



**Sustainability Study Report and Recommendation
Policy 409
Napan Elementary School
September 21, 2015**

**Sustainability Study Final Report and Recommendation
Napan Elementary School**

The sustainability study done by the DEC looked at 2 options as recommended by District Office staff:

maintain status quo

or

close the school and relocate students to a new school being built in Miramichi East.

DEC Recommendation: To recommend that Napan Elementary School be exempted from further sustainability studies for three years.

Criteria	Points to Consider
<p>1. Low Declining Enrolments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment at the school, although below the 100 student trigger, has remained stable for the last few years and projections show that stability will continue. (Although the Napan Elementary School community has suggested students from areas that travel past South Napan Road should be zoned for Napan Elementary School and actually want to attend Napan, a poll of parents shows that the majority of parents from that area are happy with their children’s school locations and would not want to have their area rezoned so their children can attend Napan Elementary School).
<p>2. Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several outstanding capital projects required for the school; however, none of them are considered priority projects at this time.
<p>3. Education Programs and Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student teacher ratio for Napan Elementary School has changed from 1:7.9 to 1:11.3 with adjustments in staffing for the 2015-16. This is closer to the ratio that other elementary schools in the district have.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment results at Napan Elementary School are always well above district and provincial averages, speaking to the educational programming that has been developed at Napan Elementary School and the engagement of the school community. • Students who have attended Napan Elementary School go on to become leaders at middle and high school and beyond. The percentage of students who go on to achieve at high levels, in terms of academics and sports, is very impressive.
<p>4. Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students would still require transportation by bus whether or not Napan Elementary School remains opened or closed.
<p>5. Operating Costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operating costs of the school have dropped due to a reduction in staffing. The savings realized by closing the school would be around \$300,000.00/year which would be recouped quickly by relocating students to the new Miramichi East School. At this time, the construction has not begun so the costs of keeping Napan Elementary School open for the next three years would be costs that would be incurred anyway. As well, with the expected implementation of a new French Immersion entry point, it is unlikely that Napan will have the population to offer this program. Students may opt to attend the Miramichi East School, which may decrease the enrolment of Napan School further. A study three years from now would be warranted.
<p>6. Impact on the Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Napan Elementary School has a very unique and rare community spirit due

	<p>to its rural culture. Although only a few minutes from the city, the community has maintained their focus on a rural way of life. The parents are not only involved with the school, but the community is also a huge partner in school activities and school life. Events at the school are community events where everyone attends, and volunteers include many community members who do not even have children in the school. This is not seen in many schools, and the involvement and investment into the school by the community is huge. Closing the school at this time would take the heart out of the community. As per Policy 409, 6.4.2 #6, consideration of whether the school is the sole school in the community, especially at the elementary level, is a major factor in this decision.</p>
<p>7. Impact on Other Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest impact on other schools is the need to spend extra resources to support a smaller school. Results from Napan Elementary School, however, show that this expenditure has some excellent results.
<p>8. Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 32 businesses operating in Napan and 24 of them are home-based businesses. If the school were to close, future residents may not choose Napan as a place of residence and these businesses may be at risk. • With the construction of the new Payroll Center in Miramichi, people are seriously looking at Napan as a place to live, due to its community spirit, excellent school and quality rural lifestyle.