



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sustainability Study Kingsclear Consolidated School



Executive Summary

May 4, 2017

Executive Summary

- Sustainability study for Kingsclear Consolidated School was initiated by a motion of the District Education Council (DEC) on January 26, 2017, at the regularly scheduled public DEC meeting.
- Council, Superintendent and relevant staff coordinated the study that followed the process as outlined in Provincial Policy 409: Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning, Sections 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6.
- Process included three public meetings, formal correspondence with parents, communications with district staff, opportunities to meet with stakeholders, electronic communication, and an overall willingness to share information publically throughout the study.



- Public meetings were attended by DEC and the Councilors also spent time with staff to learn more about the school scenario. The DEC had access to relevant documentation.
- Public consultation and communications were respectful throughout the study and stakeholders from the community were engaged in the process.



- Three possible outcomes were described to those who participated in the study, including the possibility of:
 - A DEC vote for Status Quo
 - A DEC vote to recommend investment in the school to repair it
 - A DEC vote to recommend closing the school and moving the students to another location for their schooling
- Recommendations from above would go to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for approval based on procedural fairness.
- If there was a vote to recommend closure of the school, it was understood that the options included:
 - Close and move students to a new school in Hanwell if and when it is built.
 - Close in June 2018.
 - Close in June 2017.



Public Consultation and Application of Procedural Fairness

- Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development was informed of the intention to study Kingsclear Consolidated School in writing on January 27, 2017.
- Superintendent wrote formally to parents of Kingsclear Consolidated School six times between January 2017 and May 2017; the duration of the study. These letters kept the parent population and others stakeholders apprised of the study process.
- A formal timeline was also provided to the parent population and stakeholders.



- Each of these documents are available publically and are a part of the final report (submitted to the Minister if Status Quo is not the outcome).
- Documentation (requested and otherwise developed) that provided relevant information about Kingsclear Consolidated School (and some neighbouring schools) was shared publically. A number of these documents are part of the final report.
- Documents were used as a basis for study by DEC members and as a catalyst for conversation.



Public Meeting #1

- First public meeting in this study was held at Kingsclear Consolidated School on March 2, 2017. Approximately 35 members of the community attended.
- Superintendent presented the sustainability study process as well as pertinent information as outlined in Section 6.4.4 of Policy 409.
- This presentation, an agenda and notes for the meeting were made public through a district webpage dedicated to the study.



Public Meeting #1

Enrolment

- September 30, 2016, enrolment of Kingsclear Consolidated School is listed at 68 students. These students make up 5 classes (K-5).
 - Garden Creek School has 297 students.
- Enrolment at Kingclear Consolidated School is projected to decline.
- Projected enrolment at Garden Creek School in 2017-18, with Kingsclear Consolidated School students, is 342.
- Projected enrolment for the proposed new school in Hanwell, if opened in 2022, is 500, including students from Kingsclear Consolidated.



Public Meeting #1

Functional Capacity

- Current functional capacity rating for Kingsclear Consolidated School is 40.5%.
- Functional capacity rating for Garden Creek School is currently 82.5%.
- Based on enrolment projections for 2017-18, the functional capacity at Garden Creek School, with the addition of Kingsclear Consolidated School students, would be 95% (89.06% with 1 modular classroom).
- If a move were to occur in 2017-18, there would be a need for 18 classrooms at Garden Creek (currently 15 & 1 modular classroom).



Public Meeting #1 Building Summary

- Built in 1950.
- Building is safe and in acceptable condition, with varying levels of conditions for specific parts of the building.
- \$2.3 million estimated for capital improvement projects, including big-ticket items such as a flooring, ventilation system and a lift.
- 13 capital improvement projects listed, with one being a priority-1, four being a priority-2 and eight being a priority-3.
 - Priority-1 is considered most urgent.



Public Meeting #1

Educational Programs & Services

- Kingsclear Consolidated School has performed well in the provincial Grade 2 Reading Assessment, sitting at 84.2% appropriate level or above in 2015-16.
- In each of the past 5 years, Kingsclear Consolidated has performed above the district and provincial average, including a score of 100% successful in 2012-13.
- Many extracurricular activities supported by teachers include multi-age learning approaches, athletic and academic clubs, drama and heritage fair.
- There is a professional and quality staff and administration at Kingsclear Consolidated School that serves student learning very well.



- Class sizes are small and the student-teacher ratio is 10:1.
- There is not a full-sized gymnasium.
- Many extra opportunities are available to the students with thanks to innovative staff and support from the community.
- Students and parents provided testimonials that were read at Public Consultation Meeting #2.



Public Meeting #1 Transportation

- A move to Garden Creek would require an extra 9 minutes on the bus, for most.
- Longest drive would be approximately 53 minutes (currently 44 minutes in to school and 28 minutes out to home), with an earliest pick-up of 7:00AM (currently 7:08AM) and a latest drop-off of 4:15PM (currently 4:04PM).
- Average bus ride would be 29 minutes.



- A move to the new school proposed for Hanwell is estimated to require an extra 11 minutes on the bus, for most.
- Longest drive would be approximately 55 minutes (currently 44 minutes in to school and 28 minutes out to home), with an earliest pick-up of 7:00AM (currently 7:08AM) and a latest drop-off of 4:15PM (currently 4:04PM).
- Average bus ride would be 31 minutes.
- For estimation purposes, the central part of Hanwell was used as a location for the proposed school.



Public Meeting #1

Finances

- Kingsclear Consolidated School operational costs are estimated at \$25.87 per square metre (average is \$29.20 for elementary schools) and \$393.88 per student (average is \$480.35 per student).
 - Source: 2016 District Multi-Year School Infrastructure Proposal
- Projected savings should Kingsclear Consolidated move to Garden Creek would be slightly less than \$300,000 annually, with a one time capital avoidance of \$2.3 million and no real one time cost anticipated.
- It is noted that these projections included enrolment as is (with the out of catchment students) and for priority 1, 2 and 3 capital projects.



Public Meeting #1

Impact on Local Community

- A move to another school might require further travel for parents with respect to their involvement in the school.
- Close community ties between the school and local service groups. A strong sense of community in relation to the school is evident.
- Slight loss in employment opportunities within the school system within the community; tenured district employees would be placed elsewhere.
- Future of vacant building would be unknown and could have a positive or negative impact on the community.
- An interest in development of land in the neighbourhood of the school has been expressed.
- Potential of new families moving to the area as a result of the Mactaquac Live Achievement Project was presented.



Public Meeting #1

Impact on Other Schools

- Garden Creek School could welcome Kingsclear Consolidated students seamlessly and with open arms; 18 students from the Kingsclear Consolidated catchment area currently attend Garden Creek School already.
- Garden Creek School would require three additional modular class rooms to accommodate new students from Kingsclear Consolidated School.
 - One modular class room scheduled at this time.
- At Garden Creek School, there are professional and caring staff who would help ease any transition that may occur.



Public Meeting #2

- Second public meeting in this study was held at Kingsclear Consolidated School on April 4, 2017. Approximately 30 members of the community attended.
- Leadership from the PSSC and the community presented to the public, district staff and the DEC. These presentations touched on the criteria outlined in Policy 409.
- Student and parent testimonials in support of the status quo were presented. In fact, the overall theme of the evening was to encourage a vote for status quo.



- Major concerns centred around loss of the school as part of the community, increased time on the bus, loss of small class sizes and loss of the opportunity to learn in their own community elementary school.
- Presentations also focused on the many successes at the school, including strong academic results, good community relationships and a building that was in satisfactory condition.
- These presentations, an agenda and notes for the meeting were made public through a district website section dedicated to the study. They are all included in the final report.



Opportunities to Engage

- Stakeholders within the community were engaged in a variety of ways.
- PSSC leadership played an active role in communication with the district and organization of relevant feedback to district staff and the Council.
- Online discussion board was available and regularly monitored; a transcript of the conversation is included in the final report. The discussion board was located on an active website specific to the study and home to the relevant documentation now taking shape in the form of a final report. This report will remain public.
- Letters, emails and phone calls were also suitable means of communication outside the public meetings.
- Superintendent met with PSSC early in the process as a part of engagement in the study.



Public Meeting #3

- Third public meeting in this study is being held at Fredericton High School tonight (May 4, 2017). Approximately 11 members of the community are present.
- This presentation serves as an executive summary and closing comments leading up to discussion by Council and a subsequent motion and vote on the study.
- This presentation and an agenda will be included on our district website section dedicated to the study. They will all be included in the final report. The official minutes for the meeting and an audio file of the meeting will be made public. The minutes from this meeting will be sent to the Minister, as required and once approved.
- Chair will write to Minister Brian Kenny with the motion and indicating status quo if voting for option 1, or
- Chair will write to Minister Kenny with the motion, the recommendation and the accompanying information package if voting for Option 2 (Requesting Investment for Repairs) or Option 3 (Requesting Approval for Closure).
- Superintendent will write to the Parents/Guardians of the students at Kingsclear Consolidated School with the conclusion of the study.



DEC Reflections & Considerations

- DEC members took time to review documents and ask many questions of the Superintendent.
- DEC held a working session to continue the conversations and reflect on the information.
- At its public meeting on April 20, 2017, the DEC passed two motions in relation to the sustainability study. The motions provided an indication that the DEC is not contemplating closure of Kingsclear Consolidated School at the end of June 2017 or June 2018.
- Input received during the sustainability is greatly appreciated and has been extremely valuable.



Minister's Responsibilities

- If a closure is recommended by the DEC, Minister Kenny will review the report and assess it for procedural fairness.
- Minister will need to reach a conclusion on the recommendation in a time frame of no less than 30 days and no longer than 60 days, as per Policy 409.
- Upon confirmation of the conclusion from the Minister, the Superintendent will write to the parents/guardians and staff at Kingsclear Consolidated School.

