

To whom it may concern:

I am sorry that I cannot be at this meeting this evening to speak to you directly; unfortunately, I am in Cold Lake, Alberta conducting a Writing Workshop for parents of school-age children.

Long Lake Public School has been part of my life since I started grade three in September 1992. The staff at the school played a role in my decision, as a third grade student, to become a teacher someday. The staff at Long Lake has always been close-knit and supportive of every student and their needs. The expectations of me as a child pushed me in my learning environment in a positive way, as well as taught me many important types of skills (i.e., study skills, social skills, life skills, etc.).

As a grade 5/6 student at Long Lake I volunteered to help out in the kindergarten classroom at recess and during lunchtime. This allowed me some hands-on experience with the younger children, helping to solidify my choice to become a teacher when "I grow up." I also helped shelve books in the library and do the yearly inventory during this time, teaching me the responsibility and how to show initiative.

In September 2003 I started my English degree at Laurentian University and was accepted into the new English School of Education. In September 2004, I began my first Pre-Practicum Placement in the kindergarten classroom at Long Lake Public School. I learned a great deal about learning-based play, teaching children how to read, as well as how to adapt lessons to fit the needs and level for the students. My placement was supposed to be 40 hours, but I completed over 100 logged hours. In the years following I would often volunteer to help out during special events at the school, as well as help supervise on field trips with the kindergarten to grade two group.

Throughout university I starting doing some private tutoring for numerous students at Long Lake Public School, a venture that I have continued to do. I also began tutoring with Frontier College, a national non-profit literacy organization. I tutored elementary students for 1 hour per week during the school day at a local elementary school. In my third year of university I took on a leadership role with the organization, where I helped to coordinate volunteers at one of the partner

schools. During my fourth year, as well as my professional year (teacher's college), I was the intern for Frontier College, taking on more of a leadership role in the organization.

In May 2008 I fulfilled the dream of a grade three student and graduated with my Bachelor of Education from Laurentian University. Since graduating I have been working for Frontier College; organizing, recruiting and training the volunteers to help learners in three schools in Sudbury. I have also been an Occasional Teacher with the Rainbow District School Board for the past year, doing much of my occasional teaching at Long Lake.

I was once a student of Long Lake Public School, now I am doing some occasional teaching at the school. Long Lake and the staff at the school over the years have had an immense impact on my life, my education and my career. The small close-knit community school introduced me to some friends that I still see on a regular basis as an adult; especially my best friend, who just played the role of my maid of honour in my recent wedding.

The possible closure of the school would be a detriment to the community as well as the possible students who would not have the same type of opportunities and experiences that I have had in the past 18 years. Long Lake holds a near and dear place in my life and heart, and I would hate to see anything change such a pillar of the community.

Sincerely,

Stacy Sullivan