



St. Matthew's Elementary School Council

119 Cowan Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1E 4W4
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December 8, 2010

Dear parents and guardians,

Officials from the Eastern School District met with school council representatives on Monday, December 6, 2010, in response to the recently released consultant's report: *School Facility Requirements of the Greater St. John's Area*. This independent report recommends, among other things, the immediate closure of IJ Samson Junior High school.

In May 2008, the Eastern School Board recommended the closure of IJ Samson Junior High when an extension to Beaconsfield Junior High is completed. This extension project is currently on the Eastern School Board's capital priority list and has been submitted to the provincial government for funding approval. Given that IJ Samson Junior High requires significant capital funding for window and roof replacement, and that an independent consultant has recommended immediate closure, the Eastern School District proposes the following:

Proposal: IJ Samson Junior High to close in June 2011.

To accommodate IJ Samson Junior High students at Beaconsfield Junior High until the extension is completed, some internal modifications would have to be made at Beaconsfield, as well as the possibility of adding temporary modular classrooms. If funding is announced in the Provincial 2011 Budget for the Beaconsfield Junior High extension project, the extension could be ready for occupancy in winter 2013.

This move would impact St. Matthew's Elementary in the following way:

Currently, St. Matthew's Elementary feeds to Beaconsfield Junior High. As an interim measure, until the Beaconsfield Junior High extension is completed, our current grade six students will remain at St. Matthew's Elementary for grade seven. The students of St. Matthew's Elementary will attend Beaconsfield Junior High for grade eight and nine and then they will attend, when completed, the new west end high school.

Update on West End High School

New West End High School: The Department of Education has approved the site for the new west end high school on Topsail Road, adjacent to the School for the Deaf site. All students in the IJ Samson Junior High and Beaconsfield Junior High feeder schools will attend the new west end high school when it opens.

The Eastern School District is holding public hearings in early January 2011. Your school council will be making a presentation to the Board on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. We would like to hear your opinion on the proposal outlined above so that we can incorporate parental feedback in our presentation.

If you wish to give feedback to the School Council, please put your comments in writing. You can send your comments through the School Council email address which is: schoolcouncilstmatthews@gmail.com

Or by sending your comments to the school addressed to St. Matthew's School Council. Comments must be received by December 20, 2010. Thank you.

Regards

Dean Menchions
Chairperson