



Sustainability Study Report & Recommendation

Policy 409

Tide Head School

January 23, 2019

Sustainability Study Final Report and Recommendation

Tide Head School

This sustainability study, conducted by the District Education Council (D.E.C.), was triggered by a significant reduction in student enrolment at Tide Head School at the onset of the 2018-2019 school year.

September 30, 2018 enrolment figures indicated that nine students were attending Tide Head School. By October 2018 this number had declined to eight students.

The sustainability study considered two options:

- Closing the school in June 2019, one year earlier than previously scheduled.
- or
- Status quo; keeping the school open until June 2020.

Criteria:

1. Declining enrolment

Points That Were Considered:

A drastic decline in student enrolment has been recorded in recent years. In 2015 a total of forty-nine students attended Tide Head School. Eight students currently attend T.H.S.

**Attached please find current enrolment figures for the Tide Head School catchment area.*

There is no anticipated population growth in the Tide Head catchment area in coming years.

2. Functional Capacity

T.H.S. has a functional capacity of ninety-seven students. With an enrolment of eight students, the capacity of the school is currently operating at 9.2 %.

3. Education Programs

A number of students currently attend Lord Beaverbrook School in the French Immersion Program.

Provincial funding provides one full-time teacher for every 21 students. Given the total number of students, from the Tide Head area, who could potentially register for the Gr. 1 French Immersion entry point (five students), this would not be a viable option.

In keeping with Policy 309, student enrolment in the local catchment area does not support the implementation of an early French Immersion program.

With a teaching complement of 1.5 full-time equivalents, providing services for special needs/gifted students is a major challenge. Staffing limits prevent the ability to provide specialized teachers at the school, i.e. Education Support teachers, Music teachers, etc.

The current student/teacher ratio at Tide Head School is not equitable when compared to other elementary schools in the district. Currently, Tide Head School has a ratio of 6.0 students/teacher. This compares to 11.1 students/teacher at Lord Beaverbrook School (L.B.S.) and 14.7 students/teacher at Rexton Elementary.

4. Health & Safety

Patch work on the roof of Tide Head School was required this past summer as a temporary measure, and there are indications that the roof will need major repairs.

5. Transportation

Four of the eight students are currently provided bussing. The other four students live outside the

catchment area and hence, do not qualify for bussing services.

6. Operation Costs

For the 2018-2019 school year, the cost per student at T.H.S. is \$33,238.66. This has increased by 300% in the past four years.

At Terry Fox Elementary School, the cost/student is \$9,335.77. The provincial average for cost/student is approximately \$10,000.00.

7. Impact on the Community

There is minimal use by the community of Tide Head School. The district rents space from St. Andrew's United Church, which is attached to the school.

8. Impact on Other Schools

The eight students from Tide Head School can be accommodated at Lord Beaverbrook School and Campbellton Middle School.

9. Opportunities

A move to L.B.S. would facilitate increased learning opportunities for both staff and students.

Students would benefit from specialized instruction in the areas of guidance, resource, physical education and music.

Students would benefit from increased socialization with peers.

Therefore, the Anglophone North District Education Council will recommend to Hon. Dominic Cardy, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, that Tide Head School be closed in June 2019 and that all students at Tide Head School be reassigned.

Respectfully,

Micheal Mortlock, Chair
District Education Council
Anglophone North School District

STUDENTS ZONED FOR TIDE HEAD AND WEST OF TIDE HEAD – 2018-2019

Grade	Attending Tide Head School	Attending Lord Beaverbrook School (Regular Program)	Attending Lord Beaverbrook (French Immersion Program)	Total
K	2 (One student is in-zone and one student is out-of-zone because sibling attends THS)	3		5
1	2		3	5
2		1	4	5
3		1	3	4
4	3 (One student is in-zone and two students are out-of-zone)		3	6
5	1 (Special Needs student is out-of-zone for THS)			1
TOTALS	8	5	13	26
		<u>18</u> students attending Lord Beaverbrook School are zoned for Tide Head catchment area		