

ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sustainability Study – Meeting # 1
McAdam Avenue School
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, September 25, 2018
6:30 p.m.

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Adams – SD 01 • Andrew Corey – SD 05 • Stephanie Haslam – SD 06 • Terry Pond – SD 07 • Sean Winslow – SD 08 • Jane Buckley – SD 09 – Vice Chair • Kimberley Douglas – SD 10 – Chair • Faith Kennedy – SD 11 <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Saunders – SD 02 • Heather Hogan – SD 03 • Miriam Grant – SD 04 • Wallace Carr – SD 12 • Mark Noël – SD 13 • David Perley – First Nations 	<p>ASD-W Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Blaney, Acting Superintendent • Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and DEC • Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration • Wayne Annis, Director of Schools – FEC • Judy Cole, Director of Communication • Sue Young, Supervisor of Data and Accountability • Angus Smith, Facilities Manager • Nadine Peters, Assistant Facilities Manager • Wendell Dempsey, IT Support <p>Guests: Approximately 30 Community Members</p>
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➤ **Sustainability Study – McAdam Avenue School – Meeting #1**

- Kimberley Douglass, District Education Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the first Sustainability Study public meeting for McAdam Avenue School. Kimberley thanked the Principal and staff of McAdam Avenue School for their hospitality and tour of the school prior to the meeting.
- Catherine Blaney, Acting Superintendent of ASD-W presented a 39 page power point presentation called McAdam Avenue School Sustainability Study. This presentation can be found along with other pertinent documents and information related to the Sustainability Study. This presentation along with other documents supporting this study can be found on our website <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/sustainability/Pages/McAdamAvenue.aspx>
- The District Education Council (DEC) introduced themselves and they provided the area in which they serve as a Councillor.
- The next public meeting at McAdam Avenue School will be held on **Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.** At that time, stakeholders will be given an opportunity to present to the DEC. A stakeholder registration form is posted on the Anglophone West School District website under McAdam Avenue Elementary Sustainability Study. This document needs to be completed and sent to Carol Clark-Caterini one week prior to that meeting to present to the Council. The final meeting will be on **Thursday, January 24, 2019** at Fredericton High School, Tom Morrison Theatre.
- Three outcomes included in Policy 409 are to remain status quo (where the study is declared finished), to make a recommendation to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to invest in repairs for the school, and thirdly, a recommendation to build a new school and close McAdam Avenue School and combine with Nashwaaksis Memorial School for students continued education.

➤ **Public Comments and Questions**

- Is it accurate that a new school would have a capacity to hold 500 students, and if so, with a combination of both school enrollments approximately 441 students would be enrolled which would be a functional capacity of approximately 90%. Earlier Shawn recommended a lower functional capacity of between 60% and 80% as being ideal which would put us in the same situation as Gibson Neill Memorial Elementary School. Shawn responded that economic growth studies had been done at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and at this time, this is the recommended size of a new school with a potential of another school being built in the Killnarey Lake area to support this area’s economic growth.
- Does ASD-W know the timeline for a new school to be built if the Province of NB decides to close McAdam Avenue School and combine students with Nashwaaksis Memorial School students? Also could students remain in their current schools until a new school is built? At this time, we are at the beginning stages of studying four schools in the city of Fredericton to determine if new schools are needed. To answer the second part of your question, depending on the location of a new school would determine if students could remain in their current schools.
- It was asked if the economic impact on the community and clarification on the meaning of “....but in a scenario of building a new school would negate any negative impact” from page 18. It was explained that in some rural communities, the school is their main facility that supports small businesses. Therefore, the closure of a school would greatly impact the economic growth of a community, and be considered a negative impact on the community. This would not be the case in a city school. Shawn disclosed

that available space for government to consider purchasing was known and these locations would not have a negative impact on the community as the students would not be leaving the area.

- It was asked the functional capacity rate for Royal Road Elementary School (RRES) and Nashwaaksis Memorial School (NMS). Shawn reported that RRES was build for 480 students and currently have 332 students enrolled. Their functional capacity rate is 77.5% with an optimal amount being between 60% – 80% capacity. NMS is currently at 103.3% functional capacity rate where modular classrooms were needed to support the high functional capacity rate.
- The catchment area for NMS was asked and also if McAdam Avenue students would need to be bussed to a new school. Shawn confirmed that the catchment area for NMS is the Brookside Drive area leading into the city and the community surrounding the school. Depending on the location of a new school, McAdam Avenue students if needing to be bussed would only be a 2 – 3 minutes bus ride.
- It was asked if the future growth of the Northside of the city had been considered when building a new school. Shawn confirmed that a study was completed for the Northside by district staff last year. Based on the growth shown, there was a potential for another new school to be built in the Killarney Lake area which was captured in the study.
- It was asked if French Immersion students could be brought back to McAdam Avenue School from NMS as their population is large and they have exceeded their functional capacity for the school. This would then increase the enrollment at McAdam Avenue School. Shawn explained that this had been considered but advised that this would work for a while but as the students cycled through the grades, modulars would then be needed at McAdam Avenue School, therefore, a new facility was recommended rather than adding to an aging building. A new school would allow the French Immersion program for all students.
- Could re-zoning be considered for students who are not in the current McAdam Avenue School catchment area? Shawn advised that the school does not have busing cost at this time as all students walk to school. It is unknown the cost of transportation as it would depend on the distance and location of students needing to travel by bus.
- The closing of Douglass School was referenced and if catchment areas were changed there would have been no disrupted children. Also, why did the students from the Douglass School be assignd to RRES? It was noted that a level of complexity was added when staffing for French Immersion programs, as it depends on enrollment numbers, and you may or may not be able to establish a classroom. In addition, school districts in the Province had been challenged in finding qualified French Immersion Teachers.
- It was asked if a French Immersion class could be brought back to McAdam Avenue School from NMS. In response, it is our goal to focus on moving students to populated schools but not to a school that needs supported and grown. A discussion was had on how to better utilize the current space and how to maximize the output of the school.
- It was asked if consideration was given to add to the current schools. It was noted that this would be Option #2 of the three possible outcomes from this sustainability study. School repairs would need to meet the Ed. Specifications for today with the cost of a new building being the threshold.
- What is the cost of a new school with 500 students? Shawn confirmed that this cost would be approximately 23 million. The community expressed their interest in saving money and to invest in the current school. Chairperson Douglass added that the Council had not made any decisions yet on building a new school and that there was 4 new schools in the city to consider.
- It was asked if disclosure could be given of the Government owned land in the area. Shawn confirmed that there were 3 or 4 places that could be considered.
- Was consideration for bussing given to a new school build? Shawn confirmed that bussing was not considered at this time.
- Shawn confirmed that asbestos was found in the current building tiles. However, the district maintains a database of where asbestos is located in the building and if a tile comes loose, it is immedietly dealt with. When upgrading a current older structure, asbestos needs to be considered.
- It was noted that a new school located in another area would diminish property values in this area but increase properties in another area. It was advised that this was the information that needs to be presented to the Council at the 2nd meeting.

➤ **Closing Comments:**

- The Acting Superintendent reminded the community to be prepared for the next public meeting on October 25th by completing the stakeholder registration form available at the entrance of the school or on the ASD-W McAdam Avenue Sustainability Study website. Once completed, this document needs to be submitted to carol.clark-caterini@gnb.ca one week in advance of the meeting with details of who will be presenting to the District Education Council.
- The Superintendent's power point presentation was posted to the McAdam Avenue School Sustainability Study website that evening along with other pertinent documents for review. An e-mail address, asdwsustainability@nbed.nb.ca was provide for communication with the district along with the mailing address and contact phone number.
- Catherine Blaney thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their questions and comments.

➤ **Date for Next Meeting: Thursday, October 25, 2018 – McAdam Avenue Elementary School - Meeting # 2**

➤ **The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**