

ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
Nackawic Elementary School
Sustainability Study Meeting #2 Notes
Thursday, January 7, 2016

<p>Council Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Gallagher – SD 01 • John Slipp – SD 03 • Miriam Grant – SD 04 • Andrew Corey – SD 05 • David Bowen – SD 06 • Terry Pond – SD 07 • Ron Buck – SD 08 • Jane Buckley – SD 09 • Kimberley Douglas – SD 10 – Vice Chair • Donald Gould – SD 11 • Elizabeth Nason – SD 12 • Mark Noël – SD 13 – Chair • Tim Nicholas – First Nations <p>Council Member Regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norma Shaw – SD 02 	<p>ASD-W Staff Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David McTimoney, Superintendent • Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance and Administration • Jay Colpitts, Director of Schools, WEC • Carol Lunn, Assistant Transportation Manager • Philip Cliff, Facilities Manager • Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and DEC Secretary <p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Media • Approximately 131 Community Members
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- Mark Noël welcomed everyone to the meeting and he introduced the Nackawic Elementary School Choir as the first to present at the meeting.
- Nackawic Elementary School Choir performed “We Can Make a Difference” as an opening song and a short video about the Town of Nackawic was shown.
- Greg MacFarlane, Nackawic Middle School PSSC Chair presented a power point presentation outlining all of Policy 409 requirements to support a Sustainability Study. Mr. MacFarlane asked why the three Nackawic Schools were involved in the Sustainability Study as he presented the Nackawic Middle School’s enrollment, parent feedback, quality of education, student engagement, community connections, the impact on the community, facilities, transportation, capital improvements, economic development and the impact a school closure would have on the community. Mr. MacIntyre reported that currently students have a good quality of education with the three Nackawic schools and the Middle School Math Assessment have proven to be higher than urban schools. If a school is closed, the impact on the business community will be a great financial loss including the reciprocal agreement revenue that will no longer be generated.
- Amelia McFarlane, Grade 9 student spoke of the positive student engagement shown at the three Nackawic Schools. Student participation and hard work has brought home several awards from various sporting accomplishments and heritage wins along with several other extra-curricular accomplishments. The “Tell Them From Me” Survey allowed students to respond to questions such as; are they active in the life of school, their involvement in sports and extra-curricular activities, do they feel a sense of belonging in their school, has there been an increase in academic motivation and the learning climate of their school. All collected scores from students have exceeded 70% of positive comments and 89% of students feel safe when attending their Nackawic School. The community connections has been shown in many areas with one being an active cross country ski program where 36 pairs of boots and skis have been donated.

- Mr. MacFarlane continued with the impact a closure would have on the remaining combined Nackawic Elementary, Millville Elementary and Nackawic Middle School; the strain on the facility with only one K-8 gymnasium and cafeteria. Also the loss of a teaching theatre, wood shop, art room, eco classroom, and music room. Health care is a concern with childhood obesity rates being the highest in North America, chronic disease is one of the highest, and our government spends 50% of the fiscal budget on health with 28% of children in the Province of NB considered to be obese. Exercise has many positive impacts on physical and mental health along with their diet. Nackawic Middle School had a 19% obesity rate. With reduce gym class time, this loss will have a significant impact on Nackawic students.
- A recommendation was made for all three schools to remain status quo as students continue to receive superior education, great opportunities (shop, sewing/cooking, technology), and adequate space for all students in the building. Health concerns are currently being addressed with adequate physical education time. In addition to this, the economic development with AV Nackawic Corporation, Sisson Mines, NB Power - Mactaquac project are all important factors to consider before making such an important decision. Nackawic Middle School is Excited, Involved and Prepared and they want to invest in their children's future by keeping schools status quo.
- Students from Nackawic Middle School outlined several reasons for the school to remain open. Kasee Moreau outlined her reasons from the generous outside space to the revenue generated from the basement rental. Emily Fox, Grade 8 student at Nackawic Middle School addressed the DEC who will decide to keep a K-5 school or combine a K-8 school. Equipment will be lost and an increase in bullying could happen with younger and older students combined. This adjustment could cause confusion for students and numerous changes would be needed. Madison Currie referenced the overcrowding at Leo Hayes High School. This school is lacking a carpentry/automotive shop and there is an associated cost to transport students to FHS for shop classes. All Nackawic Schools currently have adequate facilities with no need for extra transportation costs. Kasee Currie, Grade 7 student spoke of the various curricular activities her school has to offer and their school leading in Math and Language Art Assessments in the district. Science labs, Music and Technology rooms are all valuable space that students currently have access to. The eleven acres of outdoor space is used for extra-curricular activities such as cross-country skiing. This school has so much to offer!
- Jeanette Garland, Nackawic Elementary School PSSC Chair spoke of the great opportunities that the Nackawic Elementary School has to offer. Student engagement with 92% of students reported that they were involved. Home and School is also involved in Nackawic Elementary School. Outside agencies such as Taekwondo are involved in the school two nights per week. A recent survey was given to all families in the area and the results reported 90% of families wanting to keep the three schools as status quo. Student enrolment numbers are increasing with local businesses and the possible relocating of refugees. Nackawic Elementary School is currently filled to 66% capacity with an increase above 70% with the addition of the Millville Elementary Students. A proposed new K-8 school will be 81% functional capacity with an increase to 90% including Millville students. A comparison was given from the Bath School consolidation with reports of repairs still needed. 60- 80% functional capacity is considered optimal and with the potential growth in the area, these schools are currently aligned with this projection.
- Lisa King, Nackawic High School, PSSC Chair presented their school as potentially being overcrowded now. 90% of high school students wanted all three schools to remain open and they provided feedback as to why the schools should not be consolidated. They currently feel safe in their school and consolidation of schools would cause overcrowding such as Leo Hayes High

School. Tobique Valley High School was compared to Nackawic High School and these findings were included in this presentation.

- Becky Deveau-Crofts represented the Nackawic Public Library Board. This Library Board supports several neighboring communities and schools. Patrick Provencher spoke of the Library services and the books and equipment that would need to be moved by the district if a closure should occur. In addition to this, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would need to be changed.
- Kathryn Edwards, Vice President of AV Nackawic spoke on behalf of the company. AV Nackawic Senior Management was also in attendance. The Aditya Birla – AV Nackawic was established in 2005. Currently 50% of AV Nackawic employees are over the age of 50 and 20% over the age of 60. Projections show that over the next 10 years, 180 positions will need to be replaced. In addition to this, AV Nackawic announced that their company had recently been awarded the prestigious Top 25 Atlantic Canada Employers Award. This company is growing and more families will be relocating to the Town of Nackawic as a result of this employment.
- Mayor of Nackawic Nancy Cronkite commented on the many challenges the Town of Nackawic had to overcome in the past few years. As well, there are many accomplishments that they have achieved. Their interest in the three schools has been contributions to playgrounds and libraries as well as the rental of the bottom level of the Nackawic Middle School. Gail Francer, Town Councilor, spoke of the recreation in the Town of Nackawic and she encouraged the community to be active and to access all recreational facilities.
- The Ad Hoc Committee and community member Nathan Milburn were removed from the agenda, as per their requests.
- Mark Noel thanked the community for their attendance and all presenters for a job well done. David McTimoney requested that all presenters provide him with their scripts and power points to have included in the Sustainability Study for the three Nackawic Schools. All presentation can be found on ASD-W Sustainability Study website for the Town of Nackawic.
- **The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**