

Bugle Observer

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CITY HALL

## Town to lobby for proposed K-8 school



## Doug Dickinson | Bugle Observer

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Florenceville-Bristol town staff will keep the conversation going about the need for a new kindergarten to grade eight school in the community.

At the June 9 council meeting, Sarah Pacey, chief administrative officer, brought up the recent recommendation from the school district to close area schools and open a new K-8 school.

Pacey said she wanted to ask council what the next steps should be and whether she should speak to the district superintendent.

“Are you interested in having a committee or how would you like to go forward from here, so we continue to lobby for what we are looking for in town?” Pacey asked.

Deputy Mayor Nancy Whyte-McCauley said it is important to keep the conversation going, and added that Pacey is the right person to do that.

Mayor Karl Curtis told the Bugle Observer now that Anglophone West District Education Council recommendation has been made, it is up to the town to lobby for the project.

“Knowing it is a recommendation to the province, the province can either act on that or say ‘no that’s not going to happen,’” he said.

“Now what we need to do is we need to lobby the Department of Education. You have to lobby government, because you can’t just go to the school district. You have to go to the Department of Education and lobby to ensure that they agree with this and commit to doing this in whatever time frame.”

He said council doesn't want to see the proposal "die at the recommendation level."

"We want to make sure - we are now number four on the priority list - that we stay there and the government commits to proceeding with this," said Curtis. "As far as what the DEC has done so far, it's a recommendation. That's all it is."