



QUESTIONS AND NOTES
Staff Meeting
Conducted by YK1 Education District

Planning Future Programs and Facility Use

April 15, 2014
École William McDonald Middle School

Facilitator: Mark Cleveland

1. Programs and services
 - a. What works
 - i. An identity for each school (especially École William McDonald Middle School (WMS))
 - ii. Diversity of choices
 - iii. Staff/support personnel are excellent
 - iv. Access to French language programs
 - v. High School Prep Program assists in transitioning students
 - vi. Education Assistants deserve lots of credit and more recognition
 - vii. Preschool enrolment
 - b. What's not working
 - i. Competition between schools
 - ii. Lose good teachers when we don't provide permanent contracts
 - iii. Need plan to attract preschoolers and be proactive
 - c. What's most important
 - i. Need to put best people in best places
 - ii. Increase support for those in need (staff)
 - iii. Balancing class size and student needs
 - iv. Stability in staff
2. Grade configuration
 - a. Concern about disbursement of specialties to a number of schools creating internal competition
 - b. Not just academic at middle school (social/emotional development)
 - c. Need to think about what it will be like with preschoolers
 - d. Like middle school concept – increase feeder role of other schools – except MHS (K-8)
 - e. Middle school loss would hurt students as needs might be met in other schools
 - f. Middle school is unique and provides a competitive advantage

3. Transfer of facilities
 - a. Is there any benefit
 - i. With K-8 don't need to transfer students between schools
 - ii. Consolidate resources (human and otherwise)
 - iii. There are physical limitations with existing facilities – would need renovations to address student needs if a school was transferred
 - iv. Could barter a school if there would be a benefit to existing schools
4. Effectiveness & efficiency
 - a. Smaller class sizes would improve effectiveness
 - b. Close a school to improve efficiency
 - c. Effectiveness of programs for special needs students must be maintained or improved
 - d. New teaching methods require greater space (project-based learning)
 - e. Special needs at preschool level can be expected and should be planned for now (people/space)
 - f. Needs to be a discussion with ECE regarding capital standards
 - g. Transfer maintenance functions to Department of Public Works & Services
5. Last comments
 - a. Need parents to better understand the impact of capital needs standards used by ECE as the differ from those used by YK1 which is the reality

Post-Meeting Comments:

- "My concern is that with addition of preschool and a JK that our resources that already are stretched and programs will be stretched even more. I am wondering how my gr 2s will get the time for the various subjects as outlined by the department of Education and ECE. I liked the idea about Casa formally joining NJM."
- District needs to recruit francophone teachers from more provinces (not just New Brunswick).