

My name is Lynda Bennett and I am here to add my voice to those fighting to keep R.H. Murray open. I'm not an engineer, professional, or financial advisor so I can not speak to you about anything technical, repairs, or the monetary aspects of these arguments. I am a parent of two children I would like to see go to R.H. Murray.

I went to R.H. Murray. Back then academics took too much time out of playing for my liking. I would not have done so well if it weren't for the balance between instruction and physical activity at that school. A credit to the teachers and lunch lady more than the building. And to the location of the school, Whitefish. Green trees, grass, open fields, and fresh air. All of which made me feel sitting on a bus for a half hour wasn't so bad. And sitting at my desk wasn't such a trap.

I have fond memories of soccer and track and field in the spring and fall. Memories of cross country skiing events held at our school in the winter.

A mention, also, to the teachers. Mrs Kiviaho, who's coaching and leadership turned many of us into cross country ski champions. Mr Macketzy, who got all our hyperactivity out through organized sports. And to Mrs manninen who kept us focused on our studies preparing us for highschool. These teachers and others not only worked at R.H.Murray but volunteered their time to us students and for the community in organizing events like the Fun Fair and the Murray Christmas Concert.

I was out of the community for a number of years. I heard that Murray did not host a Christmas Concert for some time. I was fortunate to see the turn out for their revival. My cousins children were in the show. What a show they all put on. Before it began, however, the teachers and students had to bring in more benches and chairs because the gym was packed. I guess they had forgotten how supportive our community is towards our children. Support and encouragement for students, staff, and the school itself.

When my turn came to choose a highschool my high marks in science and math allowed my bussing to Lockerby Composite School. I entered the S.T.E.P. Program and became a Viking. I spent an hour and ten minutes on a bus from Chicago Mine road into town one way. I would have two transfers during that time. I was always tired and did some of my homework on the bus. I was forgotten at my transfer in Lively once. I didn't exactly know what to do. My cousin's grandparents lived up on Brian street. A three minute walk from my transfer point. I was lucky I had been there once before and that they were home. They took me in, fed me pizza, and helped me get home. Just a small incident due to an excessively long bus ride. My transfer point was then changed to the Penage Hotel where Connie Connors had a Hair Salon and to a community where I would know more people in case of emergency.

From Lockerby I went to Cambrian for a General Arts and Science and then on to Kemptville College Where I graduated their two Year Equine Diploma Program. My racehorse experience took me to Florida where I went from galloping the horses to managing a race and rescue farm. I have seen and done a lot before deciding to settle down in a community that I love and wish my children to be raised in

I used to want to get into town and after that go out and see the world. I never

understood that desire until I wanted it for my children. I will honestly say that I had a strong foundation. Yes with family, but also from my education. I don't think I made any big splashes in high school but I remember making a few in elementary school. My teachers remember me from R.H. Murray when I run into them out in this big world. Smaller class sizes! Above standard standardized testing! R.H. Murray has a history. A good history!

I am worried as to whether my children will have such a good foundation. I come from a small school, with personal attention to students. A small community that is part of Greater Sudbury. I've seen some of our great country and part of our neighbor nation to the south. I'll give credit to R.H.Murray and the solid Foundation and confidence it gave me to explore the world around me.

My family would be proud of any demonstration, any effort to keep our school open. I am not proud. I'm scared. Scared that if I don't stand up and say something now then my children may get lost in crowded class rooms before they have a chance to become confident.

A new school may bring new school spirit. But it will not diminish the tried and true spirit and academic achievements demonstrated in those who came from and currently attend R.H.Murray Public School.

Trustees, I recognize your difficult choices. And your life long dedication to the well being of students. Please find a way to save the school I love. The school I want my children to love.

Thank you for your time.