



Whitbourne Elementary (Crescent Collegiate System) Feedback

Feedback School As of Mar 4, 2016	For Potential Closure	Against Potential Closure	Undetermined
Woodland Elementary		1	2
Whitbourne Elem.		75	

Themes:

- Data collected is outdated – declining enrollment inaccurate
- Census year – community anticipates numbers will increase
- Decisions being made by an unelected board of trustees
- Belief a bias-hangover potentially exists from the previous process at Whitbourne
- Catchment areas are flawed (children will attend the nearest school?)
- Whitbourne = growing community center
- Parents/Guardians concerned about the available space at Woodland (parking and greenspace to a lesser extent)
- Accessibility issues at Woodland
- Lack of space at Woodland for sensory room space currently at Whitbourne
- Lack of alternatives presented – to close or not to close
- Long bus rides

Alternate Suggestions:

- Review/Adjust catchments
- Look at options for Holy Family (UIC), Woodland closures.
- Examine potential changes to areas such as Old Shop, Blaketown, Dildo, South Dildo, New Harbour, Whitbourne, etc.
- Delay decisions until after school board elections
- Delay decisions until after 2016 census results
- Delay until the Premier's Task Force on Education completes its work
- Delay till after FDK is implemented and its full impact recognized



Representative Sample Comments (1/6)

- As a parent and member of the Whitbourne Elementary School Council, I am highly concerned about the possibility of re configuring Whitbourne Elementary to Woodland Elementary. We have already been through this process less than three years ago and this is our school's fourth time under review in 12 years. Are there not other schools across this Province that fit the "Trigger" criteria for a school review. We went through this process blind in 2012-2013. How is it fair that less than three years later, we could potentially be going through this process again. Five members of the board of Trustees are the same. This is completely biased towards our school and community.



Representative Sample Comments (2/6)

- I feel the the move is unnecessary our school is wheel chair accessible. we have a large building with lots of space for extra students. a bigger parking lot. lots of room behind our building to expand if needed be, with a base ball field. plus woodland is an older school compared to Whitbourne Elementary.
- Parking and green space is a major concern
- As a parent of a child going to Woodland Elementary, we more than welcome the Whitbourne children to our school. They too will hopefully get to see how great our school really is, they just need to give it a chance. But please do NOT rake our school over the coals like happened 2 years ago, our school isn't without its challenges but we have great dedicated teachers, students and parents that care about our school and are working hard to improve any areas that need improvement. Again, if it is decided Whitbourne will move to Woodland....Welcome to our GREAT school! I believe you will love it! - Woodland Parent



Representative Sample Comments (3/6)

- We do not have a declining enrolment, we actually have a growing community, Whitbourne Elementary school has not been on any of your lists as needing any significant infrastructure for the past several years. Not sure how over populating another school will help to enhance academic programming as all kids are currently receiving the same academic delivery. If you had come to us with the proposal of a new school, with all the bells and whistles it would be a different story, but unfortunately what you are asking is for us to take our children from a school that has so much to offer to a school that is lacking! Lacking the ability to accomodate all students! Lacking green space! Lacking parking! Lacking space for expansion! And the list goes on! Basically what you are proposing is that I place my four year old on a bus to ship him 40kms to a school, so that the government can save money!!!



Representative Sample Comments (4/6)

- I am concerned that extra strain on the teachers and all involved in making that reputation for this school will be striped away should their student body double in size. I would hope that a serious look into the quality of life, since this a place where children will spend much of their waking days in the years to come, will be a deciding factor for all our children's future. Our future depends on them. Period. It's up to us to guide them and give them all the necessary attention and tools to do great things. Proper school environments foster this. - Woodland Parent
- Whitbourne Elementary serves as a center for Memorial University Distance Education and Learning Systems. Students from St. Mary's Bay ,both sides of this part of Trinity Bay and the immediate area write their mid term and final examinations at this site. . This school has become a community center for all community activities.. The community is growing in that our school buses pick up students on two new sub divisions that have been created in the last five years.



Representative Sample Comments (5/6)

- You have only presented us with two alternatives -- to close Whitbourne Elementary, or not. I would like to see the analysis of other options, such as closing Woodland Elementary instead and a) having those students attend Whitbourne Elementary (since both schools appear to have the same capacity), or b) changing the catchment area and dividing the Woodland Elementary students between Whitbourne Elementary and Acreman Elementary. Has the student population projections for Holy Family been considered? If Whitbourne Elementary should close, and if in a few years the student population at Holy Family has declined, where would those students attend school? At Woodland? That's quite the distance from Chance Cove, Fair Haven and the rest of those communities. Wouldn't the Whitbourne Elementary location be a better possibility for those students? I would like to know the cost of repairs and upgrades required at Woodland Elementary. My arguments for keeping Whitbourne Elementary open are the same as they were three years ago. I am all for closing whitbourne school down as the cost of keeping it open could be used to another much needed school. With the amount of registration presently being very low it's a lot of money to upkeep and not to mention teachers pay with some classes of less than 10 kids. However as a parent of a child in woodland I feel as though woodland isn't ready either. We currently don't have ANY recess or lunch program in place, our kids don't get much time for lunch they have 15 mins only to get to the cafeteria, eat and back upstairs to their classes... You need to fix the problems with woodland before considering adding a extra 75+ kids to it. It's not fair to the kids presently at woodland and won't be fair to the whitbourne kids either. - Woodland Parent



Representative Sample Comments (6/6)

- Currently Whitbourne has a sensory room whereas children with sensory issues have the room to go that meets their special needs. My son has sensory issues and will need such space. If Whitbourne students move to Woodland School there are no additional space to for children with sensory issues to have their needs met. A move to woodland would not enhance academic programs for my special needs son whereas they have no additional room for sensory issues.
- Full day kindergarten will begin this September. This is a major unknown in the education system. This should given time to be operational and it's full effects recognized