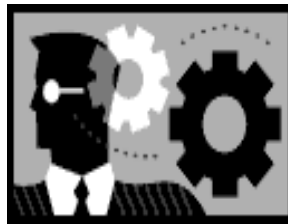


Why Should the Sudbury West ARC Recommendations be Supported?



History of Sudbury West ARC Recommendations

- Sudbury West ARC was initiated in February 2007 involving parents, staff from all five schools (Lively District Secondary, RH Murray, Jessie Hamilton, Copper Cliff, Vanier). Included was a representative from the Greater City of Sudbury. ARC members brought to the table expertise in the business, government, education and the engineering field.
- It was made clear throughout that the ARC process was open and transparent and that no predetermined decisions or directions had been made.
- The public would have opportunities to provide input and information that would be used in the creation of the ARC recommendations.

What happened?



- The parent membership with support of the other ARC membership undertook proactive work that would ensure a list of agreed upon priorities and a result that would be good for all involved, including the Board and its issues associated with building capacity.
- The core values/priorities that formed the foundation of all the ARC decisions were: Value to Students, value to Community, value to Board and Value to Economy (in this priority!)
- It was also understood that ARC would not support a “super school”, the High School would remain and a school would need to be in each community (Lively, Copper Cliff and Whitefish)
- The recommendations took all public input into consideration and incorporated it clearly into its recommendations (e.g. Green school, need to preserve small community schools etc.)
- ARC completed a very difficult task and provided a “WIN WIN” situation for all involved staying true to its core values.

What went wrong?

- Although it was raised on a continuous basis the Sudbury West ARC was not given all the information that was available that would assist in decision making (e.g. Capital plan, confirmation/resolution of prohibitive to repair costs etc.). It became a process of management by clues.
- The Board’s priority is clearly on cost savings and does not balance this with other extremely important priorities such as the impacts to the student and community. They have not listened to the public or their own ARC.
- Apparent lack of support by the Board Administrative Council for the ARC process and the credible and highly effective work done by the ARC members over the past year.

What now?

- A decision of this magnitude must be based on strong, well weighted priorities. Our students and communities must over ride a decision that only deals with a priority to save money.
- The Sudbury West ARC is proud of its accomplishments and how we came up with a result that is positive for all involved. Future ARCs will follow our example and it is critical that the process not be minimized.
- Standing behind the Sudbury West ARC recommendations will mean a result that is good for the students, community, board and the economy. Listen to the communities and those that have put their heart and soul into the recommendations. Do what is right and not what is easy! This decision has long lasting impacts beyond today or even tomorrow!
- Research on the topic of school closures and the Case law shows that Board recommendations are almost always supported as long as the process has been followed regardless of the justifications provided by the public to keep the school open. This again reflects on the fairness and the credibility of the Accommodation Review process. Again it is important to send a message that the Accommodation Review process is not just a step in a process to get to a predetermined end.

A New Beginning?

