

Good evening.

My name is Mindy Amalfitano. I work at Better Beginnings Better Futures and I am also the President and Chair of N.O.A.H. in Zone 30, which for any of you who don't know, is an organization working closely with the Greater Sudbury Police Service for the betterment of our community. Tonight however, I'm not here as a representative of either of these groups. I'm simply here as a parent.

This isn't going to take long..... I don't have any statistics or other such facts for you, and although I'm sure your final decision will be based on more concrete and practical issues, I'd like to share a story just the same.

On July 26, 2009 my husband passed away from cancer. At the time our children were getting ready to enter grades 3 and 4 at Lansdowne Public School. Five staff members attended Dan's funeral, and they gave me a card filled with money that they had collected...while the school was closed for summer vacation.

A couple of weeks later I received a phone call from one of my children's teachers. She said that she and one of her colleagues would like to take Andrew and Daniella out for a few hours. They took my kids out for lunch, they took them to the movies, and they took them to Staples and bought all of their school supplies. Somehow they knew that I just wasn't up to any of it.

My children love their school.....they love their teachers....and they love that they are learning French every day. How can I take away the opportunities that a second language will afford them? How can I take them out of a school that they love so much? It's an impossible decision. One that I don't want to have to make!

Lansdowne isn't just a part of our community....it IS a community. Please let us keep it.

Thank you.