

# Questions for Parents to Ask



## QUESTIONS TO ASK TO ANYONE!

**Now that the portables are approved why is the Board still going through this process of considering the closure of Ministik School?**

### ROOM 1: TRANSPORTATION

1. What is Ministik School's transportation funding from AB Education?
2. At the present time we have 4 buses in the AM and 3 buses in the PM. With the proposed bus routes there are 8 buses in the AM and 7 in the PM? Plus an addition bus has to be added for a cost of \$53,000.00. How is this minimizing our carbon footprint? Carbon emissions? Cost of fuel?
3. What guarantees parents that Transportation won't decrease buses, increase student numbers on buses, and increase ride times in future!
4. We want a complete breakdown as to how busing Ministik Students to Fultonvale saves the jurisdiction \$70,430.00?
5. How can buses drop off kids at the proposed times in the pm when buses don't leave Fultonvale until 3:08 pm.
6. What do Fultonvale's current bus routes look like? (a copy of them)
7. Transportation proposed and current bus costs? For Ministik and Fultonvale (Board Policy 15, 3.11)

### ROOM 2: HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

#### Portables/ Lead in the Water/ Infrastructure (IMR) and Maintenance (Facility Services)

1. 382 work orders from 2012-2015: for what? Detail? How is this compared to other schools?
2. \$592,104 in differed maintenance as of Apr 1, 2016: for what? Detail? Compared to other schools in the district?
3. If the deferred maintenance is done and the portables are installed what rating would Ministik get in regards to the building?
4. Does the school NEED to be replaced at this time and why?
5. Why is Ministik not on the Ten-Year Facilities Plan when it was known that it needed new portables?
6. What would it cost to fix the lead in the water including drywall etc. Just cold water or cold water and hot water? Have all solutions been looked at?
7. Will the jurisdiction allow the parent association to fix the lead in the pipes problem?
8. How can the school run more efficiently?
9. What does it cost to maintain Colchester school: heating, electricity? Fixing vandalism; sending two employees to check it every day?
10. Is the \$7,742 cost for maintaining the land (mowing, garbage removal etc.) included in the Operations and Maintenance for Ministik School?
11. Our plant ops/ maintenance cost has been dropping each year and in 15/16 it was 7.9% of total cost. Is there any comparison done at this level to other schools?

## ROOM 3: EDUCATION

### Educational Impact

1. How many actual empty classrooms are there in Fultonvale?
2. If Ministik students went to Fultonvale, how many students would be in classrooms per grade?
3. How will the coded students be provided for at Fultonvale?
4. If Ministik closes and are moved to Fultonvale, what are the ways you are going to prepare the children for this transition?
5. When Wye School is closed and the new school is built in Heritage Hills, and children from their rural catchment are being routed to Fultonvale, how are they going to accommodate these children?
6. If Ministik students went to Fultonvale, how many students would be in classrooms per grade?
7. How will the coded students be provided for at Fultonvale?
8. Has the educational/instructional people done their research on the effects on students and learning if a) their community school is closed and the transition; and b) what the long term effects are?

### Enrolment Projections

1. What is the proposed enrolment for Fultonvale for the next five years?
2. How is the jurisdiction prepared to deal with increased enrolment if Fultonvale becomes full.
3. Have they talked to Strathcona County relative to the proposed land developments at Cooking Lake and how that will affect enrolment predictions?
4. Young families with children are likely to not move into the area if Ministik School is closed? Has this been considered?
5. We are aware that you use a software system from Barager Systems to complete demographic dynamics and various sceneries when looking at Division planning for new/existing schools. We have asked for the Barager reports for Ministik School and would like to see the Barager System reports on Wye School and Fultonvale as well. We would also like the maps that show attendance of the children for Wye, Uncas and Fultonvale. We would also like a map of attendance for Millshaven.
6. We would also like school enrollment and utilization rates (please refer to pgs. 9-18 in the Ministik School Report) and provide the same for Fultonvale, Wye School and Uncas.
7. When Wye school moves and children from the rural are being rerouted to Fultonvale, how are you going to accommodate those children, Fultonvale will be at capacity of 600?

### Effects on Other Schools

1. How many teachers and EA will be hired/transferred to accommodate the move to Fultonvale?
2. How will the cost per student at Fultonvale change with the increase of inclusive students that would come to them from Ministik School.
3. Have the parents of Fultonvale been consulted? Some Fultonvale parents have informed us that they do not want more upheaval for their children as they already had Colchester kids added as well as the ongoing renovations going beyond schedule.
4. Does Fultonvale have room for us? Show us!
5. Parents are already complaining there isn't enough gym time for children at Fultonvale because they lost the old gym so how is adding more students to Fultonvale going to help this situation? They are already don't have enough gym time at the school!

#### ROOM 4: BUDGET/FINANCIAL

1. What reasons are there to expect an increase in savings if Minisitk School is closed? As current research suggests that savings for tax payers, fiscal efficiencies and curricular improvement are unlikely.
2. What is the rationale for adding inclusive learning and small schools funding to the cost per student?
3. What is the formula for the viability of a rural school? Why does the formula used by AB government say we are viable and want to invest new modular but EIPS formula is showing we aren't viable?
4. What cost per student amount would satisfy the board?
5. Has administration considered the value vs. cost of Ministik School?
6. Did EIPS budget for the linking of the portables in 16/17 estimates? Or do they have to pull from the capital reserves?
7. What happens to the school building and land? Will it be the same as Colchester?
8. What costs charged to Ministik School are auto-generated?
9. How do they manage their capital assets? What is their capital assets plan? (As it seems that Ministik has not been receiving the maintenance that it required)
10. Is this closure being considered to justify the cost overruns at Fultonvale?
11. If Ministik was able to lower their "Cost per Student" costs would that be sufficient enough reason to keep us open? If we reduced the cost through staffing means?

#### MARK LIGUORI or DENNIS DYKAU or DAVE ANTYMNIUK IN THE GYM

1. Now that the health concerns of the school are being addressed why is the Board still going through this process of considering the closure of Ministik School?
2. What policy does EIPS or guidelines does EIPS have in determining whether a school should be closed or not?
3. Has administration considered the value vs. cost of Ministik School?
4. What is the formula for the viability of a rural school? Why does the formula used by AB government say we are viable and want to invest new modular but EIPS formula is showing we aren't viable?
5. What happens to the school building and land? Will it be the same as Colchester?
6. Is the decision about closure being made on March 16<sup>th</sup>?
7. What is the reason that Trustee Stadnick put forward the motion to examine the closure of Minisitk School?
8. Why is Mark the face for this motion and the Trustees are not responding? According to our information this was different than the process at Colchester as the Trustees were more responsive to emails and concerns in that situation.
9. Why is there a gag order on principals of neighboring schools to not provide Ministik parents with info? The principal of Uncas specifically told their parent council group to not get involved as a parent council group. Fultonvale has not provided info to us regarding sizes, bussing, etc...
10. What happens if half of the families decide not to go to Fultonvale or any other Elk Island Public School? What happens to staff at Ministik? What happens to the savings the jurisdiction **thinks** they will gain from closing Ministik School?

#### EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY

1. Has the board done any research on how a school closure affects the community around them? If so, would they pass this data or share the data with us.
2. Isn't it important for a sustainable agricultural economy to have favorable access to schooling for their children? Strathcona County's Agriculture Plan won a national 2016 Award for Planning Excellence.
3. It has been documented that property costs in areas where there have been school closures have dropped. Were you aware that at present there are 23 houses for sale in the Ministik area? Older people are leaving and young families are moving in.
4. Ministik School provides hot lunches for our students and staff every Tuesday from October to May. This will also effect the business owners. Has this been considered?