



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1135 Prospect Street • Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3B9 • www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca

January 23, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at Bath Middle School and Bath Elementary School,

On October 23, 2014, the Anglophone West School District Education Council (ASD-W DEC) voted in favor of engaging a sustainability study of Bath Middle School, under the process outlined in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Provincial Policy 409: *Multi-Year Infrastructure Planning*. This policy serves as a foundation for determining the sustainability of a school, taking into account many aspects, such as:

Enrolment	Health and Safety	Quality Education and Services
Transportation	Impact on Community	Finances
Economic Development	Impact on Other Schools	

At the end of the study, the DEC must reach a conclusion under one of three categories:

1. Maintain the status quo at Bath Middle School.
2. Recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that the Province invest significant dollars into the infrastructure/programming at Bath Middle School.
3. Recommend to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development that he close Bath Middle School and move students to another school for their continued education.

While the DEC has begun the study, an interpretation of Policy 409 has called for a **change in scope and timeline**. It was determined that if the DEC voted in favor of Option #3 and recommended that Bath Middle School close to allow the creation of a K-8 school in the Community of Bath, then the location would need to be the Bath Elementary building. All would agree, however, that should a K-8 school be the final result, the best option would be for it to be in the Bath Middle School facility as opposed to the elementary facility. For this to be an option, the sustainability study needs to include Bath Elementary School.

The sustainability study follows a process that includes three public meetings. The first public meeting for Bath Middle School was held on **Thursday, December 11, 2014**. The slides from that night are posted on our web site. This presentation shared facts about Bath Middle School in line with, but not limited to, the categories above. The second public meeting, as per the policy, was to occur on **Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 6:30 pm**. This meeting was to allow for interested individuals, stakeholders and parties to present information to be considered in the decision-making process. With the change in scope of the study, the Council has now asked for the **agenda of this meeting to change, although the date and time will still remain**. The new plan for this meeting is to allow time for a second "Public Meeting #1", giving the district an opportunity to gather and organize information that will be presented about Bath Elementary School. The format of the meeting will be very similar to the December 11th meeting. We will also inform affected persons (beyond parents) through a public notice.

In the near future, dates will be provided for the official "Public Meeting #2" (stakeholder presentations to the DEC and public) and "Public Meeting #3" (vote by the DEC on decision from the study). The change in scope of this study does not preclude a final decision being made at this time. The process will continue and a final decision will not be made until the end of the study.

Policy 409 can be found by going to the Government of New Brunswick web site (www.gnb.ca) and choosing the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development site under "Departments". Under the title "Information", you can choose "Policies", and this will bring you to a selection of policies, including Policy 409. The direct link to the policy is: <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/policies.asp>.

Alternatively, you can visit our District web site (www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca), where we will maintain a current section with respect to the sustainability study. Related public information will also be posted there, including letters such as these. A public discussion board will also be available for respectful, constructive comments on the study.

Safety and quality education remain a priority for your children.

Sincerely,

David McTimoney
Superintendent