

Parent School Support Committee (PSSC)
Moncton High School
Moncton, NB

March 28, 2024

Randolph MacLean, Superintendent/CEO
Anglophone East School District
1077 St George Blvd
Moncton, NB E1E 4C9

Dear Randolph,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the overcrowding issue at Moncton High School. As members of the school community and our PSSC, we are deeply alarmed by the current situation at the school and the impact on our student's quality of education and overall well-being. With a student population close to 1600, we are now 34% over capacity.

We ask that the overcrowding situation be deemed URGENT and that all potential short-term and long-term solutions be considered immediately.

Overcrowding in schools can have several detrimental effects, including:

Compromised Safety: Overcrowded classrooms and hallways can pose safety risks in emergencies such as fires or evacuations. It may also contribute to the spread of illnesses where social distancing becomes challenging.

Diminished Learning Environment: Large class sizes resulting from overcrowding can hinder the ability of teachers to provide individualized attention to students, leading to a decrease in academic performance and engagement.

Negative Impact on Mental Health: High levels of crowding can lead to increased stress and anxiety among students and staff, affecting their mental well-being and overall satisfaction with the school environment.

Given these concerns, we urge the Anglophone East School District to **prioritize** this overcrowding issue and to consider all of the potential solutions – we know that there has been discussion of reassessing school zones, using other spaces within the district and community (i.e. Old MHS) and the building of new schools. This situation has been discussed for many years, and we now need a plan implemented instead of using band-aid solutions, continuing to prolong the problem and the process.

There are currently 12 portables, with four more coming in September 2024. Several rooms designed for other purposes, including a library, teachers' room, etc., are also used as classrooms. There are also location challenges for these new portables, with the current recommendation to continue to put the portables in front of the school as a cost-saving measure. Doing so would block MORE windows in the school and negatively impact classroom environments.

The problem continues to grow with no end or solutions implemented in sight.

By redistributing students to less crowded schools, we can alleviate the strain on resources and create a more conducive learning environment that promotes academic success and overall student well-being. Additionally, this approach can help mitigate safety concerns associated with overcrowding and ensure that all students have access to the quality education they deserve.

We understand that addressing this issue has required careful consideration and planning. Still, we believe that taking proactive steps NOW to alleviate overcrowding in our schools is essential to maintaining the high standard of education that the Anglophone East School District strives to provide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. **We look forward to hearing about the steps the district plans to take** in response to these concerns and how we can contribute to improving our local education system. **We would also be happy to meet** with the district to understand the challenges better and be part of the solution.

Please note that as a group, we will also be actively lobbying our local politicians to garner support and resources to help address this issue effectively. We believe collaborative efforts between the school district and local government are essential in finding sustainable solutions to alleviate overcrowding and improve the educational experience for all staff and students.

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

PSSC Moncton High School Members

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