

Att'n Manceen

Fax to 674-9112

From: Jacques Barbeau
To: eganm@rainbowschools.ca
Subject: RH Murray

Good Afternoon,

It was with great interest and concern that I followed and attended some of the ARC meetings over the past 10 months and I can fully appreciate and respect the difficult job presented not only to the ARC, but, to the trustees and the Administration Council. It is never easy to discuss the potential closing of a school, let alone the closing of 5.

That being said I was most surprised and dissapointed with the Administrative Council's recommendation to ignore option A as recommended "unanimously" by the Accomodation Review Comm. and ask that this position be re-considered. As a city representative on Council, it is not my policy nor the policy of Council to interfere with board policies and to "get into their kitchen." It is however my business as Ward 2 representative, a lifelong resident of Naughton and a father of 3 Rainbow School Students, to get involved when the very fabric that makes up our community is being torn away. Quite frankly I don't like what is being cooked in the kitchen and I am not at all happy with the recipe.

As requested by board policy, I will center my comments around the economic impact that will be felt should RH Murray close and the loss of Community which most certainly contravenes the attempt made in the "Constellation City Report" chaired by Floyd Laughren and presented to city council some 11 months ago.

I will also make brief comments on the statement made by Jean Hanson suggesting that concerns remain regarding the viability of Lively District Secondary School even with the changes that have been recommended by the ARC. The creativity shown by the ARC in their recommendations to address the enrolment situation at LDSS were seriously undermined by such a statement and I can only wonder why the Admin. Council were not so creative in their thought process with Lively as they were when dealing with a more serious situation at Sudbury Secondary School.

After many years of no growth or even negative growth the community of Walden West finally have reason to be excited with the announcements made by INCO and Ursa Major mines to offer up 350-400 jobs over the next few years. These are people that will be directly employed by these new mining operations and do not reflect the spin off jobs that surely will be created. There is a lot of affordable and available land in this area, but, the closing of RH Murray will surely negatively impact this expected population boom. When people re-locate they most always look for the location of a school. Along with the population growth comes a service station, convenience store, library, and other ammenities that have been lost over the years. What RH Murray and Walden West does offer is the potential for Growth.

The word Community can mean a lot of things to a lot of people. What it means here is a gathering of many people committed to many of the same goals and ideals throughout a large geographic area. A great educational experience where each and every student is a somebody. A principle and educators committed to the health, well being and development of each student to ensure that their full potential be realized. An economic community not afraid to step outside of the box and to locate and succeed in an area not traditional to business development with the hope that others will follow. A larger community in that of Lively, Naughton and Copper Cliff that support and encourage the need and the right for Walden West to retain their community school.

As I prepare for the presentations January 21st I will most definitely include copies of my presentation.

Regards,
 Jacques Barbeau
 Councillor
 Ward 2