



## SUMMARY OF POLICY 409 CONSULTATIONS

### St. John the Baptist/King Edward School

### SEPTEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

Meeting Date & School Name	Numbers Attending	Questions
<p>St. Joh the Baptist/King Edward October 12, 2017</p>	<p>30 Community members Principal &amp; Vice Principal 8 DEC members 4 District Staff</p>	<p>DEC Chair welcomed all in attendance and provided information on the Policy 409 process, including: school sustainability and triggers, New Brunswick’s rapidly declining enrolment; our aging infrastructure; the Ernst &amp; Young report “options” vs recommendations. He talked about last year’s process and how we got to these new “options”. He reviewed four potential scenarios that were considered by Ernst &amp; Young and the one supported by DEC which was Phase 1 – to build a new K-8 school to replace St. John the Baptist/King Edward and Prince Charles. He explained that the remaining options would be discussed over time. He noted that this study was paid for by the Department of Education and Early Childhood. He advised that the DEC decision would ultimately need Ministerial approval, is long term planning and likely four years out if approved.</p> <p>District staff provided information including: quick facts about our district; ASD-S historical enrolment (22% drop in 15 years) and in Saint John Education Centre a 27% drop in 15 years; the age of our schools; functional capacity; school boundaries for both schools; limitations within the schools i.e. no green space, 69 years old, limited parking, etc.; the eight factors that determine a school’s sustainability which the DEC will consider.</p> <p>Slides were reviewed on staffing; operating expenses; transportation; key community and PALS partners, and capital improvements required and those completed in the last five years and businesses located in and/or supporting the school community.</p> <p>DEC Chair then called for any questions.</p> <p>Questions/concerns raised included: “where” the school would be built to which he explained that</p>



## SUMMARY OF POLICY 409 CONSULTATIONS

### St. John the Baptist/King Edward School

### SEPTEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

		<p>the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure would make that decision. They would need to find sufficient land to build on but the DEC will recommend that it be built in a central location to the two schools. He advised that he met with the City of Saint John and they are eager to help find the right spot.</p> <p>The Chair spoke about 19 new schools built in the last ten years in NB and that ASD-S, the largest district in the province, has only had two. He believes all of our students, including those in our priority neighbourhoods, deserve new buildings. He suggested that the District could provide a tour of the new elementary school (Seaside Park) for anyone who might be interested to take a look at all a new school has to offer.</p> <p>The Chair explained the Ernst &amp; Young report will be posted on the ASD-S website and information was given on how to submit feedback to the DEC - via email or regular mail. The date of the second meeting was given.</p>
<p>St. John the Baptist/King Edward November 21, 2017</p>	<p>28 Community members plus Principal and Vice Principal 9 DEC members 3 District staff</p>	<p>DEC Chair welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled 409 sustainability review for St. John the Baptist/King Edward. An explanation was given for the purpose of the meeting; to receive feedback on the proposed option for the school.</p> <p>Two scheduled speakers expressed their opinions on the proposed plans for St. John the Baptist/King Edward. The floor was then opened for further comments after the two submissions were heard. Two non-scheduled speakers followed the presentations.</p> <p>The following comments and opinions are grouped based on the eight categories below identified within Policy 409.</p>



## SUMMARY OF POLICY 409 CONSULTATIONS

### St. John the Baptist/King Edward School

### SEPTEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

	<p><b>Enrolment:</b> ASD-S historical enrolment data shows a 22% drop in the last 15 years (6,445 students) and in the Saint John Education a 27% drop over the same time period (3,459 students). St. John the Baptist/King Edward enrolment has been fairly consistent - 240 in 2016 which is a drop of 15 students since 2000, or 5.9%.</p> <p>Speakers felt that the DEC listened and heard them last year. One speaker noted that the first choice for a site would be an addition to the school.</p> <p>One speaker noted that St. John the Baptist/King Edward has not seen the decline in enrolment that other schools have. She noted that Saint John has been lacking in new infrastructure – the exception being Seaside Park which they toured – WOW! Gave them the ability to dream of what might be for their students.</p> <p><b>Health and Safety:</b> St. John the Baptist/King Edward school consists of two sections, with the Diocese owning St. John the Baptist and the province owning King Edward. The school was built in 1948 (69 years old) and an addition was added in 1960 (St. John the Baptist). There is no green space at the school and parking is limited. There are outstanding capital improvements required on both sides of the school. Estimates are in the range of \$775,000 for King Edward, and it is noted that St. John the Baptist will require window replacements and new roofing. It was noted that the building electrical has been updated at a cost of \$187,500 within the last five years.</p> <p>It was noted by one speaker that there is a need for wheelchair accessibility in one area and that both schools are in a location with very busy roads.</p> <p>One speaker was concerned about food security and the need for good snacks and nutritious foods. She suggested that a cafeteria run by an outside agency is not going to be able to provide food</p>
--	---



## SUMMARY OF POLICY 409 CONSULTATIONS

### St. John the Baptist/King Edward School

### SEPTEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

	<p>families can afford. It has to be a community school.</p> <p><b>Quality of Programs:</b> Both schools offer strong education programs. The middle school numbers in both schools are small (96), so combining them would be positive for programming. Our experience has been that community partners will follow students when schools are closed.</p> <p>The school houses an Early Learning Centre, YMCA and Boys and Girls Club program.</p> <p>Speakers noted the requirements to close the achievement gap – one being an Early Learning Centre to prepare children and their families for kindergarten. The second is additional staff and the third is family engagement and community partnerships. The school is the hub. They are a community school – they educate children and their parents.</p> <p>All speakers love St. John the Baptist/King Edward School. They spoke about an amazing principal and staff - always thinking outside the box – they are experts in developing programs for students and issues are addressed quickly. Many home situations carry over into the school day – many students arrive hungry and angry – and having break out spaces (as at Seaside Park) would be good. They hope to have some feedback into the design of a new school.</p> <p>They spoke of a delicious nutrition program – students take pride in their lunch program. They have a state of the art kitchen which was donated by the school community.</p> <p><b>Transportation:</b> There are currently 240 K-8 students at St. John the Baptist/King Edward. 5 take the bus. Average distance from the school for all students is 400 meters and for bused students it is 1.01 km. Average time on the bus for riders is 7 minutes – special needs busing only. Currently</p>
--	---



## SUMMARY OF POLICY 409 CONSULTATIONS

### St. John the Baptist/King Edward School

### SEPTEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

	<p>there are two buses serving this school and the entire zone is within 1.5 km.</p> <p>The boundaries of both Prince Charles and St. John the Baptist/King Edward border on each other and can easily be combined for transportation purposes.</p> <p>One speaker noted that if the school is located within the proximity of both schools, transportation would be minimal, and for special needs children.</p> <p><b>Finances:</b> As noted in the District's power point presentation, there are currently 45.46 full time equivalents staffing the school. The total yearly operating costs are \$2,919,629. There could be savings in operating expenses and some in salaries. Future capital repair costs would be avoided.</p> <p>One speaker noted that there was not a great impact on staffing on the west side (Seaside Park) and that maintenance would be minimal and the building would not have two owners.</p> <p><b>Community Impact:</b> The expectation would be that a new K-8 school with up-to-date facilities would be a huge benefit to the local community and may draw more families with young children to the city centre.</p> <p>One speaker noted that a new school will bring new families and that their school has a good model in place. "If you build it, we will come!" "We will unite and we will thrive!"</p> <p>One speaker noted that a new school is a once in a generation opportunity and wants to see a mix of incomes in our school. They want to see community schools. The presence of an Early Learning Centre is a model that should be replicated across NB. This is an amazing opportunity and it is wonderful to see the DEC and community working in partnership.</p>
--	---



## SUMMARY OF POLICY 409 CONSULTATIONS

### St. John the Baptist/King Edward School

### SEPTEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018

		<p>Another speaker noted that the location of the new school is of major importance. It needs to be in a prime location so that parents and students can get to it. It needs to be within walking distance or else we will need shuttles and free transportation. Space is needed for an Early Learning Centre as well as other organizations and professionals to come in, the ELF program, etc.</p> <p>One speaker told of friends who are moving out of the city because of the schools and perceptions; the community has the potential here.</p> <p><b>Impact on other schools:</b> St. John the Baptist/King Edward School and Prince Charles School will be closed. No other impact noted on surrounding schools.</p> <p><b>Economic Development:</b> If a new school is able to draw in new families, it would have a positive economic impact on the Saint John city centre area.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the DEC plan fits with Living SJ and Plan SJ and this is a message we need to get to Fredericton – right away.</p>
--	--	---