



March 2, 2016

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To the Members of the ASD-E District Education Council:

Last September, we shared with you Sackville Schools 2020's founding and our goal **to create a movement to deliver a 21st century learning environment to Sackville's schools**. Our group came together when learning of ASD-E's application for provincial funding for a mid-life upgrade and combining study for Marshview Middle School and Tantramar Regional High School, due to the significant deferred maintenance costs required for the facilities (over \$5 million) and the slight student population declines expected in the coming years.

We also shared that **we would like to be a part of the review and planning process for the Sackville area schools**. We were delighted to receive the committee's confirmation that it would be looking for involvement and engagement from the community.

We have met with many people over the last six months and are returning to you with a review of our work to-date and recommendations gleaned from our community. Two highlights include meeting with Karen Power of the 10-Year Education Plan secretariat, as well as with Gregg Ingersoll at a recent wrap-up meeting for that same project. Many others, including David Roberts of C21 Canada and Adrienne O'Pray of the New Brunswick Business Council, encouraged us to look very broadly at what 21st century education means.

Based on what we have learned, **we strongly believe it will not be possible to provide productive 21st century learning spaces if the two schools are combined** into the TRHS facility. TRHS's building has serious infrastructure issues and many of the rooms previously considered as available classroom spaces are not suitable for instruction (no windows, inconsistent heating/cooling). Nor does the facility meet current school design principles or updated safety codes for a public building. This is to be expected – the school was designed using principles that are now almost 50 years old and outdated.



We strongly believe **the primary outcome of the upcoming review of the Sackville area schools should be to create an effective and inspiring 21st century learning infrastructure for our students and teachers.** Beyond reflecting the desires of our community, this goal is consistent with the Province's 10-Year Educational plan and the vision laid out by the Premier in his recent State of the Province address.

The economy and society that our children are graduating into require different skills and learning experiences than what was incorporated into school designs from the mid-20th century. Modern school architecture varies by locale and requirements, but always **incorporates a wide range of small group work areas, individual study areas, access to natural light and the outdoors, commons areas, principles of sustainability, and of course, effective lecture theatres.** As stated above, we strongly believe these principles should be embedded in the evaluation criteria, and resulting recommendations, of the upcoming infrastructure review.

Much of the excitement about moving to a 21st century educational model extends to building on the **powerful opportunity to create an integrated relationship between our schools, our community and university.** Experiential learning exchanges are already occurring among our schools, businesses and Mount Allison, with the potential for much more within a 21st century learning approach.

We have been advised repeatedly that it will be **critical to give educators and administrators autonomy and support** to transition to a 21st century curriculum. We have also received counsel to investigate the feasibility of using a public-private partnership funding structure to bring the facilities on line cost-effectively and more quickly.

Thank you for reviewing our work and recommendations, and for considering **the opportunity to deliver a 21st century integrated educational infrastructure to Sackville's schools as the primary goal of the upcoming facility review.**

We would like to present our findings and support recommendations in person at the first opportunity at an upcoming DEC meeting. We would also be delighted to tour the facilities with the committee if you would be interested.



Thank you for your time and consideration to-date. We look forward to these next steps in this exciting and rewarding process for our students, teachers and community.

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Appendix: Sackville Schools 2020 Work To-Date

Here is a quick summary of some activities that have taken place so far:

- The working group came together in July to set a goal of creating a 21st century learning environment in the Sackville School system
- The group informed the DEC of our formation and goals in September via a written submission and followed up with personal contacts
- Stuart Baker, Organizational Transformation specialist, facilitated a planning session for the working group on how to structure the larger community effort
- *Collaboration Café 1.0* was held on October 18th with 35 community members coming out to address three main questions: What does a 21st century learning environment look like physically? What happens within a 21st century learning environment? How do we make a 21st century learning environment a reality in Sackville? From this session came a number of action items.
- We reached out to a series of Advocates and Advisors to help us move forward:
 - Bernard Leblanc, MLA
 - Bob Berry, Mayor of Sackville
 - Robert Campbell, President, Mount Allison University
 - Mike Wilson, CEO of AIL Industries
 - David Hawkins, President of XYZ Stratacom
 - Robert Paterson, early childhood development advocate
- On October 29th, we met with Karen Power, co-secretariat of the Engage-NB Education Consultation committee, at a specially-convened meeting requested by Sackville Schools 2020. Over 25 people attended the meeting, including members of the general public and our working group.
- A “Sackville Schools 2020” Facebook page was launched to share learnings on 21st century educational strategies that we came across, as well as to publicize events.





- On November 2nd, the working group and one of our school principals made a presentation to Sackville Town Council to inform them about Sackville Schools 2020's work and that we would keep them informed of our progress
- Meetings were held with students in all three schools to determine what they would like to see from their school environments, as well with all three principals.
- In January, we had a conference call with David Roberts, CEO of C21, a national organization focused on delivering 21st century learning environments across the country (<http://www.c21canada.org/>). David has offered to lend his experience and advice to our work.
- We met with Adrienne O'Pray, President & CEO of the New Brunswick Business Council, on Jan 21st. In addition to her role with the NBBC, Adrienne has been involved in community movement-building and co-founded a private school in Moncton that focuses on students who sometimes struggle in the public system. Adrienne offered up a number of referrals and connections that we are pursuing at this time.
- Group member, Dr. Mike Fox, was invited to a wrap-up event in Fredericton for the Premier's 10-Year Strategic Planning for Education on January 28th as one of about 45 attendees, mostly from the Provincial government. There was lots of attention paid to "21st Century Learning" and "Collective Impact". Mike felt the timing appears right for Sackville to make the jump to this new educational approach.
- The same day, Brian Gallant gave his State of the Province speech and mentioned education is key to the province's long-term sustainability and prosperity 51 times.
- We had a meeting with the Chair of Mount Allison's President's Strategic Planning Committee in January. This was followed up with a meeting with the Experiential Learning sub-committee, with whom we expect to be working as we move forward.
- We visited two of the province's newer rural schools in the Fredericton area to understand how the planning and execution processes happened in those communities. We learned that in both cases, local, community-driven projects were endorsed by the Department of Education and things moved quite quickly thereafter.
- Sackville Schools 2020's website was launched, describing the goals of the group, our findings to-date, and a host of reference materials we have come across.