

Good Evening and thank you for this opportunity to appeal to the Rainbow Board and Trustees for the consideration of the proposed new Green School at the MACLEOD PUBLIC SCHOOL location.

I am going to ask you to use your imagination this evening and for a few moments and imagine with me that you have just entered MPS. The lighting is low as the school is empty, it is late in the day and the premises have been vacated. Note the smell of the school...it smells old, reminiscent of old lunches and smelly socks.

Note the flooring...it is no longer gleaming. Its days when a buff can bring back the shine are gone.

While walking though the gym you are hit with a spattering of water, you look up and are hit in the face by another drop...it coming from a leak in the ceiling...and now you wonder if the old building is suffering from mould and mildew...

In general the school looks run down. The appearance is less than charming. The building is old...it is way beyond its prime.

At first glance one may question why people from around the world have their eyes set on Macleod when they relocate to Sudbury. The reason is this...

You can't judge a book by its cover...because it is inside what counts....

And this is true when one speaks of MPS....

So,

With your mind open, picture this,

Through the doors, it is bright and full of life, students' bustling about, teachers instructing. In the hall you see a child busy working with a volunteer parent of which MPS boasts many. The school still smells of old lunches and dirty socks, but rather than focus on the building you focus on what Macleod really is. What you can see, what you can feel - That is, the Macleod way – the Macleod Community.

Macleod has multicultural vibrancy

Because MPS is sought out by so many relocating to the Sudbury area the student community is as colourful ethnically as is Canada as a whole. MPS is proudly represented by many cultures and nations ranging from Britain, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka, Australia, United States of America, United Arab Emirates, Russia, France and more. This cultural diversity provides an arena for additional learning's in sociology, language and geography and creates a community of tolerance and understanding for fellow man which is imperative in today's global society.

MPS's Community goes beyond school borders

As much as Macleod is its own community, The Macleod Community is intertwined with the cities. In terms of Community Support, Macleod takes this to heart:

- In the last six years students have raised almost \$40k for the Terry Fox Charity
- By annually Support the Sudbury Food Bank
- By supporting The Easter Seals (with our Easter Seals ambassador),
- By supporting Jump rope for Heart, Diabetes association and the Alzheimer's society,
- Macleod students support area and international families who have been affected by tragedy. MACLEOD PUBLIC SCHOOL has always stepped up eagerly to the plate, without being asked. Each cause is supported and the key learning's for the children are that of Charity, Altruism, Friendship and Good Will.
- MacLeod's pay it forward program is front and centre in our minds on a daily basis. It is engrained in our school culture and it is nurtured this from JK to grade 8.

MPS like all other schools has a rich and long history. This history is continuously re-written on a daily basis through the endeavours of the excellent staff and parent community. Staff has a long standing precedence of providing an individual approach to their teaching skills to ensure that no child is left behind. This community fosters respect for the children, for the staff, for the public, but most importantly for one another. This is clearly exemplified in classroom setting. When you walk down the halls of the school, you see the children listen attentively to the instruction provided. There really is a sense eagerness to learn within this building. That is not by chance. It is a fostering environment which supports learning.

This is something that has not happened overnight. The staff has led by example throughout many generations of excellent teachers. Those skills are passed on from year to year and the team of quality educators has made MACLEOD PUBLIC SCHOOL what it is today.

Consider the merits of a school this size.

- It is NOT only in small schools where you will find teachers that care for their students,
- it is NOT only in small schools where students and family feel like going to the school is going somewhere they fit in or belong and are cared for...
- it is NOT the size of the school or the number of students in attendance
- it IS the culture and the people within the school that make it feel that way.

When I transferred my child to MPS from a small school, I will admit that I had reservations that my child may get lost in the crowd, for the number of students in his cohort at MPS outnumbered the entire student population at his last school...but this didn't happen. He did not get lost; rather he was welcomed by his new teacher Coralee Fowler with open arms. Former Administration Ardeth Gordon and Trevor Dewitt embraced our family like we belonged there from JK. My child instantly fell in love with school and learning and through assistance from the valuable volunteer groups and the ERI teachers and speech programs; my son has only felt success in this environment. When he has experienced social issues with classmates, administration took our issues seriously and they acted on them that day.

This is a testament that it is NOT the size of the school...it is the community, the people, **the desire to provide excellent education**. Students at MPS consistently score above average as it relates to the board's standings and to the provincial averages. Again, testament to the culture of higher learning and excellence of staff.

This community, which I know many people consider dear to them will continue to flourish, provide excellent public education and make valuable contributions to our city if and when this board site becomes the home of a new school to accommodate south end Rainbow students.

The landscape has so much to offer. In terms of geography the current land that is surrounded by rocky hills and mature trees offers the green space that is so important to our kids well being. The view of the property from Walford road will highlight this New green school. Proper planning and the use of Walford road can eliminate access issues. The site is also within walking distance to Lockerby composite school, the Lilly Creek Park and Science North which provides further opportunity for educational opportunity.

Let me leave with this summarization:

The MPS community has endured a difficult physical environment and still we continue to foster a healthy, exciting, vivacious and encouraging student population. Just think about how much more can be accomplished at this site and in this community if we had better space.

We are eager to be a part of this change. Our arms are open ready to welcome new students, we are excited for the transition.

I thank you for your time,