

This is my submission brief to the Rainbow Board for inclusion as a presenter at the January 21st board meeting at Civic Square. I understand presentations are to be a maximum 10 minutes long, and have been forwarded information from you (via Gwen Doyle) that we may bring handouts if needed to the meeting; minimum 20 copies. This information will be laid out in a powerpoint format; please confirm computer and lcd access. This is the information trustees need to consider.

I will be addressing the potential closure of RH Murray through the following points.

(Content/powerpoint slides)

1. Opening a new school in Lively should not include students from RH Murray. The ARC recommendations re: RH Murray should be respected.

2. The Ontario Ministry of Education Accommodation Review Guidelines state that **value to the student must be the first priority**. This is what trustees must reflect upon in their role as taxpayer representatives.

3. There is no advantage to Murray students if they go to a new school in Lively from an environmental position.

-What is the environmental cost of increased bussing from a carbon loading and fuel perspective?

-Murray is already an environmental example!

4. There is no advantage to Murray students if they go to a new school in Lively from a safety position.

-Each student will travel an extra **85,000 km** through his/her elementary years.

-Winter driving and extra risk to students

-Individual accountability much stronger in a small school

5. There is no advantage to Murray students if they go to a new school in Lively from an educational position.

-Students will lose homework time due to a minimum increase in busing time of 45 minutes, making daily bus times last for at least 2 hrs a day

-Murray students **already have** a well rounded program of academics, culture and physical activity.

6. Community response to the proposed Murray change

-Parents from Murray have **overwhelmingly** voted to remain at Murray if given the choice between Murray and Lively.

-Strong community support for RH Murray from such diverse groups as Walden CAN, Lions Club, Penage Rd. Community Centre; Beaver Lake Club; not centred in one area.

7. Murray is a rural school

What does that mean to the board, and to Walden West?

It means the board receives financial support from the province as a rural school to keep Murray open – approximately \$23,000 in operating funds, and \$3644.00 in capital funds. That must be taken into account when presenting operating expenses.

8. Why Murray works

Research shows:

- smaller schools improve student achievement
- increase attendance and graduation rates
- elevate teacher satisfaction
- improve school safety
- increase parent and community involvement

(source: People for Education)

9. RH Murray must remain a viable educational resource for the rural community of western Sudbury.