

Trustees of the Rainbow School Board

January 10.08

Dear Sirs/Madams

On behalf of the community of Beaver Lake and the governing body of the Beaver Lake Sports and Cultural Club Inc., I am presenting this letter of concern regarding your proposal to close the R.H. Murray public school and bus our children to a new "green" school in Lively.

At our meeting on Jan 08.08, we had an open forum discussion regarding the outcome of such a closure. The aura around the entire discussion was sad and the concern for our children's safety was overwhelming.

The majority of members present have already raised our children and have experienced our children standing outside with mosquito's swarming, raining, or sometimes 30 below weather, in the dark waiting for their bus, then traveling to Whitefish to a warm, friendly environment, where they knew the teachers as caring people ready to teach them.

The average bus distance traveled is 40 KM, but the actual mileage to the school is 5 KM. A proposed "green" school in Lively would lengthen the bus ride to at least double travel time, accounting for the mileage distance, and not allowing for bad weather, or, as of late, poorly plowed roads in the winter. So, a five - ten year old child, cold, maybe wet, for sure sleepy, maybe even hungry, is charged and found guilty of living in the west end of the City of Greater Sudbury and sentenced to 2-4 hours a day with no water, no food, no bathroom privileges, and shuffled into a mausoleum of tile and concrete with no familiarity for 1-8 years and no chance of early release. Is this progress? This reeks of the Penal System, not the Educational System that we as Canadians have been so proud of.

We implore you, as the governing body of our educational system, elected by us to support us, to maintain a local community based school for our children to learn and grow. Please make their early education one that nurtures and ensures their comfort and ease in learning. This will promote success. Please do not close RH Murray.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our opinion in this matter.

Brenda Salo, President Beaver Lake Sports & Cultural Club