architectural team at Disher and Steen Architects did a superb job of translating that conceptual design into an educational space that overlapped in shared resources, but simultaneously maintained the individuality of the two existing schools. The design also maintained the school experience of students within those two unique environments. The current school was, intentionally and specifically, not designed as a K-12 school. The current proposal to consolidate these two schools flies in the face of that original community vision for the school. To be educationally sound, and to be "health and safety" sound, consolidation will necessarily require a considerable capital expenditure to redesign, reconfigure and reconstruct the administrative spaces of these two schools.

The consolidation study represents a needless waste of taxpayer money without a solid educational rationale.

Further on the economic side, it is difficult to conceive why Stanley has been singled out for cost cutting when ASD-W figures show that greater savings can be achieved elsewhere in the district.

In terms of use of the available functional capacity of the school, ASD-W reports that Stanley utilizes 52% of its functional capacity compared to a district average of 54%, with nearly 40% of the high schools and K-12 schools within ASD-W operating at a lower rate. Are we to have similar expensive studies on all schools in ASD-W with lower than average utilization of their functional capacity? I suspect not.

If the province and ASD-W are hoping to achieve some economic gain by the consolidation of the two Stanley Schools, a look at the current situation with respect to the costs of operating the schools in Stanley relative to the cost elsewhere in the province is informative.

The average cost per student of physically operating schools in ASD-W is \$548. The cost in Stanley is \$731, Central NB Academy \$916, and Carleton North \$916. With populations of 258, 206, and 556 respectively, these figures imply "subsidizations" relative to the \$548 norm of \$47,214 in Stanley, \$75,072 at the Central NB Academy and \$117,316 at Carleton North.

From the above figures, we see that schools larger, and schools smaller, than Stanley are subsidized to some extent relative to the district norms. Is ASD-W going to study cost cutting measures at all schools that are subsidized relative to the norm?

Certainly ASD-W's own figures show that bigger savings are likely achievable at other schools.

Section 6.4 of the document "Determining a School's Sustainability" includes "Consideration of future economic development in the area"

Is ASD-W and its District Education Council (DEC) aware of the multiple proposals for development within the Stanley catchment area, on which the government is spending MILLIONS of tax dollars to facilitate. Has ASD-W consulted with the Departments of Energy and Mines (E&E), Natural Resources (DNR), Environment (DELG), and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) before embarking on this expensive and ill-advised consolidation study? Those departments are spending millions to study and facilitate:

1. The Sisson Open-Pit Mine in the Upper Nashwaak, purported to bring 500 direct jobs during 2 year construction and 300 direct jobs for 27 years to the Stanley region
2. The SWN shale gas exploration lease covering most or all of the Stanley catchment area, purported to bring hundreds of jobs
3. The Energy East Pipeline, whose 15-20km run from Napadogan to Maple Grove Station to McGivney falls within the Stanley School catchment area, purported to bring hundreds of jobs for construction and maintenance.
4. The 4450 hectare new Protected Natural Area in the Upper Nashwaak, located about 10km north of Currieburg. This protected area will bring scientific study teams and new tourism possibilities to the area.

If any of the large industrial projects 1 to 3 above come to fruition, Stanley will see a significant increase in population. As the road access hub for workers on these projects to reach Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton, Stanley will see a substantial increase in social problems related to drugs, alcohol and prostitution; the CMOH has documented that these problems arise when massive development projects impact small communities. These social problems will inevitably be reflected in the school system. Is consolidation in the best educational interests of the students in the Stanley Complex given the likelihood of a marked increase in these social problems in the Stanley community and schools in the not too distant future?

I strongly encourage the ASD-W DEC to re-consider wasting taxpayer dollars on a consolidation study that is economically indefensible, runs counter to the long-standing community will, and is in contradiction to the millions being spent by other government departments on projects that will require a reversal of consolidation in the future if the educational interests of the students are to be paramount.

This is yet one more chapter in the long history of assaults on the educational system in the community of Stanley. I encourage the citizenry to stand up once again and say NO to this ill-advised and expensive study, hatched in the silos of the Department of Education, ASD-W and its DEC. I encourage all residents within the Stanley catchment area to submit their thoughts on this issue.

Thelma green • 4 months ago

I am very concerned about the possible loss of our Elementary School. I am helping a Grade 2 child with reading at present and am overwhelmed at what is involved with teaching a child to read despite having a bachelor's degree! Can the district assure the people of Stanley that their children will have qualified teachers for all Grade levels with this amalgamation?

[Thelma green](#) • 4 months ago

What will be the cost savings of amalgamating the two schools taking into consideration the cost of constructing a new central administration office?

[Wendy Morrell](#) • 4 months ago

Has the "unique" situation regarding Stanley Elementary/Middle/High Schools in any way contributed to inefficiencies in the operation of the schools(s)? If so, please explain in point form so I can advise our PSSC. Thank you.

[Thelma green](#) • 4 months ago

The Daily Gleaner has an article this morning on page A5 about the Coles Island School. In the article it describes the meeting schedule and agenda for each meeting. It states that where the real debate will occur is when the councillors take the information and talk among themselves and try to figure out what they should do!

My question is do the people of Stanley have any voice in this process?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

Policy 201 outlines conditions under which a principal may be assigned to more than 1 school. Sub-section 7.0 of this policy specifically states the criteria of more than 1 school in the same building.

Has this option been evaluated as an alternative to combining the two schools? Would there be any advantages to doing so?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

I know I have posted a lot of questions tonight. As a parent these are questions I am asking myself. I hope that you can provide answers. Otherwise, I am not sure how these concerns will be addressed. I know there will be a presentation of facts on Dec 4th however I am concerned that there will be so much information presented in such a short period of time that it will be impossible to take it all in or that my questions won't be addressed at all in the presentation. Any answers that can be provided ahead of time will be very much appreciated.

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

In 1992 Stanley High School and Stanley Elementary School were part of a major school renovation to join the two schools into one building but to have each school maintain its distinct individual identity. It allowed the schools to maintain a physical separation by having each operate in its own wing but share and more fully utilize resources such as the gym, cafeteria, lobby space and access to the public library. It was a win-win situation. It is possible the model we have in Stanley is one that other schools should follow.

Has there been any review done to see how our model stands up against the traditional model of separating Elementary, Middle and High School or against the K-12 Model?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

How do K-12 schools handle Student Council?

The Student Council at the High School in Stanley demonstrates (and helps develop) strong leadership

by the students. They carefully plan activities that engage grades 6-12 and, from what I have seen, are careful to include all members of the school. They have a special focus on school spirit. Planning activities that would include elementary students would be a challenge, but at the same time, if it is one school how could you exclude the elementary from school spirit activities? What are other schools doing?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

Are there any non-financial benefits to joining the schools? If so, in what areas?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

In what areas are economies expected if the schools combined? Have these economies been quantified? If yes, could you post the information to the documents area?

This will be important information for parents to know when trying to understand any benefits of joining the two schools.

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

Are the reported bullying stats higher in K-12 schools than in schools that are Elementary only or High School only?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

If the two schools combined would there be any reduction in FTE's?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

If the two schools combined would there be a reduction in the number of physical bodies in any areas (ie. Teachers, Administrators, Custodians, and so forth).

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

Of the 5 ASD-W schools that are K-12 how many were built or designed to be consolidated schools and took into account issues like safety and security of varied age ranges and location of administrative offices? How many were merged after being designed to operate as two schools in sharing one building?

[Nola Carr](#) • 4 months ago

If the two schools are joined into one K-12 school where will the administrative offices be located? How much will it cost to do the renovations to re-locate the office?

Our school was built so that the Elementary wing and the High School wing are separated by shared physical space: namely the public library, a lobby area, a gymnasium and a cafeteria. Any centralized location for the administrative offices would have to cut into these shared spaces which is of concern to me as they are all valuable to the school. If the office were not relocated one wing or the other would be very remote which causes me concern over safety (for example in the case of a code-red or a lockdown situation).

[David McT - Superintendent](#) • 4 months ago

To answer Corinne's questions specifically, a presentation of facts will occur at the Stanley High School on Thursday, December 4th at 6:30. If you look at the letter sent to parents (see attachment on this site), you will find some other details about the study. ASD-W has 5 schools that are K-12.

[Phyllis Van Dine-Humble](#) • 4 months ago

We have had one child graduate from SHS and our second child will graduate from an out of zone school. We welcomed the ability to allow our second child to attend a school that would better meet his academic, extra-curricular and social needs. Our first child chose to stay at SHS and enjoyed all the benefits of attending the local school. As far as the amalgamation of the Elementary and Middle/High Schools goes, I am sure there are both pros and cons. I am thinking that most teacher allocations are based on student population, so amalgamation will not change the number of students that attend either school. The interaction of the lower and upper grades will not change as the physical layout of the school will not change. There is a clear, physical separation of the schools in the building. However, the idea that there should not be any interaction between the older and young students is ludicrous, they all travel together on the bus. Actually, most of them are related (siblings, cousins, neighbours) and are in close proximity to each other outside of school. Maybe this closeness should be embraced and nurtured as a positive thing rather than a big no-no. I also think that there are many K-12 schools currently in existence in our province. I think specifically of Ecole Ste. Anne, Hartland Community School and many others. How do they manage to make it work? I think it comes down to a matter of how the administration will be organized to manage a K-12 school. And the answer to that seems simple - look to other K-12 schools with similar school populations and demographics and examine how they are able to make things work.

[Corinne Serroul-Arseneau](#) • 4 months ago

I have 2 children in high school who are both now attending an out of zone school. I have read several comments on other forums where it has been suggested this practice not be allowed. I respect the decision of any parent who chooses to remain in a school and ask that you consider doing the same for those of us who have made another decision after much thought and for many reasons you may not have considered. In my opinion, our decision to educate our children in a manner we see fit should not be jeopardized in order that you be able to make the decision of your choice.

Having said that, if the declining enrollment is such that streamlining administration and staff is necessary in order to allow the Stanley school to stay open then I see this as a good thing. However, when will the community be provided with factual information to be able to discuss this issue from more than an emotional viewpoint? For example, what is the current enrollment compared to capacity? What will consolidating the two schools mean both financially and from a services provided stand point? What will the administrative and staff structure look like. What will the physical structure look like - referring to the excellent point made about how will a student in elementary school access an office without interacting with high school students?

What are options for the future? Should Stanley grow in school population will there have been physical changes to the school that will over tax the proposed consolidation of services - whatever they may be? It seems we are being asked to discuss an issue for which there is not enough information to have an informed discussion.

[Mandy Mackinnon](#) • 4 months ago

My husband and I both graduated from SHS, and all 3 of our children completed K-12 in Stanley, with the youngest graduating in 2014. While our family is not directly impacted by this decision, we are watching the situation closely as we know what a school closure will mean for families in our community, and for the community as a whole. Has anyone asked what the benefits of amalgamation into one K-12 school might be? Are there any "best practices" or "success stories" that other K-12 schools in NB could share with the staff and the public? Would consolidation make the school stronger, more economical to run, and less likely to be considered for closure in the near future? We can all name a million reasons why we don't want this school to close, and how a closure would be a hardship for our little people. I fully recognize that our numbers are dwindling; Stanley is suffering the same out-migration that rural communities all across the province are experiencing. I can't help but feel that the next steps being taken will be critical to the future of our school and our community. I hope that we can stay strong and stand together.

[David McT, Superintendent](#) • 4 months ago

Thanks, Thelma and Paula, for your comments. This is what this discussion board is all about.

Paula Thomas • 4 months ago

I do not see that there will be much change from the students point of view, the school is laid out to give each age their own space and this will not likely change. This is a matter of budge, so to keep a school with a small number of pupils open things need to change...this doesn't mean putting all ages together in the halls or cafeteria. We need to accept a little change if we want to keep our kids home in their own community and keep our school (which was only renovated in 1993) open.

[Thelma green](#) • 4 months ago

I can't believe this is being discussed again!

I had two children who went to the Elementary school and then the Middle and High school. The year prior to my daughter entering Elementary school there were two separate schools on the site. When I think back to their Elementary years I can remember being very nervous that my little 5 year old would be in the same school as a 17, 18 or even 19 year old. I was assured that there would be no contact with these older students and that the Elementary students even enter the school through a different door than the middle and high school students. What will happen if it is one school? Will a Grade 1 student have to find their way up to the office where the high school students are?

I understand that there is declining enrollment in the school and that the province is looking for ways to cut costs but if the department of education did not allow students to be taken to schools out of the area the school would likely have a higher enrollment.

Parents have a perception that their child cannot get a quality education in a rural school. This is simply not true. Both of my children went on to University and were successful.