

TO: Tyler Campbell – Chairperson
Judy Hunda Grace Fox Doreen Dewar
Dena Morrison Gord Santala Ruth Ward
Larry Killens Jenna Miller

Date: Friday, October 8, 2010

Dear Trustee:

On behalf of the students – past, present and future – of Wanup Public School, please be advised that the supporters of Wanup Public School DO NOT want you to CLOSE our school! The enclosed signed petitions (including the online petition at www.savewanup.com) represent the “grass roots” community support for this motion.

We are appealing to you as elected representatives of our Board because the Accommodation Review process of the Sudbury South schools failed our school! The process failed to identify the true value of our school to the students, the communities, the Board and the Economy. Students already exceed the Consortium policy on travel times, and sending them into Sudbury will only negatively affect their education experience. Give us a moment of your time, and we’ll show you how we were steered away from consideration and we’ll confirm the education value of Wanup PS!

Please take a moment to review our argument against the Administrative Council and give some thought to our recommendations to:

- re-configure the catchment boundaries to better utilize the existing schools, taking into account that Long Lake PS may be closed as part of the original 5 year capital accommodation plan*
- this includes extending the northerly boundary to the 17 East bypass*
- continue to explore the feasibility of constructed a new “green” school in an open and transparent manner – including the comparisons of utilizing the Algonquin PS site given the relative ease of access and distance from the main arterial roads*
- if the student enrolment/utilization rates do not remain above 70%, decrease the OTG of the existing school and re-visit the viability of the school in the next ARC review time frame – 2014*

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas, and if you have any questions, please note that we will be speaking to you on these ideas at the upcoming Board meeting scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2010 at the Auditorium at Lockerby Composite Highschool.

Concerned supporters of Wanup Public School

*Garnet Graham – School Council Chair
691-1000*

*Ray Alatalo – Concerned Parent
694-9122*

History of Wanup Public School

The earliest records of a school in Wanup trace back to the turn of the century. The first known school was destroyed by fire in 1920 only to be re-built and re-positioned as it currently sits – as the Wanup Church on Highway 537 near the Wanup General Store.

The Dill-Cleland School Board initiated construction of the current school in 1961 on land purchased from Mr. Ed & Aili Heino. Improvements to the school were completed by September 2, 1969 at an estimated cost of \$440,000 and were funded in large part by the Department of Reforms which operated the Burwash Industrial Farm.

Coupled with the Wanup General Store and nearby Wanup Community Centre, the Wanup Public School functions as one of the pillars of our community and provides a beautiful rural education facility for our students. With a total capacity of 256 students, the school services the communities of: Wanup, Wahnapiatae, Horseshoe Lake, Dill Lake, Estaire, Trout Lake, and formerly the communities of Burwash, Killarney and Alban. Students from the French River are still included in the schools catchment zone making this the farthest travelled distance (next to Killarney) for local students.

Accommodation Review or School Closure Guidelines

As evidenced on the RDSB website, the entire matter of school closures is governed under operational procedures adopted by the Board. The main focus of such review should be:

The purpose of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (previously referred to as school closure guidelines) is to provide direction to school boards regarding public accommodation reviews undertaken to determine the future of a school or group of schools.

The guidelines ensure that where a decision is taken by a school board regarding the future of a school, that decision is made with the full involvement of an informed local community and it is based on a broad range of criteria regarding the quality of the learning experience for students.

In recognition of the important role schools play in strengthening rural and urban communities and the importance of healthy communities for student success, it is also expected that decisions consider the value of the school to the community, taking into account other government initiatives aimed at strengthening communities.

School boards in Ontario are responsible for providing schools and facilities for their students and for operating and maintaining their schools as effectively and efficiently as possible to support student achievement.

Throughout the ARC process, concerned parents have communicated to the Board and the previous principal of our school the value of rural education and the availability of this fine school for our communities. After all, isn't community based education what this was supposed to be all about? Best value to the student means educating them "at home", and that's what school boards were created for – to provide community based education CLOSE to home. At one time, the catchment area of Wanup PS used to include schools in Wanup, McVittie, Estaire, Trout Lake, French River, Alban AND Killarney.

Through amalgamation and successive encroachments, Wanup PS now remains as the final public school flagship for all these rural communities.

As you will see, parents and supporters of Wanup PS have tried to communicate with the Board and past principal on the ARC process, but seemingly to no avail. In turn, the Board has steered the direction of the committee and modified the ARC processes to streamline the implementation of Board derived objectives. There is a strange disconnect about a process designed to engage the community and the actual steps/avenues available. While they may seem minor in detail on their own, we will illustrate how the ARC process failed to acknowledge the TRUE value of rural education, and how the continuation of education at Wanup not only serves the student, but represents real value to the Board.

ARC Decision as presented by Administrative Council

As you were told at the September 20th, 2010 Board meeting, the Accommodation Review Committee apparently developed three (3) options regarding the Sudbury South schools under review, and that these recommendations were being endorsed by the Administrative Council. As you will clearly see, this was NOT the case.

At the February 24, 2010 ARC committee meeting – the committee as a whole was cautioned for being the “face of the Board” at the very first public meeting since the committee had no indication of the options already developed by the Board. Superintendent Della-Penta responded: *“reminded him that the options will not be presented until the 3rd public meeting (May 18th, 2010).”* When questioned further “when (will) the committee be provided with the Board’s options?” Della-Penta responded: *“that it is up to this committee to develop options. There will be input from the public as well. Board options will be presented to the committee once they have been discussed with Administrative Council. All options will be considered by this committee.”* Thereby clearly trying to time line the development of the (Board) options as occurring at any time AFTER the ARC process began.

However, by the time the committee convened on April 12, 2010, Della-Penta shared with the committee member’s eleven (11) options developed by *“senior staff at the Board office”*. No clarification was ever provided in identifying the authors of these eleven options, and at the same time, Della-Penta announced to the committee as a whole that the Board would also look at the option of building a new “green” school *IF* so deemed necessary. Please note that even the Board derived options could not substantiate significant “utilization rates” or “on the ground capacities”, clearly illustrating the complexity of juggling student populations amongst the schools under consideration. BUT, very strategically, the concept of a new school was introduced to the ARC process and this in effect derailed the process as outlined on the Boards website. More specifically, Policies of the Board do not require an ARC if a new facility is deemed necessary and for whatever reason, it would appear as though the Board WAS using the ARC to substantiate a “new (green) school”.

When questioned on the meaning of a “green” school, Della-Penta explained *“that these schools are environmentally sound and sustainable, reducing costs in the long run. Valley View Public School was the first green school. In the fall of 2009, students from George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton Public Schools moved into Rainbow District School Board’s second green school, Walden Public School.”* This

simplistic glossing of a major capital undertaking in no way shape or form addresses: a) initial capital costs to construct the facility and b) lifecycle costing as most "green" appurtenances often have a significantly higher initial capital cost and increased replacement value. How then is the "student education value" suddenly captured in "a green facility" when this ARC review was supposed to be about "existing" venues?

It is important that as the elected representatives of the Rainbow District School Board that the influence of a suggestion of a new school effectively quashed any further discussions amongst the participating schools. After all, if any particular school could garner "majority votes", any discussions revolving around boundary adjustments or existing facility value could be sidestepped. After digesting the implications of the presented options, it quickly became evident that "super schools" were not an option, and Options 2 through 11 were virtually eliminated from consideration. Option 1 which included an addition for MacLeod PS and downsizing for Wanup & Monetville PS's suddenly garnered more interest, but not just for an addition, but for the possibility of a "new green" school at either the MacLeod site or Algonquin location.

Time and time again Della-Penta was questioned on "*building condition assessment data*" included in the school profiles, what are the implications of school "*boundaries*" and "*costs for new green schools*", and time and time again the matters were deferred. Della-Penta even went so far as to advise ARC members to "*not concern themselves with costs*" or "*once decisions are made with regards to the options, we will look at boundaries.*" Countless times individual members of the ARC questioned the rationale used to arrive at the presented options and undeterred the "facilitator" deferred them for later discussions. With the extremely short time frame in which to prepare for the public meeting, these eleven options eventually gave rise to three (3) preferred options presented as a consensus of the committee. **At no point did the ARC committee develop their own option; And at no point were members given the reign to investigate influencing factors (ie. Actual operating costs, capital improvements versus "wish list expenditures", transportation costs and catchment boundaries, demographics, program offerings, partnerships with outside agencies or health implications of "super schools").** We have since sought details on these matters and share them with you now.

As our trustee's, it is especially important that you acknowledge that the ARC process was best epitomized at the April 26, 2010 meeting when Della-Penta reiterated that "*if (ARC) members wanted to request information from outside agencies/parties, it has to be vetted through her as the facilitator of ARC.*" In essence, the facilitator had become the gate keeper while transparency and impartiality the victim. How then could an educated group of volunteers studying student education and accommodation options come to an informed conclusion? For a process that is supposed to mirror "respect" and "integrity", the Board itself had created a "tool" to direct the wishes of the committee utilizing new schools as the "carrot" and pitting overcrowded "urban" schools against the smaller less vocal "rural" schools.

Our school participated in the Accommodation Review process in accordance with the policies and standards set out by your Administrative Council, and at no time was the committee as a whole engaged in a meaningful discussion of student accommodation amongst the participating schools. As you will see,

it is quite clear that the mandate of the Administrative Council has been to substantiate a new "Green" school and turn its back on rural education. How?

- In 2005 – attendance at Wanup Public School was 159 students
- By 2010 – in large part due to the lack of support of the previous administration – attendance numbers were reduced to 89. This included outright rejection of students with special needs and re-direction of parents to Algonquin PS, McLeod PS for before and after programming and RL Beattie for French immersion.
- Dissuading local residents from after hour school activities such as men's basketball, community outreach programming and special events citing Board protocols and liabilities. Many residents are still unaware that the school is available for use outside normal school hours.
- School council even went so far as to request the attendance of our elected trustee – Doreen Dewar – to attend a council meeting to hear our concerns with the lack of communication and openness of the past principal. She pleaded for "co-operation and respect" in the interest of the students and implored both parties to work amicably towards a better school.
- Countless efforts by school council to solicit the support of then Principal Zuk to engage the community in the ARC process were rejected – this included blatant editorials to school Council newsletters (See Appendix A) and outright cancellation of any further school council meetings on Thursday, 8:35 pm - March 4, 2010.
- How then was the school Council (2009-10) to communicate their concerns to the Board? By supporting the www.savewanup.com coalition the community voice was captured and the fallout to the actions of Principal Zuk were clearly illustrated on the "messages of support".

"I'm thrilled that the Canadian Wildlife Federation is on board with this effort to get kids out into nature. So is the Scouting movement, so is Parks Canada. But we need to get every single school board working on this, and we need to get parents working on it, too."

Robert Bateman – Canadian Wildlife Sept/Oct. 2010 interview

- By directing the school administration to reduce occupancy and programming availability, the school was in large part being prepped for closure – countless requests to repair the baseball backstop (still on the ground in storage at the school) have been ignored, and the student play structures vandalized in early spring were not repaired till the last week of school due to fear of reprisal for accidental injury during the summer break. Even the new school sign commissioned by the Board in 2007 has yet to be purchased and installed – is it because they figure they won't need one next year?

Editorializing Council newsletters illustrates the depth of control and censorship that reigned over our school. Cancelled council meetings and targeted emails to Council members clearly illustrates the manipulation that exasperated everyone over the past five years.

In the end, the frustration of a vocal community and apparent lack of direction by Principal Zuk resulted in her outright cancellation of council meetings. By silencing the only venue by which community

members could comment on the ongoings at our school, you will now understand the backlash via social network websites, including comments posted at www.savewanup.com.

So, do not construe the lack of presence at the community meetings or public consultation sessions as being indicative of an uncaring and uninterested stakeholder. Petitions were quickly signed and as evidenced in this package before you, interested community members want your attention: Do Not Close Our School. Let's get back to the basics and recognize the true value of this school to the students. After all, it's all about the students.

The Accommodation Review

Or as it was previously called - School Valuation Program (SVP) – was intended to establish a comparison of standards and core values of each school. Up until the ARC process used on the Sudbury South public schools, the process used to include 60 days for public consultation, but this was amended to only 30 days. How much consultation can you get with a shortened time frame? Why eliminate the opportunity for public review and comment if “education value” is the core purpose of such a review? Are Board staff so confident that they know what is best for community based education, or are they trying to streamline the review?

Under the previous policy, the Board relied heavily on a School Valuation Committee (SVC) which included the membership of:

- a minimum of 3 trustees, (one of which shall be elected committee chair)
- the superintendent of the school,
- 3 school council representatives,
- the principal and vice-principal of the school,
- a local municipal representative
- a representative from the local business community.

Under recent amendments approved by the Trustees to policy and procedure 3.09 – March 19, 2007, membership was changed to include:

- Parents: two parent School Council members per school
- Educators: one principal per school & one teacher per school
- Board Officials: the superintendent of the school
- Business Leader: one business leader
- Municipal Representative: one municipal employee or leader
- And other board staff/officials may be called upon to provide information to the ARC.

As is quickly evident, the involvement of our elected (trustee's) officials in the review process has been lost, and the percentage of Board (staff) representation was increased. Oh sure, some may argue that elected officials don't need the burden of participation and the countless hours of listening and hearing the subtle nuances and opinions of a working group, but as so many of already know, it is often the subtleties that influence an outcome, and by missing the backroom discussions, the trustee's are spared the interconnectedness of the final outcomes.

By amending the committee makeup, the Board has also changed the relationship between community representation and Board employees. How then can the concerns of individual schools be heard when they (community members) have been matched by Board paid employees on the committee? By streamlining the membership on the "School Valuation Committee" or "ARC committee", the Board has hedged their favour in securing any direction identified as being "preferred" and trustees now find themselves willing onlookers on the review process. One only needs to approach a Board employee and enquire on their opinions to realize that they are bound to abide by the direction given (by the Board).

The process included four (4) committee meetings before the first public meeting to establish core list of values: a) Value to the Student, b) Value to the Board, c) Value to the Community and finally d) Value to the Economy. After deliberations, all schools represented "value" to the respective heading's, however, key comparisons between the schools were obscured.

A quick review of the recorded minutes of the ARC committee meetings will quickly illustrate deferrals by Superintendent Della-Penta on such matters such as:

- Availability of before and after programming to all schools
- Influence of full day JK and SK programming at the affected schools
- Clarification of the Capital Cost Improvements program used in the school profiles
- Transportation routes and ridership numbers
- Demographics of the various catchment areas of the affected schools
- And possible options already developed by the Board.

Touted as being "under-utilized" and in need of major capital improvements, we encourage you to visit www.savewanup.com and take the "virtual tour" to see for yourself. There have been no major capital expenditures on the facility for the past ten (10) years, and the school administration confirmed that no major repairs are needed. How then can the Board present to the general public such an erroneous and misleading picture of our school?

The ARC committee of Wanup Public School hosted the ARC on Monday, April 26, 2010 and everyone who attended that meeting expressed the same sentiments:

- What a big school...
- What a great facility...
- Our teachers lounge isn't even half as big...
- A full gymnasium?
- How many classrooms?

If the true purpose of student education and accommodation for better education is the underlying principles of this process, then we here in Wanup have the facility ready (and willing) to assist. If this facility were located smack dab in the middle of Four Corners we are confident that the discussions on accommodation would not include outright closure. The public school Board supporters of Wanup Public School have made their opinions heard and want you to change the direction of the Administrative Council.

Do not accept their direction, and let's revisit the options available to make use of an already "green" school in Sudbury's south end.

Public – Smublic!

Touted as being open and transparent, the ARC process was supposed to provide a venue for public comment and suggestion on how best to educate our children. ARC members complained at the outset that the information was skewed and unrecognizable on the Board website and recommendations to highlight the banners or post information were again in large part ignored. Committee presentations and stakeholder comments were vetted by the Board by limiting such presentations to 20 minutes – no exception as Della-Penta would “stand” to indicate the final minutes – or make that six presentations in the allocated time frame of the meeting. By requiring the pre-submission of any presentations to Della-Penta, members of the general public were NOT compelled to participate in this cumbersome approach. A few brave souls entered the ring and spoke their piece, but was the “message” heard. NO. Specific members of ARC saw the failings of a “process” designed to represent transparency, but never has the term “railroaded” been so accurate.

In the final days of the ARC proceedings, only those presentations identifying “options” to the final three (3) presented at the final public meeting were accepted. That meant that public comment on specific aspects of the entire process were *carte blanche* eliminated from discussion and removed. *One person employed by the Board had the power to VETO a truly viable option presented to the ARC, and prevented the ARC from discussing the option?* Presenters present at the meeting were forbidden from clarifying questions or aspects of their “presentations”, and in effect were muzzled in front of the committee as a whole.

Does this sound like “public consultation” to you? Even better yet, once it was pointed out that in large part the final three options would stand as the “official” position of the committee as a whole, a delegated sub-committee was solicited to prepare the final presentation to the Administrative Council. Again, just as feared, the time line for the review and preparation of a viable proposal could not fit into the time frame set out for the ARC. Now, for a process directly affecting community based education, does any of this sound like a “democratic” and “transparent” process?

Time and time again Della-Penta was questioned on the time lines for completing the ARC review and each time participants were reminded that the process would be completed by September to coincide with the final decision before the newly elected Trustee’s take office. Even outgoing Director of Education Jean Hansen took exception to the notion of “staying the course” as the Sudbury Catholic District School Board had done by stating that “now is the time for change” and endorsed the push for a new school. For those watching the proceedings from the sidelines, it was not surprising that accommodation for students would eventually clash with funding, and that “students for cash” would become the underlying principles for determining a schools net worth. Well, stay the course and you close a perfectly good school while your staff BEGIN the process of applying for funding to build a new school.

Projected Enrolment

As was argued at the beginning of the committee process, initiating the ARC half way through a school year can only increase the anxiety for parents and students. Imagine attending an information session on the proceedings of ARC on April 20, 2010 and having the principal announce that there will be staff cuts based on “projected” enrolment numbers, and having just heard that 9 of the 11 options presented to the ARC committee have Wanup PS closing? Do you think the community anxiety was high???

Principal Zuk unveils staffing allocations for the 2010-11 school year at the April 20, 2010 Community ARC meeting. Touting triple and quadruple grades, community members were disturbed by the release of the information during a community session on ARC.



Everyone knows that the schools are funded on students, and it was every bit as obvious that while other schools were actively announcing open houses and information sessions to encourage pre-registration, Wanup PS was preparing for “closure”. Word spread like wild fire through the communities and although Board representatives tried to soften the message, it was clear that our school was being prepared for closure.

Superintendent Della-Penta was specifically asked on “*when would changes take effect?*” and ARC was advised that “*nothing would happen for at least two (2) years*”. As you heard at the last Board meeting, any changes as a result of the ARC process would now take effect next year (2011). Recognizing that hard decisions are best implemented quickly, the Board is certainly spearheading the process to minimize public input. You’ll understand now why we have gone to such lengths to prepare this package, and why we feel that you are not getting the “true message”. This has been an exercise in “targeting” and for whatever reasons, a school

facility fully capable of accommodating 256 students “right now” is being targeted for closure! How can that make sense?

Easy! Target a school for closure and the communities will begin to “re-configure”, and with the lack of clear communication on the school availability for the upcoming school year, parents started to look “elsewhere”. There are FOUR (4) boards vying for “students for dollars” and if the Rainbow District School Board is so quick to turn their back, then residents will take their children’s education under their own control. Announce that the “*school is axed*” in the local newspaper, and you re-affirm what we’ve been hearing all along. BUT, you (trustee) hold the final card. Follow the direction of the Admin Council, and you will play their hand for them. We will show you how you can keep WANUP PS OPEN, and we will prove that there are other tangible options available.

School Utilization Rates

Over-utilization and lax attention to catchment boundaries were always underscored during the discussions, but eventually, the student tallies at MacLeod and Algonquin PS’s clearly illustrate our point of frustration – How can the Board allow some schools to flourish, while letting others die?

The true value of any facility is evident in the posted valuation findings of the ARC committee. Whether your teaching children in a school, playground or barn, the core principles of learning are well established, and providing a venue is what the accommodation review was supposed to be about.

How can the ARC be legitimate when during the discussions, previous capital expenditures to fix Alexander PS were deliberately glossed over and existing building deficiencies at other schools has no value in the decision facing you? How can a handicap accessible facility like Wanup PS be overlooked when touting “integrity” of programming at RL Beattie? Coupled with the limited access and small available property, is it any wonder we find it incredulous that the Board continues to value small urban settings when a truly green education experience already exists here in Wanup?

**LORI ADAMS PRINCIPAL,
WANUP PUBLIC SCHOOL,
SUDBURY, ONTARIO**

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD - PHILOSOPHY AND
VISION**

- having been an educator for 30 years, my love for children has grown as well as my understanding that:

1. education lays the foundation of society

- as a general rule, the more educated we are, the more civilized is our society and the richer the quality of life,

2. children are the key to the future

- what children learn determines quality of life as time goes on
- in particular, the values children develop and later adopt as adults have direct bearing on our quality of life,

3. school are not isolated entities - they reflect their local community

- key elements of local and global communities are: how equitable and just living conditions are, how caring are its members

- if we don't know what we value, we can't protect it.

What is Peace Education?

What is a facilitator:

The facilitator and the participants work together to achieve collective goals.

Leadership is something you do to a group; Facilitation is something you do with a group.

Facilitators express feelings, values, concerns and priorities when working with a group.

The open honesty of the facilitator about abilities and knowledge will help elicit honesty from all participants.

When looking at the school utilization rates provided by the Board, it is obvious that all of the main urban schools are "well" utilized and at no risk of closure. So why is it then that the Board can't make use of its new transportation consortium to better distribute the students amongst the respective schools to equalize utilization? When it was suggested that Gladu and Dill Road be added to the Wanup PS catchment zone, it was remarked "*that that would only add two more students*". Now come on now... why don't we really know? Simple, when asked to identify how many students come from geographical areas, the actual students numbers were never released to the committee.

So, by adjusting the Wanup PS catchment boundary to include MacFarlane Lake you would instantly boost utilization rates of Wanup PS as well as provide stability to the school.

One of the successful distracting ploys used by the Sudbury south accommodation review was the entire concept of "partnerships" and "facility use" to decrease the on the ground capacity. How could school councils or anyone for that matter solicit interested stakeholders in a meaningful fashion for this type of undertaking? It takes months if not years of serious discussions to enter into any type of "contractual" agreement to utilize a school facility. Just look at the Board policies governing use of school facilities and you'll get our jist. It was a good talk, but seriously, who can "fill" classrooms to reduce "numbers". But you can certainly change bus routes to fill up empty classrooms!

Future Development

Anyone travelling the Sudbury south end immediately recognizes that this area is booming. With new retail box stores and improved highway access, the south end of Sudbury beyond the 17 East bypass is growing. Once you get past the Wahnapiatae River on Highway 69, you enter the unorganized townships administered by the Sudbury East Planning Board, and tax rates drop like a rock!

When questioned on the number of developments since January 2010, Mr. Jeffrey Kolibash – Sudbury East Planning Board confirmed that there have been ten (10) new developments. With the settlement of the Vale strike, even the CEO of the Greater City of Sudbury remarked that the economic pendulum is swinging into positive territory and building permits are rebounding. We enquired as to the numbers of permits issued, and have attached them for your review. Suddenly, you can see what we've been telling you, things are improving in the Sudbury south end.

Capital Funding and Disclosure

City of Greater Sudbury

Building Permits Jan to Sept 2010

Broder Twp: 8 new homes

Dill Twp: 4 new homes

Cleland Twp: 4 new homes

Dryden Twp: 3 new homes

Sudbury East: 10 new homes

Public School Supporter versus Separate School Supporters:

We've placed the call to MPAC and will have further details at the October 18, 2010 Board meeting.

Talk of destroying existing capital assets for “potential” new schools sounds absurd when compared to the harsh economic realities facing everyone; And yet, two (2) of the recommendations before you now have a perfectly good school being “mothballed” on the whim of securing the Ministry of Education approval to fund a new school. Which raises an interesting question – What will the Board do if you are unsuccessful in securing funding to build a new school?

Furthermore, is it not a critical part of the Accommodation Review process to openly discuss an action plan **IF** the Board is unsuccessful in securing funding for a new school? Then what is the “game plan”? Does this not confirm that the ARC process is flawed? And what of the students? Where will they be “educated” when existing facilities are already overcrowded? Common on now... if student education is the true “value” of this process, then providing them with access to a useable facility must mean something. As we deliberate, there are no significant structural deficiencies at this school, how then can the O&M be so high?

Without belabouring the concept, there are significant hurdles to the concept of a new school at the MacLeod PS site. Starting with municipal development regulations, traffic congestion in the four corners and emergency egress/access has always been a concern for high density development in the Lockerby area. Or have these matters been investigated and not properly reported upon to the committee, or to you, the trustees?

As our elected officials, you should be questioning the attention to detail and asking yourself – what will we do if we can't accommodate these extra schools in our current facilities? According to published data, Algonquin PS (98.9%) is near capacity, MacLeod PS (127%) is way over capacity, Alexander PS (94.5%) is near capacity, and Long Lake PS (80.9%) only goes to Grade 6. So what are the realistic probabilities for students at Wanup PS? Choose another Board or apply to specialized programming like French Immersion, but wait, RL Beattie (100.8%) is over capacity too!

Wow.... the all too obvious truth of all of this is that Board employee's are hedging their favour to secure Ministry approval for a new school at the MacLeod PS site because of the high volume of students in their catchment zone. Ignoring their control over school catchment zones and transportation options, Board staff are quickly trying to minimize the voice/rights of rural Ontarians because they need the “over” over-crowding of existing facilities as the final trump card in their argument for more funding with the Ministry.

Well, since we have a school well worth saving, we are here to clearly and unequivocally express to you, we think our school has many more productive years of value to your Board. Like it or not, your Board adopted this facility from our forefathers, and we stand here today to remind you of their vision. Call it an ARC or a town hall meeting, public access education for “communities” started after the influx of immigrants to this country, and turning our backs on functional facilities for new “polished” and “shiny” schools does little to address the overall mandate of the Board.

Transportation Policy

Today, due to the large rural catchment area that Wanup PS serves, we have students from French River and Wahnapiitae that are on the bus starting at 7:10am, and they get off the bus at 8:45am. This means that these students already have an average daily bus ride of 3 hours. These students are already exceeding the time limit in the guidelines as provided by Transportation consortium. Moving them to a school in four corners (in the event of your decision to close Wanup PS), would further subject these students to a daily bus ride of almost four hours bringing those students further into non-compliance with the guidelines.

As per the Transportation Consortium guidelines, students in grade 1-6 are not to have a bus ride exceeding 60 minutes each way. Transporting Wanup PS students to Algonquin PS would add 17 kms and at least another 15 minutes (each way). Transporting Wanup PS students to MacLeod PS would add 21 kms and at least 20 minutes (each way) if you can clear the four corners. This does nothing to account for the stop and go of bus travel which will only add more time to the issue.

With these estimated travel times, our students would be subjected to a 10 hour school day. With the newly implemented full day JK/SK, is it any wonder our parents are furious that you are considering closing our school? And to the rest of the parents of the other schools, how would you like your kids to be subjected to a 10hour school day? Suddenly the value of a school close to home makes sense, no?

What do we propose?

- Simple:
- re-configure the catchment boundaries to better utilize the existing schools, taking into account that Long Lake PS may be closed as part of the original 5 year capital accommodation plan
 - this includes extending the northerly boundary to the 17 East bypass
 - continue to explore the feasibility of constructed a new "green" school in an open and transparent manner – including a serious look at the Algonquin PS site given the relative ease of access and distance from the main arterial roads
 - if the student enrolment/utilization rates do not remain above 70%, decrease the OTG of the existing school first and re-visit the viability of the school in the next ARC review time frame – 2014. This will help alleviate over utilization at the other schools and allow the existing school to service the rural areas pending the next ARC.

The Sudbury Student Services Consortium shall consider the student ride times and student loads when planning bus routes. Whenever possible, students will not exceed the following amount of time each way on a school bus:

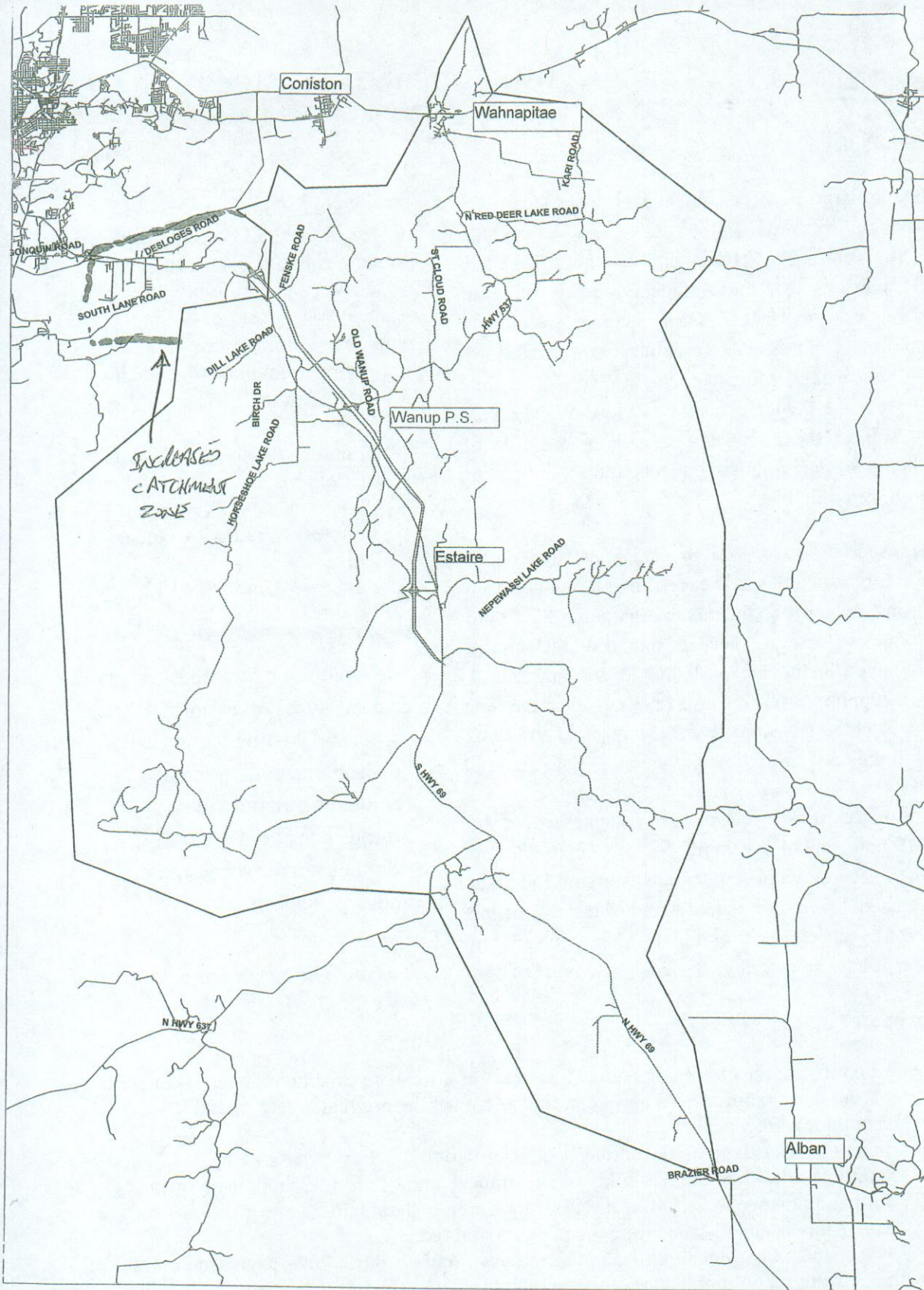
60 minutes – Junior and Senior Kindergarten;

60 minutes – Grades 1 to 6; and

75 minutes – Grades 7 to 12.

The length of ride time is calculated based on normal traffic and weather conditions. For students who reside in remote or isolated areas, or attend specialized programs, ride times may exceed the above guidelines.

The Sudbury Catholic School Board trustees opted to maintain the status quo given the uncertainty of funding and the current economic climate after their ARC proceedings – why can't we?



Wanup Public School
 Attendance Boundary
 JK-8

APPENDIX A
EDITED COUNCIL NEWSLETTERS

December 2009 School Council Newsletter (Original)
Student Council for the Wolverines

December 2009

Well, the news is out! No evening performance of our lil Wolverines to kick start the holiday season! That's right, the Principal and teachers have withdrawn their support for an evening performance of the *Festival of Lights*, and while your Council was aghast, we could do nothing more than send a letter of concern (on your behalf). If you disagree with their decision, please forward your comments, letters or emails to Mrs. Pierrette Zuk - Principal - zukp@rainbowschools.ca - or your School Council - care of Maria Gilbert (705) 695-2701 - Mkorkiakoski@xstratanickel.ca or Patsy Alatalo (705) 694-9122 - patalo@vianet.ca. While it may be too early to speculate, this recent decision does not bode well for other evening events such as the spring Fun Fair. School Council is interested in your thoughts and remember, School Council meetings are at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (December 15, 2009) - see calendar of meetings attached.

That being said, Student Council has reviewed the proposed school activities and fund raising initiatives, and will try to format a workable budget with the school administration (see attached). It's a lengthy list, but with some focus and effort, we are sure that the essentials can be achieved and that improvements can continue on an annual basis. School board initiatives to fence in the school yard and replace the baseball backstop have apparently been secured, but no word has been received as to when the work will be completed. Council is looking at school yard improvements to support our annual application for the *Ugly School Yard Competition* and welcomes any suggestions you might have.

With the new four lane highway 69 open, it is reassuring to see the decreased traffic in front of the school and the increased level of safety for all traveling to and from Wanup. However, we need to remain vigilant for other dangers. The Accommodation Review Committee has decided to look at all of the schools in the City of Greater Sudbury's south end. With our dwindling student population and increased pressure to "take em to 4 corners", our Wolverines need your support to ensure we don't lose our school. Please spread the word. Visit the School Boards website at rainbowschools.ca - accommodations - to find out more, or stay tuned to your Council newsletter for more updates.

These are certainly changing times here in Wanup, and borrowing from the old cliché, "It takes a whole village to raise a child," we'll all need to do our part to show the School Board and its administration that WE takes pride in our school.

On behalf of your School Council - all the best to the families, neighbours and friends of Wanup Public School.

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Censored Version released by Principal Zuk

School Council has reviewed the proposed school activities and fund raising initiatives for this year. It's a lengthy list, but with some focus and effort, we are sure that the essentials can be achieved and that improvements can continue on an annual basis. School board initiatives to fence in the school yard and replace the baseball backstop have apparently been secured, but no word has been received as to when the work will be completed. Council is looking at school yard improvements to support our annual application for the Ugly School Yard Competition and welcomes any suggestions you might have.

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On behalf of your School Council - all the best to the families, neighbours and friends of Wanup Public School.

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

March 2010 School Council Newsletter (Original)

School Council for the Wolverines

March 2010

Oh my...where was our winter??? Not sure about the groundhog, but things are certainly starting to look a lot like "spring"! Let's hope it sticks around long enough to get through the "break"!

There will be much to do in the coming months to get ready ... Fun Fair, *Best Start* discussions, Parent Surveys and getting all those donations ready to help us reach our final fund raising targets! Canadian Tire did accept our request to solicit donations at the South End Canadian Tire and once final tallies are totalled, we'll be sure to update everyone on the amount raised.

There was a small miscalculation in the calendar of meetings in 2010 – and so the next Council meeting will be re-scheduled so as not to conflict with the "March Break". Here's hoping everyone has a chance to get outdoors and celebrate the holidays with your "Wolverines"!

Anyone interested in helping out at the upcoming Fun Fair, school field trips or school events is encouraged to attend. Please stay tuned for details in the school newsletter or contact Maria Korciakoski (695-2701) or Mrs. Zuk (522-2671) for more information.

Information on the *Accommodation Review Committee* (ARC) and the review process is slowly beginning to take shape. There will be an information session on the proceedings – Wednesday – March 24, 2010 at the Wanup Community Centre. The session is open to everyone and dinner (Roast Beef) will be from 4:00 till 6:30 pm, with the presentation to take place shortly after. Come one, come all to find out more and to help support the *Coalition to help save Wanup*.

Many thanks to the Rainbow District School Board for the *Family Fun Night* – Thursday February 25, 2010. For those who missed all the "dancing and shaking", it was a fun filled evening designed to get parents and kids involved. A special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Zuk for feeding us all and helping to host the event.

If anyone has any ideas on how to help improve the programs at Wanup Public School, or if you are interested in utilizing the school for community outreach programming, please contact your Council for more information and plan on attending any of the upcoming council meetings.

Best wishes to the staff and students and again, many thanks to the dedicated volunteers keeping the breakfast program at our school.

Maria Korciakoski – Chair

Patsy Alatalo – Secretary

Censored version released by Principal Zuk

Since there will be much to do getting ready for the Fun Fair, *Best Start* discussions, Parent Surveys and finalization of the 2009-10 goals, anyone interested is encouraged to contact Council Chair – Maria Korciakoski at (705) 695-2701 to discuss.

Information on the *Accommodation Review Committee* (ARC) and the review process is beginning to take shape and everyone is encouraged to follow along with regular updates and meetings to be held at the Wanup Community Centre. Come one, come all to find out more and to help support the *Coalition to help save Wanup*. If anyone has any ideas on how to help improve the programs at Wanup Public School, or if you are interested in utilizing the school for community outreach programming, please contact Council for more information and Council will continue to investigate the implications of this latest development.

Best wishes to the staff and students and again, many thanks to the dedicated volunteers keeping the breakfast program at our school.
