

## **ANGLOPHONE NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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### **NAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **SUSTAINABILITY STUDY – COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

### **Opening Remarks**

Micheal Mortlock, Chair, District Education Council

### **Presentations**

Mary Lou Barry

Mindy Mullen

Tanya Gorman

Melissa Brideau

Haylie Wilson

Jeffrey Gillis

Jennifer Gregan

Jill Flaherty

Melanie Gillis-Buckley

Tara Ross-Robinson

### **Questions**

### **Closing Remarks**

# **Save Napan Elementary**

**Presentation to Anglophone School District**

**- North Education Council**

**Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

# Save Napan School

- Napan Elementary School is a highly-effective institution that plays a key role in defining the identity of the Napan Community.
- We call upon the Anglophone School District - North Education Council and the New Brunswick Minister of Education to prevent the closure of Napan Elementary School, and to help ensure the future success of our children by offering them education in their home community.

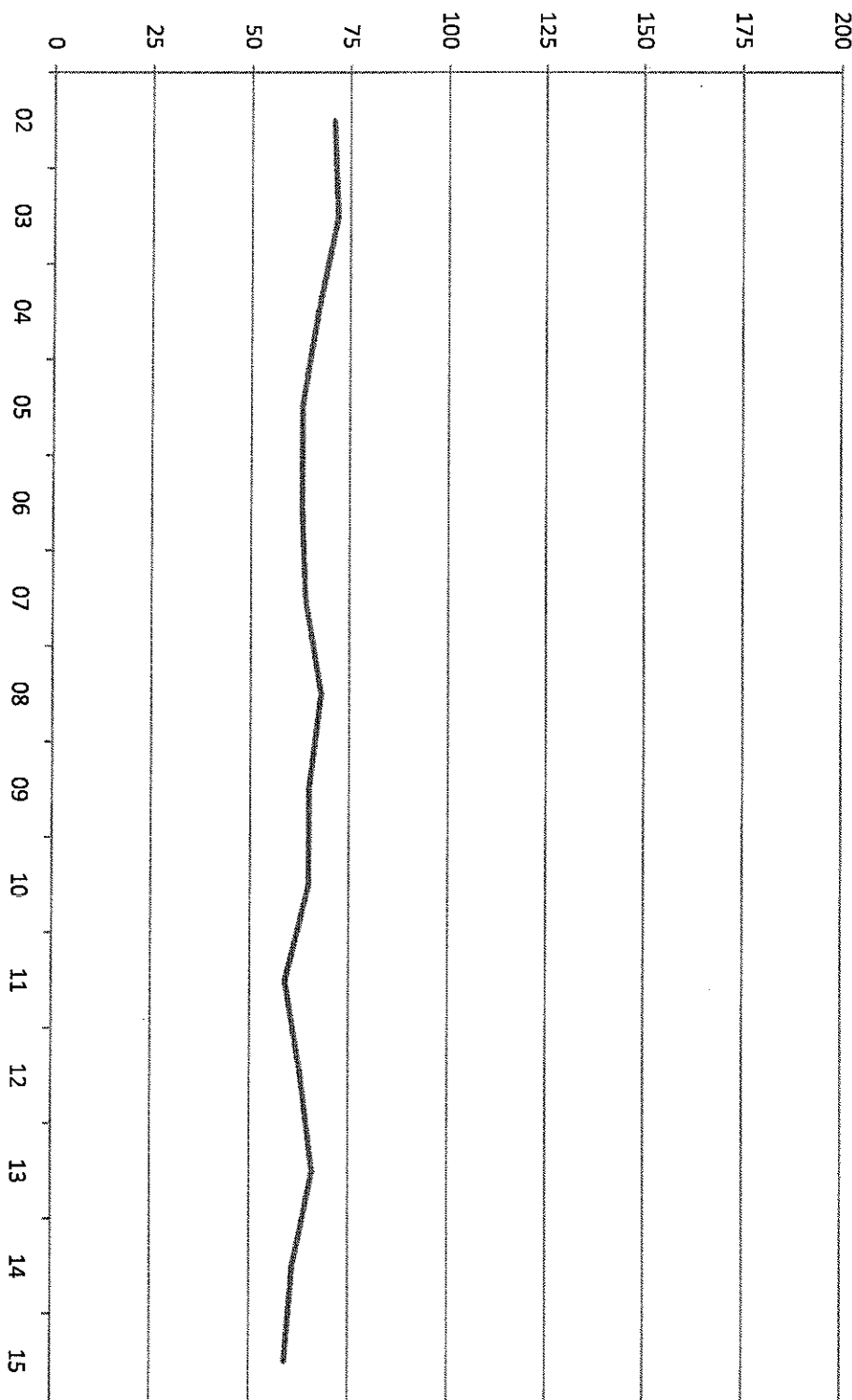
# Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning

- NBED Policy 409 defines the process to study a school's sustainability and proposed grade reconfigurations.
- This presentation will use the information outlined in Policy 409 to show that the provision of primary education at Napan Elementary is sustainable and that the school facility does not meet the criteria for closure.

## Policy 409 states that school closure should be considered when...

1. The school faces low or declining enrolment
2. There is evidence of significant health or safety risks in the school
3. The facility is unable to provide essential educational services to students
4. The time and cost of student transportation is an issue
5. Operating costs for the facility are excessive
6. The closure would have limited impact on the surrounding community
7. There are no negative impacts on feeder schools and/or receiving schools.
8. The closure will not negatively impact economic development in the surrounding area

# Napan Historical Enrolment



# Enrolment

- There are at least 27 families in the Napan School catchment area with preschool age children
- Enrolment would increase if the District strictly followed geographic catchment guidelines or if students who live in St. Margaret's, North Black River Road, MacDonald Road and on Highway 11 were added to the Napan School catchment area
- In the 2014-15 school year there were 38 students bussed to Ian Baillie and St Andrews from the St Margaret's/ Highway 11 area. This included 2 students in the French Immersion program.

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# Health and Safety

- The Napan School was built in 1962 and has had appropriate maintenance since that time
- The Provincial review of all schools built before 1980 has found no significant health or safety concerns at Napan Elementary
- The students at Napan Elementary have safe and secure school grounds and play areas that are fenced in. The play area is adjacent to an access road in a low traffic area.
- Our children also have the security of a friendly community neighbourhood where “everyone knows everyone”.

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# Quality of Education

- Napan does not have a full cafeteria but offers a breakfast program, a hot lunch program twice per week and encourages students to bring highly nutritious brownbag lunches
- Napan does not have modern gym facilities but does offer numerous athletic options for students and has produced many highly successful student athletes
- Napan Elementary ranks highly on provincial literacy and mathematics assessments as well as student and parent perception data surveys

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# Transportation

- Closure of Napan Elementary will increase transportation costs for the district and may force changes in school hours to accommodate transportation logistics
- Younger students will be bussed greater distances with older students
- Busses will be traveling greater distances in high traffic areas and at higher speeds

# Transportation

- Students would spend approximately 10-15 extra minutes on the bus, dependent on where the new school is located.
- In the morning the longest ride into the new school would be approximately 52 minutes for one student. The next would be approximately 41 minutes.
- In the afternoon, the longest ride out for both the early and late run would be in the range of 35-40 minutes.

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# Operating costs






- School has only required minor repairs over past five years
- Many recent facilities improvements were the result of money raised by the local community
- Pupil/Teacher Ratio at the start of 2014-2015 school year was 7.90, but increased to 8.5 early in the year due to attendance rising. For the 2015-2016 school year our ratio is 11.2 and is consistent with other schools of this size.
- Data provided by ASD-N shows that proposed capital expenditures at Napan Elementary are low-priority for the district .
- Operating costs per foot are low for institutional or commercial space



# Community Contributions to School

- Basketball Court with 2 basketball units & paving
- Pea gravel for playground
- Fence around school property
- Cedar around playground equipment
- 2 Picnic Tables
- Benches
- Playground swings
- Cooler
- 4 Smartboards
- Basketball Uniforms
- Tent, Benches & Banner for Sports Day and other occasions
- Tennis Balls for the classroom chairs
- Library Resources
- Cross Country Uniforms
- Window blinds
- In-Focus Projector
- Snow Shoes

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# Impact on Local Community

- The Loggieville community experienced a loss of numerous civic services following the closure of their elementary school
- Our students will not be as aware of Napan's unique rural culture if they are educated in another community
- The Napan Ball field has been jointly operated by Anglophone School District – North and the Napan Minor Baseball Association to the benefit of all
- The Napan Home and School Association has remarkably high parent membership and has made numerous contributions to the operation of the school (see attached certificate for largest percentage of membership per student)

# Impact on Local Community

Home and  
School  
Membership  
Award for  
largest  
percentage  
of members  
per student  
enrolment  
for last year



# Community Supported Initiatives

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Camp Sheldrake field trip
- Carnivals
- BBQ's
- Prizes for events
- Easter Dinners
- Grade 5 Banquets
- Ice Cream & Pizza Parties
- Easter Eggs & Treats for kids at Easter
- Additional bussing expenses
- Field trip funding
- Hot lunch program
- Christmas Tea
- Christmas Dinner for students
- Healthy snack trays
- Christmas shopping party
- Halloween Treats / Pumpkin Carving
- Water and snacks for sports day and other events
- Fridge is continuously stocked for children who do not have a lunch

# Impact on Local Community

**The Napan Elementary School has been the focal point for many community initiatives and events**

- Walk to School Day
- Remembrance Day Programs
- Christmas Concerts (Morning and Evening)
- Terry Fox Walk
- Skating events (always a large group of Parents and Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, siblings, etc.)
- Sporting events at school
- End of year Sports Day, BBQ and Awards Ceremony
- Napan Agricultural Show - Teacher Appreciation
- Pumpkin Carving
- Heritage Breakfast (Prepared by the Napan Grandmothers)
- Christmas Dinner (Sponsored by Laurie Patterson – Patterson Sales and Service)
- Fall Back to School Carnival
- Last day of school breakfast

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# Impact on Other Schools

- There are no foreseeable impacts on DLMS or JMH if Napan Elementary remains as a feeder school
- Napan will continue to send community-minded, high performing students to DLMS and JMH



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# Economic Considerations

- A local elementary school is an attractive feature to individuals considering a move to the Napan community
- Provincial property tax losses may negate any possible savings from the school closure
- Generous financial contributions from local businesses to the Napan school may not be available to a school operating in another community
-

# Economic Considerations

**“... the social and economic welfare in all rural communities is higher in places that have schools. Further, in the smallest villages, which have fewer resources and fewer civic places, schools are especially critical”**

**“The money that might be saved through consolidation could be forfeited in lost taxes, declining property values. and lost businesses.”**

- Prof. Thomas A. Lyson, Cornell University

“Assessing the Social and Economic Benefits of Schools to Rural Communities”

Journal of Research in Rural Education , Winter, 2002, Vol. 17, No.3, 13 1-137

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# Save Napan School Petition

## Selected Quotes

“...this school is why we choose to live in small communities so our children can be part of a small school system where the classes are small and everybody knows everyone...”

- Marilyn O’Keefe

“My wife and I both work in Chatham but we choose to live in Napan because we believe that this small rural school offers our children many advantages that are not available in larger schools.”

- Andrew Frost

“Both my children have had a strong and positive start to their education here at Napan. I only hope that all the other young children in OUR community of Napan can experience this great start.”

- Natalie Nowlan

## Conclusions

**It takes a  
community to  
raise a child!**

## **Save Our School**

Good evening, my name is Mindy Mullen. I'm a proud member of the Napan Community and like many others here tonight, attended Napan Elementary School as a child. After graduating from James. M. Hill I moved from Napan to Chatham for a couple of years. I am now a mother to a beautiful baby boy. Before Jax was born, realizing I did not want him raise in the busyness of town, I moved back to my home in Napan in hopes of giving him some of the same opportunities I had, the support of family, great neighbors and to attend Napan Elementary. After all, Napan School had taught me so much more than just the classroom lessons and most of my childhood memories are centered around this school. Not to mention the lifelong friends I ended up making while being a student here.

Napan is known for its rural community living, surrounded by agriculture. Because of this Napan Elementary provides a unique situation where children are exposed to nature, agriculture and all the beauty this community offers. This would not be as readily available in an urban area. In fact, for students to be able to experience this if attending a school in the city it would require busing, time limitations and with all the financial restraints it is unknown if the students from Napan Elementary would be able to continue to experience nature and agriculture daily.

The staff and students of Napan Elementary are often involved with nature and animals. They participate annually in the Fish Friends Program, where they raise salmon eggs over a period of time and release them. Speaking as a previous student who was able to be a part of this program during my time at Napan Elementary, I can say it rewards such a sense of accomplishment for the children participating in this program.

Also, the students of Napan Elementary often walk outside free from busy traffic and noise. How would they be able to continue this in the city? Just this past June a class was out for a walk when the teacher and students witnessed fish spawning in the Napan River, which was a once in a lifetime experience for both teachers and students. Furthermore they were able to let the rest of the teachers and students know of this fantastic experience, which then allowed the ENTIRE school to walk to the river and witness this amazing once in a lifetime event.

Last June a grade 1 student suggested the school grounds needed an apple tree. This request didn't fall on deaf ears. The Home & School Association than purchased two apple trees which were planted on the front lawn of the grounds. With the planting of these two trees came the explanation of pollination. I'm sure you would find it interesting to know that

when the holes were being dug to plant the trees, a very old horse shoe was found two feet in the ground. What a joy it was for every student to be able to participate in this experience.

The children at Napan Elementary often participate in a little program endorsed by the Parent School Support Committee called "You and Your Community" which led to the children having special visitors from the community. Recent visits have included:

- A business owner who educated the children on the responsibilities and care that goes into taking care of small animals.
- A leader from the Napan 4-H Club with information about their organization and how to become a member.
- A director from the Napan Agricultural Show who shared information about the fair and the numerous categories where the students could be involved in.
- And a local farmer and egg producer who taught them, about the poultry business.

These seminars were welcomed with appreciation and excitement by the children of Napan Elementary. Isn't it great when our children are able to feel a connection to their community?

Napan Elementary is more than just a primary school for the kids who attend; it's a connection to their community. Since being built in 1962, our school has been, and will remain, the pillar of this wonderful community. Our children are receiving a unique education which surpasses that of just the classroom. This would not be possible for them in a larger school. It would not be fair to take them from their home, where they feel safe and secure, only to place them in the busyness of town. Something OUR children are NOT used to.

Now, being a mother myself, Napan Elementary School is the only place I would feel confident enough in sending my child too. Napan Elementary isn't just a school, it's a family. Without its rural location and closeness in its small numbers, this would not have been possible to achieve.

With that said, I urge the District Education Council to recognize our plea and work with us to maintain our sustainability to keep Napan Elementary open.

Thank you for your time,

Mindy Mullen.



Tanya Gorman

**Subject:** Speech

**From:** Tanya Gorman

**Date:** 15/09/2015 12:45 PM

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming out tonight seeing you all here shows how important school is to our community

I move to napan five years ago and had a lot of friends from here to spend a lot of time in this community there was no hesitation when I was given the opportunity to move here and raise our family.

Did you know that there is over 32 businesses in the napan area for a small community that's a lot of work one of the biggest and most successful businesses moved from Chadham to napan in 1980

24 at a 32 which is a 75% of businesses in napan are based out of their homes these businesses have been successful for more than 20 years or more that shows that this is not the building that makes it better it's the people in the community that make a success I have gone to many of these businesses and interviewed the owners who all say the same thing they wouldn't change location of business to any where's other than napan they feel that this area is what made them successful as they are today

This community is more than a community where a family who help each other and stick by each other as a parent and a member of the napan community urged the district education Council to recognize work with us and maintain our sustainability and keep napan elementary school open!

Thank you

Napan Elementary

Sustainability Review

Home and School, and the Community Involvement

Prepared for District Educational Council

Prepared by Melissa Brideau

Due on September 15, 2015

I have been part of the home and school here at Napan Elementary since my oldest son started school in 2011. I have another son who began his journey here in 2014. Currently I hold the position of secretary for my second year.

According to policy 409 6.4.4 Impact on the local community: parental involvement and feasibility of continued parental involvement (particularly for elementary pupils), community support, the school's relationship with the community, the effects on culture and language, consideration of whether the school is the sole school in the community, especially at the elementary level.

As I stand here tonight I will tell you how the members of the home and school and the community at large come together to make this school a great one for our kids

- We added an outdoor basketball court with two nets and paved court
- Put pea gravel for the playground and enclosed the playground with a fence
- New picnic tables and benches on the playground
- Four new smartboards
- We have replaced blinds on classroom windows
- We purchased a new stage curtain
- We buy tennis balls for the chairs every year so the chairs do not scratch the floors
- Five homerooms each have received one hundred dollars in order to add to their book collection, this has been done a few years
- Two apple trees were purchased by us and planted by the kids and a couple of great dads in the community.
- We have bought new uniforms for the sports teams, not only do they play great they look great too. We may not have a state of the art gym but we do have some great athletes

- With a lot of hard work, fundraising and help for the community members we have added a rock wall to our gym.
- We have purchased new snow shoes to add to the ones they had. The kids love to snowshoe in the winter and we have a nice big area for them to do it in
- Twenty new hula hoops for the kids
- We have pizza and garlic finger parties with ice cream sundaes for desert
- We have spaghetti lunch's with garlic toast
- We continue every year to prepare and serve hot turkey/ham dinner at Christmas for the kids, teachers and bus drivers. It is prepared by home and school but it sponsored by one of our local business who has been doing it for many years. Desert for this is homemade cookies made by one of the amazing moms..... For most of these lunches we go over to the hall, which is donated to the school to use, all of these lunches are eaten as a school together, not in shifts.
- Christmas concert time our school has always put on two shows morning and evening with the whole school participating in each one. On that date our gym is filled for both times
- We continue to organize and serve an inexpensive hot lunch every week
- We continue to organize and serve breakfast three times a week to any of the kids who would like to come and eat. This past year thanks to local egg farmers via egg producers of NB we have also offered eggs with their toast, cereal, fruit, cheese and yogurt
- We organize and hold a Halloween sock hop for the kids and their entire families.
- During the annual pumpkin carving, the home and school donates a hundred dollars for prizes for the kids. Half going to k-2 the other half 3-5. Just about every kid there has a family member come and help them carve out their pumpkin.

- Some of the wonderful grandmothers in the community put on a heritage breakfast for the kids and teachers (pancakes, sausages and fruit) every year.
- We purchase chocolate eggs for a Easter egg hunt for the kids every year
- We have a great turn out of parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and siblings who come out and help the kids on skating days. Which the kids get to go and enjoy as a whole school and not just by class. Skating for our school takes place every second week from November till March.
- The home and school put on a community fair for back to school with many community members baking for our bake sale.
- The kids put on a Remembrance Day ceremony every year that is open to the public to come and see. We have many that turn out every year for it
- We have our Terry Fox Run every year with many coming out to join the kids on the walk
- During teacher appreciation week Home and School make sure that the teachers are taking care of all wk. Whether it is making sure they get a homemade lunch, to fun activities like a scavenger hunt to this past year we got them all a toque with Napan Elementary on it
- We organize a BBQ every year to end out the school year (which includes hotdogs, hamburgers, fruit, juice, water with desert being sponsored)
- On the last day of school we serve scrambled egg, muffin, and fruit breakfast to the entire school including staff. Muffins are all homemade

I would also like to make a point to say that for the school year 2014-2015 we have received a certificate for having the largest percentage of Home and School membership per student enrollment for a small school.

Last year there was an external review done by the department of education at the school and I would like to share a few things that were said in the report:

- ✓ “Observations and conversations throughout the review indicated that Napan Elementary has a very positive school culture which extends from the school to the entire school community”
- ✓ “Student observation and conversations confirmed that students and staff develop a strong culture of caring for one another and this is the foundation for the school. “
- ✓ “*Tell them for me* survey data also indicated that 100% of grade 4 and 5 students had a positive sense of belonging and 94% had positive relationships.”
- ✓ “During *Support Staff Forum* an Educational assistant also noted that the culture and climate is enhanced when the entire school participates in activities and events as opposed to one class or small groups participating in isolation”
- ✓ “The principle also noted that attendance of both staff and students is very high which further demonstrates how the culture and climate of the school has a positive impact”

As you can see it is not just the kids that make this a great school, but when you get the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and just the members of the community in general all coming together it is what makes this place really work. It is not just great teachers who make learning fun for kids, it is all the extras that also gets them up and wanting to come to school every day. I realize that every school probably has a hot lunch programme or a breakfast programme but can they be done by one or two people who knows every kids name and most time what grade they are in? When our kids can walk in the school and every teacher knows there name it starts them off with a sense of self-worth and that they are important. For the kids of stay at home parents and do not get to experience what a day care is, this is often the first time they are leaving home for full days all week, having a small friendly school makes that transition that much easier. When they know their parents are not that far away because the school is right in our community.

As a parent and a member of the Napan Community I asked that the District Education Council please work with us to maintain our sustainability and keep Napan Elementary open.

Hi, I'm Haley and I am a **former Napan student**.

This year, I am starting grade 7 at Dr. Losier Middle School. I know the adults are trying to keep things as factual as possible but I think that a kids perspective is important also considering its our place to learn. I felt it was important to do this presentation because I think that the quality of education at the school is very good and my little brothers and every other kid in Napan deserves the same chance I got.

Every single year, the teachers send the students to middle school confident and prepared for harder classes. When my class went to middle school, we were ready for the harder classes in Math, Science, Social Studies and many more. At Dr. Losier, there is a program for kids that have good grades and are respectful called the Blue Knights. Last year, half of the blue knights were from Napan and 4 of us were from my class!

Only 2 people from our class went into French immersion, my friend and I, and a few weeks after we started, we got moved into early immersion classes with kids that started in grade 3 because we were too advanced! All because of the hard work of our Napan teachers that had the time to concentrate on every student and the skills they needed to improve because of our smaller classes.

On the last day of school, there is awards ceremonies and many of kids from Napan got medals. Myself, I got a medal for being on the honour roll because I got straight A's all year and i got a medal for the highest marks in math and science. Lots of students from Napan were on the honor roll too, we made the Miramichi leader! As you can see, we have all done well academically.

In this presentation, I would also like to acknowledge these star athletes from 2015 that started in a small gym in a small school and became something big. For starters,

Katie Corlett won JMH female athlete of the year,

Jade Macdonald won the bronze medal for ringette at the 2015 Canada games,



4 girls from Napan won provincial gold in u13 basketball,

Brooke O'Neil won the silver medal for provincial girls hockey,

Kennedy Jardine (11 years old) is a red belt in karate,

Marcia Buckley MVP for Girls Jr. Varsity basketball team at Dr. Losier,

Dylan Gillis and Colby Mullen won a bronze medal at provincials for Mini basketball,

Arminda flynn Is an amazing runner in cross country,

Julian and Jared Macdonald Played for team NB Junior Selects,

And I was in cross country and won third and seventh out of more than 40 kids at two competitions.

**We are all former or current Napan students.**

**Everyone has to start somewhere and they all started here!**

In conclusion, I felt special that I had the opportunity

to go to a small school and all the advantages that came with it. I am proud that my foundation came from Napan Elementary! Would all of the upcoming students of Napan have the same experience if they had to go to a school with over 460 kids? And having a small gym isn't holding anyone back from achieving great things!

The names that I have listed are only a few of many of our great athletes.... !!!!!!!

**See? Big things can come from small packages.**

Thank you

Good evening my name is Jeffery Gillis. I am a resident of the community of Napan, the father of a 3 year old boy and the owner of a hobby farm. For those of you who are not familiar with the community of Napan it is a rural community with several working farms and numerous hobby farms. There is a vast difference between our community and the city. Many of us grew up here and many built our homes to stay in this community for the slower, quite paced living we enjoy each day. And there are the many people including some of my neighbours that moved to Napan to get in the country, to raise their children here and like me want their children to attend Napan Elementary for their early years of their education.

I am also a Director with the Napan Agricultural Show. The Napan Agricultural Show just had its 24<sup>th</sup> four day fair. Our show is recognized throughout New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada for its authenticity and each year we strive to fulfil our mandate to educate the general public about agriculture and community living. The Napan Agricultural Show is organized and ran by volunteers ~ a large majority of them are from Napan. Most of those volunteers ~ including myself ~ grew up in Napan and attended Napan Elementary. 86 % of the Directors for the Napan Agricultural Show are from Napan.

It is our concern that if the Napan School was to close and our children had to go to school in the city for their elementary education they would not feel a connection with the Napan Community. Would they be comfortable and proud of the legacy that this community has with agriculture and community living? If our children are bused to a larger elementary school would they get lost in the crowd? Is the Napan Agriculture Show going to have future leaders if our children go to the city for their elementary schooling?

Policy 409 6.4.4. A DEC must consider the following criteria when studying a school's sustainability. # 6 – Impact on local community. In that it states “the effects on culture and language, consideration of whether the school is the sole school in the community, especially at the elementary level”.

Culture is important. There are many cultures in our province and most are striving. At one time most of our country and province were made up of communities like Napan. The rural culture is struggling but that is not the case in Napan. We have a strong community ~ we identify ourselves as rural ~ we are country folk who are proud of where we were raised and live. Is this not important? Napan Elementary is our only school in this community ~ this is where our children will be exposed to our rural culture and as history has proven these children will grow up to be proud, productive and involved members of the Napan Community.

As a member of the Napan community, a father and a Director of the Napan Agriculture Show I strongly urge the District Education Committee members to keep Napan Elementary Open. We have sustainability and with your help and support we can be stronger.

Good evening ~ my name is Jennifer Gregan and I am ~~the~~ with the Northumberland County Horse Club.

The Northumberland County Horse Club is committed to providing opportunity, experience, and education to its members and the equine community. Our club sees a direct connection with our members growing up in rural communities. Our club also hosts an annual horse show. There is currently 20-30 local kids participating in our club events because of their love of horses.

The rural community of Napan is important to the Northumberland County Horse Club. Many of our members are from Napan. These members attended Napan Elementary where it was acceptable to be in a culture that participates and celebrates in agriculture. Our youth members from Napan look at horseback riding as an extra circular activity ~ where they have fun showing their horses.

It is our concern that if this rural community school were to close that the children of this community would ~~be~~ receive less exposure and education to agriculture at the primary level. Would these children feel comfortable and confident with participating in agricultural if they don't have a rural school and are bussed to the city? Taking the children out of Napan for their elementary education would eventually affect their heritage and culture in this sense.

I am here tonight in support for the Napan Elementary School. I ask that you do everything in your power to not close this school.

I feel as tho if this School was to close  
it's not just closing a school / it robbing  
Children of a part of their culture  
& heritage.

Save Our School, Napan Elementary!  
The Napan Baseball Association's view

Baseball has been played in the Napan for many years.

Although the fields are not owned by the Napan ball association, they do maintain them. In fact it is not just 1 but 2 fields that are cared for. Thanks to volunteers and a hire a summer student program, a local student is hired every summer. The Napan ball program has done this throughout the years while still maintaining one of the lowest registration fee rates around!

This past season 60 players took part in the ball program.

Think about that #, the school population in Napan Elementary is about the same, and not all of these kids were from Napan.

This speaks to the sense of community!

Many families, who live elsewhere, choose to come to Napan because our children are treated equal, they are encouraged by their coaches and accepted by their team mates. Parents are made to feel comfortable and welcomed. But most important everyone is included, all opinions are heard and no judgements are made! Everyone is respectful, well behaved and the sense of belonging is evident.

Our school provides a sense of community for our children, but during the summer months that feeling can be lost. This baseball program fosters and strengthens that.

Some of our coaches are not from Napan, but it's the sense of community that attracted them to our ball program.

Jessica, our associations secretary grew up in Napan, played ball in Napan and even though she no longer lives in Napan she still chooses to be a part of our program. Why?

It's that feeling of community! Belonging!

This is also evident, by the number of volunteers and coaches we have. This season, 3 teenagers, who previously played ball in Napan choose to volunteer their time to our Mosquito team. They showed up for practices, games and encouraged our players. This is pretty impressive thing now a days when we live in the, "me, me", era.

True sportsmanship is displayed when high fives are given, congratulations on a good game is said to your own team and the opposing. This once again re-enforces how important ball is!

Our baseball program, provides a sense of belonging, taking pride in what you do, it teaches kindness to others. It provides enjoyment, pride and fun of the sport. It's not just about winning; it's about working together as a team. It's for these reasons we have families coming back year after year. There's a different mentality experienced here. "It's a Napan thing"

On other teams, it's often the brightness, the most confident and the best players whose skills are nurtured. In Napan, our players many not always shine the brightest but, who's to say they won't be the super stars of tomorrow!

A baseball mom reiterates this with the following statement, "for the past 2 years both my children, now 7 and 10 have played ball in Napan, but we do not live in the area, nor do the children attend the school there. So, why do I choose to drive out of my way so the kids can play ball? Well, it's pretty simple; from day one we have been accepted! The respect and sense of belonging are only some of the reasons we continue to register each year. My children have gained a lot of confidence from this ball program and I truly believe this is because of the great Napan community; it cares about children and their wellbeing. I am proud to say, my kids play baseball in Napan!" as stated by Christine Connell.

So, if Napan Elementary, does not have the district education councils support to remain open, who's to say what will happen to our baseball program, the fields, but most importantly the children who have benefited throughout the years and hopefully the years to come. Who will give them the experience our children have experienced, who??



Good evening. My name is Melanie Gilliss-Buckley.

I am a member of the Napan community and the mother of 3 children. Like many of the people here tonight I'm an active member of this school ~ the heart of our community.

We are here tonight as a result of the Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development ~ Honorable Serge Rousselle "enhancing Policy 409 by adding triggers". From that Napan Elementary was triggered because our enrollment is less than 100. When Minister Rousselle rose in the legislature on March 27, 2015 and announced the new triggers he said a few more things that are in context with why we are here tonight. He said "DEC's will be expected to apply the same criteria when it comes to examining a specific school as per section 6.4 of the policy. For example: transportation and the impact on the local community and on other schools." *End quote*

When referring to the policy change Minister Rousselle also said "It reflects our government's commitments to:

- Providing New Brunswick students with equitable education services;
- And ensuring our investments in the public school system are made in a responsible manner. *End quote*

Furthermore Minister Rousselle stated the following "it is important to make sure our infrastructure is used efficiently as possible and it is the responsible thing to do for students, families and all taxpayers". *End quote*

Minister Rousselle did not state that we should be using our "future" infrastructure responsibly ~ I believe he was talking about the infrastructure we have today in this province.

We are here to present on the sustainability of the Napan Elementary School. We keep hearing about the Outstanding Capital Improvement Projects for this school totaling \$740,000. In the whole scheme of things it really isn't much money these days and investing it in the Napan School which is infrastructure the government already owns would go along with Minister Rousselles statements to do things responsibly for taxpayers.

Let me give you a breakdown of how little investment the school district has had to put in Napan Elementary. For the sake of this presentation I will be comparing costs with Napan, Ian Baillie Elementary, Saint Andrew's Elementary and Anglophone North School District Office.

From 2011 to 2015 the total Minor Repairs to the 4 buildings I just listed was \$130,644.19. Napan Elementary's minor repairs from that total was only 9.25 % ~ a measly \$12,083.31.

Let's see where Napan stood for Capital Expenditures.

Again, I am referring to Napan, Ian Baillie, St. Andrew's and District office. The total Capital Expenditures for those 4 building's since the fiscal year 2000/2001 totaled \$3,254,033.00. From that staggering number Napan Elementary's Capital Expenditures was only 0.39%. I'll repeat that in case you missed it. The total Capital Expenditures for Napan, Ian Baillie, St. Andrew's and District office since the fiscal year 2000/2001 totaled \$3,254,033.00. From that ~ Napan Elementary's Capital Expenditures was only 0.39%. \$83,666.00 has been spent on Napan Elementary for capital expenditures since the year 2000. In 2004 the masonry ~ brick repointing was done and in 2010 our school had a roof replacement. This building is Sustainable and very efficient. The numbers speak for themselves.

\$740,000 is required to complete ALL outstanding capital improvement projects for Napan Elementary ~ why is this a big deal? We know that our projects are very low priority. If this school was unsafe would it be open today? Investing in the Napan Elementary school would be a responsible thing to do for students, families and taxpayers ~ just like Minister Serge Roussell stated.

In 2011 the DEC at the time concluded their school sustainability review and recommended the following for Napan Elementary ~ The District Education Council will further recommend to the Minister of Education that Napan Elementary School remain open. The DEC believes that it meets the criteria for sustainability. The DEC is impressed with the community partnerships that currently exist to support initiatives present in the school. ~

From the Sustainability study in 2011 the Napan Parent School Support Committee found that there were issues with the catchment areas for Napan Elementary. As the Chair for the PSCC at the time I began inquiring about the boundaries for Napan Elementary and found there were problems for the southern boundary.

The following is stated on Napan Fact Sheet on the Anglophone North School District Website ~

- South Boundary ~ Community of Black River Bridge.
- It then states that ~ Residents with a civic address of Napan, are in the catchment area of the Napan Elementary School, except for the area on Route 11 from the south boundary of the community of Napan to the South Napan Road (these students attend Ian Baillie or St Andrews).

This is very contradictory ~ How can our south boundary be ~ the community of Black River Bridge but then the children from that area to the south Napan road **NOT** be included in Napan Elementary?

With the support of the DEC the District could adjust the catchment area and make a responsible change. There are children & parents in those areas along highway 11; past and present; that want to attend Napan Elementary but would not be provided busing and because of that people stopped asking.

In the 2014/2015 school year 36 children from Saint Margaret's & along Highway 11 were bussed BY Napan Elementary into the city to attend Saint Andrew's and Ian Baillie Schools. This practice has been happening for years. At one time those students attended Napan. Do we bus children from Hill Street to Nelson? Do we bus children from Renous to Millerton? No we don't, because it would not be a responsible practice.

The boundaries in this district have not been reviewed in over 20 years. Anglophone East is currently reviewing boundaries and many recommendations for changes have been made during other sustainability reviews which are also being considered by districts.

Until this year there has been resistance to change boundaries back as there was no incentive to do so. We are recommending the Anglophone North School District change the South boundary for Napan Elementary and have all the children from Saint Margaret's to the city limits be included in Napan Elementary's catchment area.

If those 36 students were bused to Napan Elementary last year the Cost per Student would have fallen considerably. There are only advantages for students to attend Napan Elementary. Parents would love their child to be in a school with a population of close to 100 than to attend a K-5 school with 460 students. We know there are families in the boundary area today that want their children to come to Napan. Adjusting the catchment area will give Napan Elementary strength in numbers and will have far less impact than closing this community school.

It was suggested to us that we need to find savings to help prove our sustainability. Therefore, we are also recommending to the DEC and District that the Bus Runs in Napan be reviewed. We feel that at least one bus run could be eliminated from the annual budget for a savings of \$50,400.00. For example two buses come to my house in the morning and drive to the Napan School. If it is necessary for our children to be on a bus longer each day we would rather it be on the safe, side roads of Napan than the busy Highway 11. When the roads are slippery and snow covered in the winter wouldn't it be safer for our children to be closer to their home?

The Option 2 of the District's power point presentation was the closure of Napan Elementary and the students attend the new K-5 School in Miramichi east.

Currently the new K-5 school in Miramichi East is budgeted for 400 students to a tune of 16 million dollars.

If the DEC voted in favour of option 2 as proposed by the District what would it cost?

To accommodate the students from Napan two additional classrooms would be needed. The cost of this would be \$550,000.00.

Additional space would be added to the cafeteria for the price of \$140,000.00.

To meet today's standards for physical education it is probable that a single gym would be added to the current plans for the 460 students that would occupy the new K-5 school for an additional cost of \$2,036,000.00.

The total cost of tax payers to close the Napan Elementary school would be \$2,726,000.00 + additional busing costs yet to be determined.

Let's explore the savings for our district, province and taxpayers when Napan Elementary is kept open.

- Catchment areas are adjusted and 36 students from highway 11 attend Napan ~ instant savings of \$225,000 for one classroom and \$84,000.00 for cafeteria space in the new K-5 school.
- The bus runs in Napan are reviewed ~ \$50,400.00 ~ saved.
- Napan remains open and there is no need for the additions to the new K-5 ~ \$2,736,000.00. saved

We now have a total of \$3,095,400.00 in savings to **leave** Napan Elementary open.

Is this not the most responsible thing to do for our struggling province? Leave the students where they are wanted.

On May 11, 2015 Minister Serge Rousselle was quoted in a government press release "All schools in New Brunswick should be safe places for young people to receive a high quality education. The midlife upgrade project will play an important role in optimizing older schools and prolonging their usability through renovation". He went on to say "extend their use by 30 years or more. The mid-life upgrade expense is a fraction of the replacement cost". End quote.

We agree with Minister Rousselle ~ the midlife upgrade to Napan Elementary would only be a fraction of the cost to close it and move our children to the city.

The midlife upgrade to Napan would only be a fraction of the cost compared to the many losses this community would face without our school.

And since many of the capital improvement projects listed by the district are not outstanding or high in priority they could easily be completed over a period of time which would be less costly to the province.

**We** are here tonight for the "Community Response" to the sustainability study. We have faith that you the District Education Council will take everything you heard here tonight into consideration to work for our rural school to keep it open.

**We** are arming you with the information you need to represent our needs as a community and especially the children. Save Napan Elementary.

Good evening people of Napan, members of the District Education Council, and fellow speakers.

In 1997 Loggieville Elementary had its doors closed. Shortly thereafter, the recently renovated/remodeled/upgraded building and land was sold. The building was swiftly demolished and the “lot” turned into a number of residential properties.

If you drive through the village today, well....it’s not even a village anymore. It’s nothing more than the “outskirts of Miramichi”.

It was once a thriving community. We had softball clubs, floor hockey leagues, Boy scouts, Girl Guides, Youth groups, choirs, Bingo...we HAD a community. In the summer time between “ball” events – there would be community dances for the adults, teen dances for the teens, Summer “bonanzas” for the families and visitors. In the Winter, we would have the same dances, ice hockey, family skate, lots of outdoor fun for families and friends.

There was a decline in population prior to the 1997 closure of the school. But Loggieville wasn’t the only community losing population; the entire province was victim of the mass exodus....it still is. Loggieville to date does not have a vacant property – we are all still there. There’s just no where for the kids to go.

When the kids from Loggieville were displaced to “town” to go to school....the community took a hit; a very hard hit. Everyone knows that the children in their lives MAKE their lives. As such, a school full of children is the heart and soul of a community. When you remove the heart of any entity it will not survive. When the children were removed from the community – there was no longer a gathering place, no longer a place to play sports, no longer a community....we are now a suburb.

The failure didn’t happen instantly. But it didn’t take long. Families HAD to go to town for school, HAD to go to town to play sports, HAD to go to town to do afterschool activities....they HAD to leave – and they developed a community where they HAD to be.

While it saddens me that my community died, I do understand that the “communities” of Miramichi became ONE and this was part in parcel of the process that was inevitable. It angers me that my children didn’t have the same type of community to grow up in that I did. I CHOSE to live in Loggieville as an adult. I CHOSE to raise my children in a village – but I was too late. They missed out.

I have met many people over the years from large cities who marvel at the type of “community” I grew up in and they are envious of the opportunities, inclusion, and comraderies that we all enjoyed. I’ve heard many people comment over the years that “Loggieville kids” all grew up to be so well-rounded, successful and confident. Of course we did – we had such a support system through school, sports and our community.

The happenings here today in Napan are very sad. The promises of “bigger and better” and “advanced technology” and “moving forward” is NOT what this community needs. Napan Elementary is – like Loggieville School was – a HUB for the community. The people of Napan support their own. No kid goes without anything – if anything at all – EVERY child is able to participate and thrive to their maximum potential due to the fact that they will not be lost in a crowd. They are NOT part of the city.

Rural New Brunswick is nothing to be ashamed of. People living in the fast paced, city centers of our country dream of opportunities to live in a smaller scale, slower paced life style....that’s why they vacation here and love it so much.

Those who CHOOSE to remain in the rural areas are doing just that – Choosing.....DON’T TAKE THAT CHOICE AWAY.



**Sent:** Wednesday, September 09, 2015 12:22 PM  
**To:** Flanagan, Andy (ASD-N); Mortlock, Micheal (ASD-N)  
**Subject:** Napan Elementary School

Good Morning,

I am writing this letter to add my five cents worth with respect to the Sustainability Study being conducted for Napan Elementary School.

I am a member of the PSSC- Napan, and also an active member of the Home & School Association.

I have two children attending Napan Elementary. My youngest started Kindergarten yesterday and my oldest child is in Grade 4. It was a comfort to me knowing that my 5 year old would be one in 60 kids rather than one in 400 and be lost in the crowd. I didn't have to worry about him being put on the wrong bus as all the teachers and bus drivers know my children and who their parents are and where they live.

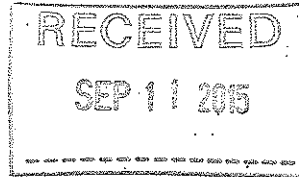
Also, as a working mother, my children would not be able to be involved in the sports programs offered in Elementary School if they did not attend a school in our local community. The grandparents are willing to pick the children up after school if they are participating in a sports program but if they have to go to school in town that privilege will not be available to them.

Last year my oldest son was able to participate in the Drama Festival put on at James M. Hill and because of the one on one coaching from the teaching staff at Napan Elementary he was able to overcome a huge stage fright and performed as Peter Pan. His legs were shaking while on stage but because of the tremendous time and encouragement of Mrs. Carroll he was able to overcome and be involved with his peers.

Napan Elementary has been such a blessing to our family. It would be a real shame for the community lose such an important part of our lives. There are many many areas that money can be saved without cutting off our community school. For example, the cost to add the classroom space and gym space alone at the new facility to accommodate 60 more children is outrageous.

I appreciate your time and hope that the right choice will be made when the DEC presents their decision to the Province.

Sincerely,  
Twila Shaw



September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

District Education Council  
Anglophone North School District  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, NB  
E1N 2R7

Via Facsimile: 506-778-6090

Attention: Mr. Michael Mortlock  
Mr. Andy Flanagan

Dear Mr. Mortlock & Mr. Flanagan:

I am writing this letter in relation to the Sustainability Review being conducted on the Napan Elementary School.

We moved to the community of Napan for the rural community setting and atmosphere. When we adopted our daughter, we were excited that we could have her attend a community school and not expose her immediately to the "big city" school atmosphere.

Our business has been founded in the community of Napan for the same reason that we prefer to have our business in a rural community. We operate our business out of our home, because we want people to feel at home when they purchase a vehicle. We do business around our kitchen table, so our customers have the "we are part of a family" feeling.

If Napan Elementary were to close, this would have a direct effect on our business and the people we serve. Many people choose to live in the community of Napan because it still provides that small country rural setting and education is at a premium. If the school were to close, families may choose to locate elsewhere in order for their children to be closer to their school. Also new families that are considering moving to this area may choose elsewhere because of the lack of an education facility; thus creating a direct hit on our business.

I am sure there are many places that cuts could be made within the Anglophone North School District budget that would be less detrimental to entire community.

Please kindly consider the effect that a school closure would put on our business and to the community as a whole and make the only SMART decision and KEEP-NAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL open!!!!

Yours truly,  
**DEPENDABLE AUTO SALES INC.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Blair & Angie Williston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Blair & Angie Williston

Dependable Auto Sales Inc. | 11347 Route 11, Napan, NB E1N 5E9  
Phone: 506-624-4426

September 8, 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School...

I myself went to Napan Elementary School, AND LOVED IT... it is very personable were everyone knows everyone, from knowing their families aunts, uncles, likes, problems, allergies, strengths, weakness, house address, trusting you can send your child to another student home for after school play, and this is just a few.

Our gym was what we needed to get the **activity level for our age**, we did not need ropes swinging from the ceiling, we did not need state of the art nets, we had a super big ball field, playground, as we were just learning the rules of sports for our age level.

We did not have a cafeteria, but we got to take a lunch can with what we wanted as apposed to having to eat what others made for us. We had hot lunch days once a week that we looked forward to, and special occasions we went to the Napan Hall for bigger meals (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, End of Year Thank You Meal and much more)

We did not need a big library, we were taught to be quiet in all classes.. and we read lots of books and had access to many..

We did soo much activities that families would come to the school and participate in, just like a reunion and we all would look forward to seeing little johnnies family too.

We did not need to read about nature or agriculture, we had it in front of us and could walk out the doors and learn saving money on books.

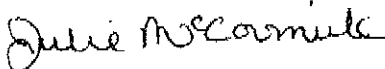
After getting married I lived in Chatham, not knowing my neighbours and the surrounding community, I chose to move back to Napan in hopes to have children, so they could go to the school I went to, a good Rural Community Based School.

Today, I unfortunately I was unable to be a parent, but I am a AUNT of 4.... and when I am invited to Napan Elementary School for the school activities by my nieces or nephews I AM WELCOMED BY ALL STUDENTS, IMEDITTALY THEY ALL SAY, "HI AUNT JUJU" (which my nieces and nephew call me)..

and I am greeted with much respect from the staff, as they know me as well.

To make a long story short, which I could go on and on about how wonderful the NAPAN SCHOOL is... PLEASE take in consideration that our school is a rural school COMMUNITY BASED school and I know from K-5 is getting what they need for their age level.

Thank You for taking the time...



Julie McCormick

September 8, 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in relation to the Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School.

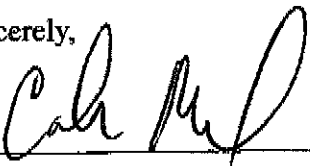
Our business has been founded in the community of Napan for the particular reason that we prefer to offer our services to local families and friends. We along with our employees, prefer to raise our families in this type of community setting.

If the Napan Elementary School were to close this would have a direct effect on our business and the people we serve. Many people choose to live in the community of Napan because it still provides that small country rural setting and education is at a premium. If the school were to be closed families may choose to locate elsewhere in order for their children to be closer to their school. Also new families that are considering moving to this area may choose elsewhere because of the lack of an education facility. Thus creating a direct hit on our business.

I am sure there are many places that cuts could be made within the Anglophone North budget that would be less detrimental to an entire community.

Kindly consider the direct effect that a school closure would put on a Community as a whole and make the correct decision to keep Napan Elementary School open.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_

CARSTAR Collision and Glass

August 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in relation to the Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School.

Our business has been founded in the community of Napan for the particular reason that we prefer to offer our services to local families and friends. We, along with our employees, prefer to raise our families in this type of community setting.

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I am sure there are many places that cuts could be made within the Anglophone North budget that would be less detrimental to an entire community.

Kindly consider the direct effect that a school closure would put on the Community as a whole and make the correct decision to keep Napan Elementary School open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Pitre', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Nick Pitre - City Limits Convenience

September 8, 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom it May Concern:

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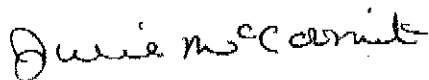
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Kindly consider the direct effect that a school closure would put on a Community as a whole and make the correct decision to keep Napan Elementary School open.

Sincerely,



JULES K-9 BOARDING INC  
Julie McCormick

September , 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

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I am sure there are many places that cuts could be made within the Anglophone North budget that would be less detrimental to an entire community.

Kindly consider the direct effect that a school closure would put on a Community as a whole and make the correct decision to keep Napan Elementary School open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Patterson Sales & Service

September 2015

Anglophone North District Education Council,

This is a letter of support for the Napan Elementary School on behalf of the Napan 4-H Club.

4-H Canada is a not-for-profit organization that is focused on strong leadership for world-class positive youth development experiences in Canada. 4-H empowers young Canadians to become skilled, engaged and responsible leaders who are passionate about making meaningful contributions to the world around them. 4-H provides a safe, fun, and inclusive environment that prepares them to make a positive impact on their community & country.

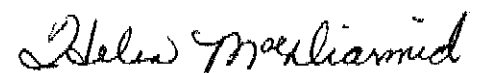
Today, young Canadians of all backgrounds face challenges, such as obesity, academic competition, mental health, youth violence, substance abuse, and societal change. This generation faces unprecedented challenges and uncertainty about the future of the planet they will inherit.

4-H'ers are offered the opportunity to become leaders, and to develop and thrive in a safe and fun learning environment. They are taught how to make a difference—one positive change at a time.

Many of our leaders and members in the Napan 4-H Club grew up in Napan attending the Napan Elementary School. Many of the leaders in this and surrounding communities are past members of the Napan 4-H Club.

It is our concern that if this school closes and the children attend elementary school in the city their interest and activities will remain in the city. It is a concern that the closure of this school could directly impact the membership of the Napan 4-H Club.

Sincerely,



Helen MacDiarmid,  
Organizational Leader Napan 4-H Club



---

September 11, 2015

Attention: Anglophone North District Education Council

From: Napan Hall Board

To Whom It May Concern,

The Napan Hall Board is made out of a body of people who live in Napan and volunteer their time towards community.

Many of us have been around a long time and remember when the Napan Elementary School was built. It is one of the most important buildings in our community that has provided a safe environment for our children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren to receive their education.

The Napan Hall Board would like to see our community school stay open. Our board will continue to support the school in any means we can. We want to see families stay in Napan. Without our school we will lose families and future leaders in this community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Gillis', is written over the printed name.

Roy Gillis

Napan Hall Board

September , 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in relation to the Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School.

Our business has been founded in the community of Napan for the particular reason that we prefer to offer our services to local families and friends. We along with our employees, prefer to raise our families in this type of community setting.

If the Napan Elementary School were to close this would have a direct effect on our business and the people we serve. Many people choose to live in the community of Napan because it still provides that small country rural setting and education is at a premium. If the school were to be closed families may choose to locate elsewhere in order for their children to be closer to their school. Also new families that are considering moving to this area may choose elsewhere because of the lack of an education facility. Thus creating a direct hit on our business.

I am sure there are many places that cuts could be made within the Anglophone North budget that would be less detrimental to an entire community.

Kindly consider the direct effect that a school closure would put on a Community as a whole and make the correct decision to keep Napan Elementary School open.

Sincerely,

*Courtney + Jacqueline Phee*

Sept-14/15

To Whom it may Concern:

My Three children all went to Napan School. Now my 9 year old Grandson is going there. with a small school like Napan all the teachers no the children. Parents, and Grand parents, by Name. They also no what child Needs the most help. The Napan School should stay open.

Courtney + Jacqueline  
Free

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September 14, 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School..

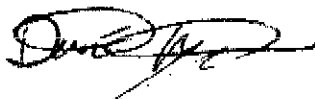
I am a new Father of a 6 month old.

We moved into the Community of Napan, in hopes our child would go to Napan Elementary School.

We believe that a Rural School is a place where our child will learn and grow at the pace he needs with the proper help of a smaller school. A larger school will not know our child one on one, and we fear he will be pushed through as a number, not an individual student.

Please Consider the Community of Napan as a whole, and not as a number.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darian Hagen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darian Hagen

September 14, 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School..

I moved to Napan back in 2005 with my wife, since moving back in Napan, I am overwhelmed with the community spirit here, community involvement, and community support. Simply AWESOME...

I am afraid if the School were to close, this community spirit will diminish like Loggieville did when their school closed..

The Zoning should be looked at, as there to many students being bused by Napan School, I am told more than 30, (St Margarets, Redmonville, Glenwood, MacDonald Rd. Upper North Black River Rd. and all Hwy 11 from the County Line in to Searle Rd.). This would make a huge difference in population, and help lower class sizes in the Miramichi East schools.

The sports teams in Napan are awesome as all students that join a team get to play, whereas bigger schools the better ones get picked and the ones that are not as good but want to play, get put aside. Then we wonder why more students are walking the streets getting into trouble and more obesity in youth.

I truly believe you should consider the youth in the community, the people in the Community, the school that has been supported by the community with fundraisers, and the businesses in the community.

**NAPAN IS A RURAL COMMUNITY; IT IS A COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE PEOPLE.**

This School should stay open and be allowed the small amount of money it needs to be repaired.

Thank You;

  
Ronald J. McCormick

**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 10:29 PM  
**To:** Mortlock, Micheal (ASD-N); Flanagan, Andy (ASD-N)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Napan Elementary

Dear Mr. Mortlock, Mr. Flanagan and District Education Council Members,

I am a member of the Napan Community and the father of 3 children. I am writing to you with my support for the Napan Elementary School.

Napan Elementary was a big part of the decision of why my wife and I built our home and family in Napan. We wanted our children to go to Napan for their elementary education. Now 2 of our 3 children have moved on to Jr. High school and I never really knew how important our community school was until I see the success of our daughters in Jr. High. In June my oldest daughter (grade 7) was awarded the top award in the school, the Principal's Award. This award is historically given to a Grade 8 student however our daughter was chosen over all the students in the school. My daughter was given the foundation for learning at Napan elementary to reach such achievements. I hope my son, my nephew and the other children in Napan receive the same opportunities to get a good foundation for learning and community. The Napan school is very active and it is important that all their activities can be done with everyone included.

There are many families young families in Napan and many have moved here for the school. If the Napan school closes, Napan will not be as attractive for families. This will impact everything in this community including the 4-H club, agricultural show, and ball teams.

I am also a contractor. I see that some of the outstanding capital improvement projects are very over priced. For example I see the exterior ramp and septic system are both approximately \$10,000 over priced. There can be savings in the bus runs if they were reviewed and doubled up. And the boundaries should include the students from highway 11. We have friends that would gladly have their children attend Napan if the district would provide bussing.

I believe there are plenty of options for the DEC to keep Napan Elementary open and I trust that you will explore them and keep Napan school open.

Thank you,  
Chris Buckley

**From:** kelly mullen  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:20 PM  
**To:** Flanagan, Andy (ASD-N)  
**Subject:** Closing of Napan School

It saddens me to hear of the possible closing of Napan Elementary. I am concerned for the children knowing that if the doors are shut to Napan School where will they continue to receive their education? I would have loved to have sent my children to a small community School like Napan where they would have received plenty one on one teaching, lots of parent interaction and many more positive things a smaller School has to offer. As a single mother I was forced to move from Napan to town and this is where my children are Schooled now. I did not have a choice however if I did I would have loved for them to attend Napan Elementary. Although there is nothing against the Schools they attend here in town however as you know they are larger classrooms and more children who attend these Schools. I am scared of over populating these classrooms and then what? Where will the children from Napan go? It's not fare to up and move them to a School where a classroom already has 20 plus children to them. A child's education is very important as you know and closing the doors to Napan Elementary would be very crustal to them as students and of course the community. Napan is a very well known community for many reasons and their "little" School is one of them. Please keep the little ones in mind, they are our future!!  
Thank you

September 14, 2015

Re: Napan Elementary, Sustainability Review

To: All DEC Members,

I volunteer heavily at the school with the breakfast and hot lunch programs as well as being the Treasurer of the Home and School Association. I have also taken the ELF training to assist grade 2 students read. I do all this because of the positive atmosphere present at Napan Elementary. Though my husband is from the Chatham area I am not from here, I moved here 15 years ago and worked for the first 7yrs for Atcon but it was not until we moved to Napan nine years ago that I felt any sort of acceptance or belonging in Miramichi. My husband is one of the many men working away; he has been for 6yrs now; were it not for Napan and the sense of community the school fosters to children and parents I would have moved long ago; there is no reason for us to stay here but for the sense of belonging. Without a foundation like Napan Elementary in our community there will be no reason for us to stay here. I involve my children in extracurricular activities such as soccer, hockey, swimming, and theatre so they are exposed to the larger community outside Napan for when they transition from elementary to middle school and to be honest, I do not get the same sense of welcoming and friendship as I do from being part of Napan Elementary. One exception is the theatre group, KPH, which may I add are closing their doors because they cannot break into the Miramichi barrier to make their organization a success.

I am not naïve. I understand dollars are an important factor but so is diversity in our children, our school fosters a different sense of citizenship for our kids. Our small school fosters support and acceptance throughout the grades. The grade 5s know the kindergartners, and this develops a different sort of mentality of inclusion of all. This is such an important facet of life that we are fortunate enough to be able to develop in our children at such a crucial time in their lives.

On a separate personal level, my daughter developed severe anxieties last year, in grade 4. Were it not for the exceptional staff, understanding children and frankly, the small size of the school she would have most certain not been able to get to a point where she could work thru her problems. We do not have full time counsellors, but we had teachers that would give extra of themselves to help her work thru her attacks whether it be sitting outside with her, taking her for a walk or letting her help out in another classroom to take her mind off her anxiety. Nor did one child ever make her feel stupid or embarrassed about her anxiety, all because of their understanding that "everyone is different and that's okay". You cannot tell me this would have been possible in a larger system.

Closing Napan Elementary will have such a negative impact on so many children's lives and very likely be the end of a wonderful community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Flora Moffat, Mother of 3 Napan Elementary Students



**From:** MacKenzie, Donna  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 12:58 PM  
**To:** Mortlock, Micheal (ASD-N); Flanagan, Andy (ASD-N)  
**Cc:** Gilliss-Buckley, Melanie  
**Subject:** Napan Elementary School

Good morning,

I would just like to advise you, for the first time since he started Kindergarten, when I asked my nephew how his first week of school had gone, he said it was good and that he liked it. He started grade 5 in Napan Elementary this year; having previously gone to a different school.

It would be a shame to close a 'smaller' school when lower numbers are so important to the growth and development of some children who find it difficult simply to maintain, never mind thrive, in a class/school of larger numbers. Bigger is not always better...and money is not always what matters most; sometimes 'shortcuts' end up being more expensive in the long run! There are probably better ways the government can pare their spending; perhaps have a closer look at the bureaucratic sector to assess the 'number necessity' there?

On another note, as a correctional officer I have seen the end result of some children who have not fared well within a school of large numbers; admittedly this would not be the only reason they arrive in a closed custody facility, but it certainly is one of them. I have watched these same children accomplish much more in a facility where the numbers are much smaller than they were used to in the larger school settings. It is much easier for them to "get lost" among large numbers; especially trying for children who are already experiencing difficulties and feel they are not being heard or are important. It is easier for them to handle challenges when there are less peers around they feel they need to impress or perhaps defend themselves from/against, or to compete for the teachers time, etc.

It is also easier for the teacher to focus on a smaller group of students effectively and efficiently and to be able to concentrate more on the educational aspect of schooling as well as discipline.

I suspect if a study were done on students who went on from the Napan Elementary school (or most other small schools) it would show the great majority of them went on to lead successful and productive lives and these numbers would be much higher than if a same study were done on the graduates of a school which boasted much larger numbers of students – just a thought.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
D. MacKenzie

**From:** Tammy Poirier  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 6:57 PM  
**To:** Mortlock, Micheal (ASD-N)  
**Subject:** Please save our Napan School

I am a 37 year old mother of triplet girls (Poirier Triplets) who are 5yrs old and are now attending Napan School ( Kindergarten). They love it! Great staff, small school that my girls are fitting into well and I have no worries of them being separated till at least Junior High, a bigger school has a higher chance of them being separated which would break my heart and I know for a fact my girls would not be able to function being apart. After the first day that my girls attended Napan, all my worries and concerns of my girls leaving me after more then 5yrs as I am a stay at home was so much less after seeing their happy little faces and they talked about this one and that one made everything so much easier.

To take a small school such as Napan and place it into the bigger school terrifies me! I enjoy and am pleased with the staff, the bigger the school the less one on one time and the higher chance of bullying and the higher chance of bullying going un-noticed terrifies me even more.

I was born and raised in Napan and also attended that school myself as well as my 20 yr old son, I hate the thought of you all shutting our Community School down. The community is so tight and is gonna grow as time moves on with so many wanting to move to the place I call home (Napan). As I am sitting here thinking of all I want to say I am full of so many emotions that I am literally crying while doing so as this bothers me so much!

Please save our Napan School!!! Us Country Families want our children to attend there, we don't want our children to attend a bigger school with the average of 400 plus kids in town. Please have a great heart and leave Our School Alone.

Thanks for taking the time to read

this.

Tammy Poirier

September/5, 2015

District Education Counsel  
Anglophone North  
78 Henderson Street  
Miramichi, New Brunswick  
E1N 2R7

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in relation to the Sustainability Study being conducted on the Napan Elementary School.

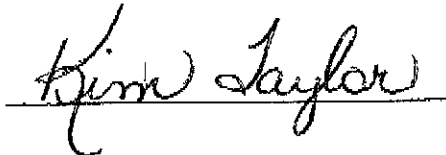
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I am sure there are many places that cuts could be made within the Anglophone North budget that would be less detrimental to an entire community.

Kindly consider the direct effect that a school closure would put on a Community as a whole and make the correct decision to keep Napan Elementary School open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kim Taylor", is written over a horizontal line.

**From:** danmel01

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:46 AM

**To:** Mortlock, Micheal (ASD-N); Flanagan, Andy (ASD-N); Rousselle, Serge Hon. (OAG/CPG - EECD/EDPE)

**Subject:** Save Napan School

I am writing this letter to show how important it is for us to keep our community school.

Last year my little one started kindergarten. She has some anxiety issues, especially with the unknown. She had a few rough days but they were not near as bad as they could have been thanks to all the teachers and students at napan elementary.

The whole entire school knew what issues she was having and they all came together to make sure her day was as good as it could be. A lot of the things they did for her would seem insignificant to many others but to her it made the transition easier. Her teacher even came home with her on the bus the first day of school. Now that's above and beyond! It's genuine love for your students.

I'm quite certain that we would be still having issues if it was not for our small school.

A similar situation happened with my friends daughter and they simply told the mother that they didn't have the ability to keep her there because she was only one of 25 other students in the class and all the time could not be spent consoling one child. The mother was then contacted to come and pick up her daughter.

If this was your daughter which school would you like her to attend? The big school or the small school where everyone, not just the teacher, works together to make sure everyone feels safe and welcome.

Our school is like it's own big family and everyone treats each other as family would, with love and respect. Taking away our school would be like ripping our family apart.

----- Original Message -----

From: Julie Goguen

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 05:56 PM Atlantic Standard Time

To: Flanagan, Andy (ASD-N); Mortlock, Micheal (ASD-N)

Subject: Save Napan elementary

Hello,

My name is Julie Goguen and I may not have school age children now, but I will next fall and I would much rather my daughter go to a small school where she is protected from the peer pressure a lot of children get dragged into in much larger schools. I would rather her have smaller classes where her teacher can easily catch any troubles she may have in any of her subjects. A school where she will grow up and become friends with the same people she went to elementary with. A school that will be less likely to have a bullying problem. Which is every parents worst fear when sending their child on to school everyday.

I did not go to a small school, but my best friends came from small schools. I'm best friends with these people today because of their kindness and how loyal of friends they are.

My main concern for my daughter's education is: to have the full attention of her teacher whenever it is needed and to learn how to treat others in a friendly way. I believe Napan Elementary will fulfill my wishes.

Today's children need the schooling like this one provides.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and opinions.

Julie