

R.H. Murray Public School

'At the End of the Rainbow'

What is...
What could be...



Presentation to Rainbow School Board ARC Committee on Accommodation Rev.2

What Is...R.H. Murray?



Small Rural School

We Value:

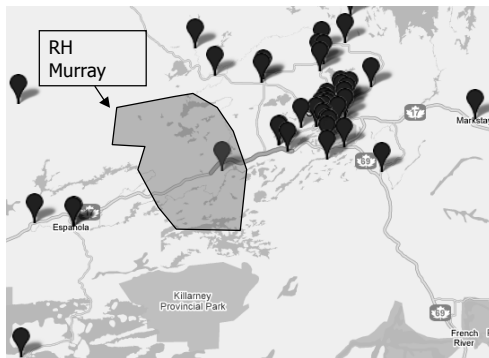
- Student Achievement
- Peer assistance
- Multi grade classrooms
- Mentoring
- Cooperative learning



What Is...R.H. Murray?



400 Square Kilometer Area Served:



Whitefish
Den Lou
Beaver Lake
Chicago Mine Road
Fairbanks
Lake Penage
Grassy Lake Road
Worthington
Whitefish Lake First Nation

What Is...Value to the Students!

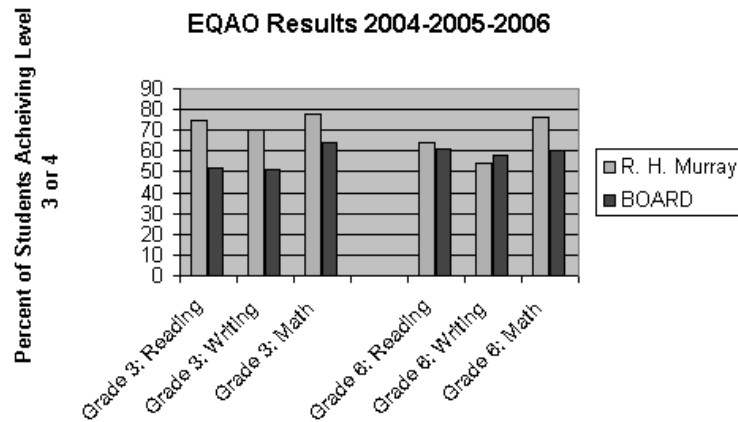
R.H. Murray

- Fewer students results in greater sense of ownership and pride
- Greater opportunity to exercise leadership roles
- Greater opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities
- Improved student self esteem and confidence
- Closer community ties amongst students, teachers, parents and principal



What Is...Value to the Students!

EQAO results consistently better than the Board & the province



What Is...Value to the Community!

- R.H. Murray serves a very large area, due to the low density distribution rural families
- The school is centrally located along the east-west Highway 17 corridor; Penage Road to the south and Fairbanks Road to the north
- Our average student bus ride duration is already 53 minutes
- Some students travel close to 80 minutes
- An additional 20 minutes to Lively is unacceptable



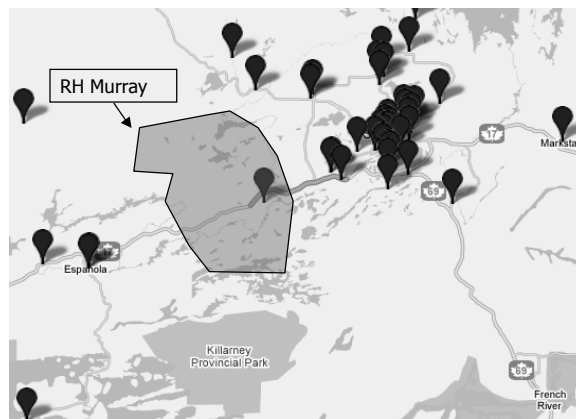
What Is...Value to the Community!

- We may be small but our hearts are BIG - R. H. Murray students raised over \$22,000 locally to benefit the school and \$18,000 to community partners, such as Heart and Stroke, Easter Seals, Lions Club, Walden Food Bank, Unicef (in the last 3 years).
- The school provides an anchor for community sustainability
- Partnerships with Walden Day Care
- Provides space for Ontario Early Years Centre



What Is...Value to the School Board!

- Fraser Institute rated R.H. Murray #1 in the Rainbow Board (2004)
- The school is adjacent to sport fields and facilities maintained by the City of Greater Sudbury
- The only school on the 60 kilometer stretch between Lively and Espanola



What Is...Value to the School Board!

- R.H. Murray P.S. has the lowest 5 Year Cumulative Capital Projects' costs of the Sudbury West schools totaling \$2.57 Million
- Of this amount, a total of \$789,732 dollars has been assessed by the boards consultants for Land/Parking upgrades which is the highest of all the Sudbury West elementary public schools (source Rainbow Board)
- We challenge these figures as we are the smallest of these schools and the adjacent roadways and sports fields owned and maintained by the city
- We believe that this fact was overlooked and that our Facility Condition Index should be significantly improved
- Requests for construction estimate details have been made to the board



What Is...Value to the Local Economy!

CVRD Inco invests \$445 Million in Sudbury Mining Projects

The Northern Life - May 7, 2007

CVRD Inco is investing \$445 million in the future of Greater Sudbury.

The company announced today (Friday, May 4) that it will spend \$400 million (CDN) to re-open Totten Mine in Worthington.

Totten Mine is expected to have a life span of about 20 years.



What Is...Value to the Local Economy!

Price of Nickel Keeps On Breaking Records

The Northern Life - Mar. 22, 2007

The cost of nickel has jumped six fold in the past five years ...Some pundits are forecasting a "nickel super-cycle" of elevated prices.

Most geological experts predict another hundred years of production at Sudbury.



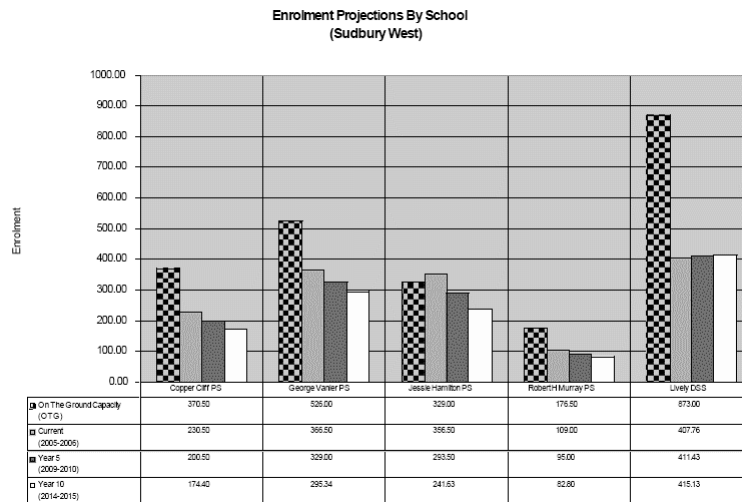
What Is...Value to the Local Economy!

We challenge the Rainbow Board's prediction of 0% growth

- The data on which the predicted enrollment figures were generated was collected prior to the recent nickel boom
- Historically, community growth follows the nickel price trend
- Mining employment opportunities ARE attracting new families to the Sudbury area
- The Totten Mine development will create more jobs in the Whitefish area
- Vacancy rates are lowest in years
- A 15 year ban on building permits was recently lifted in the Whitefish area

What Is...Value to the Local Economy!

Unrealistic Board of Education Enrolment Figures



What Could Be...

What Could be...Rural Results Everywhere

RECENT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT STUDENTS IN SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN LARGE SCHOOLS

- Ontario's Small Schools - People for Education, May 2004
- The Hobbit Effect – Why Small Works in Public Schools – Lorna Jimerson Ed.D
- Towards Sustainable Rural Schools – Robert Laurie, Telegraph Journal, Cape Breton Post May 29, 2007
- School Size, School Climate, and Student Performance – Kathleen Coton, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
- Small Schools: Great Strides- Patricia A. Wasley, Michelle Fine, Matt Gladden, Nicole Holland, etc., 2000
- Small Works – The Series Summary – Rural Policy Matters, April 2004
- Rural Education – National Education Association, www.nea.org
- Big School, Small School - Barker & Gump, 1964
- Size Matters – Susan Black, 1996
- The Ultimate Education Reform? Make Schools Smaller – Center for Education Research at University of Wisconsin



What Could be...Rural Results Everywhere

Common Themes of Reports on Small Rural Schools

- Higher Achievement
- Improved attendance
- Lower drop out rates
- Improve School safety
- Lower student suspension rates
- Greater opportunity to exercise leadership roles
- Greater opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities
- Less vandalism



What Could be...Rural Results Everywhere

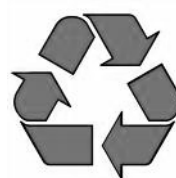
Small Schools Report – People for Education (Canadian). May 2003

- Smaller schools make excellent learning environments
- The loss of the (rural) school has a considerable impact on economic development and can ultimately mean the demise of the community
- The concept of small schools is based on the premise that, in contrast to large, factory model schools, small schools can create a more intimate learning environment that is better able to address the needs of those within the school.
- In urban American schools with fewer than 300 students, 3.9% of the schools reported serious violence incidents compared to 32.9% of schools over 1,000 students.
- As populations decline in Northern Ontario, boards reliant on per pupil funding close more schools. A vicious cycle ensues: fewer people move there, population declines further, more schools close.

What Could be...Re-think Re-Green

Transformation into a Green School

- Reduce. Reuse. Recycle
- Create a rural green school that takes advantage of renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar and geothermal to offset energy requirements
- Model sustainable concepts such as organic food growing and local food cultivation into the facility by creating a small greenhouse
- Incorporate the green energy technology, agricultural concepts and recycling into the curriculum as hands on learning experiences.
- A small school would be the most cost effective construction model.
- A model of innovation for the Rainbow Board
- Teach our children through leading by example



What Could Be... POSSIBLE Solutions!

- Revise SCHOOL BOUNDARIES
- Build a new COMMUNITY School for Walden adjacent to LDSS
- Create a smaller French Immersion School in Mikkola
- OFFER French Immersion at LDSS to keep this stream of students in the area
- PROMOTE the current specialized programs at Lively District Secondary School



What Could Be...Boundary Changes

----- Present Boundaries -----

A.B. Ellis P.S.	R.H. Murray P.S	Jesse Hamilton P.S.
Espanola + Rural + Nairn Center 403 Students High% Utilization	Whitefish + Rural 105 Students 66% Utilization	Oja + Naughton + Mikkola + Black Lake 337 Students 112% Utilization

----- Proposed Boundaries -----

A.B. Ellis P.S.	R.H. Murray P.S.	Jesse Hamilton P.S.
Espanola + Rural 390 Students Good% Utilization	Nairn Center + Whitefish + Rural + Oja 105 Students + 22 Students 80% Utilization	Naughton + Mikkola + Black Lake 315 Students 105% Utilization

What Could be...Fair Funding

Government Action Required



- Almost half of Ontario's elementary schools have fewer than 300 students; the funding formula is geared to schools over 450 students
- Recent Quebec Government strategy on rural schools
 - Additional funding grants
 - Grants for schools with 100 students or less to collaborate with each other
 - Additional funding for maintenance of small schools
 - Reciprocal consultations between municipalities and boards in order to maintain schools in single school communities
- Saskatchewan Government strategy on rural schools
 - Additional funding grants based on enrolment and sparsity factor
- The people at this meeting all need to voice their concerns to their MPP to change the funding formula for our small schools

What Could be...Summary

- The area will experience growth we need to ensure that we have adequate capacity
 - Warehousing of students in schools is not the answer
 - Funding formula is unfair for our small schools
 - Board policy and boundary revisions are the least costly of all changes to implement
- - The Whitefish Parents Group 'End of the Rainbow'