

**LIVELY DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL  
PRESENTATION  
RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – SUDBURY WEST**

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Madam Chair, members of the Board, at the outset on behalf of my fellow School Council members, many of whom join me here this evening in the audience, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views with your group on short notice this evening. My name is Pam Brown, and I am pleased to provide feedback from the Administrative Council Recommendations released December 17, 2007.

By way of background, our School Council consists of balanced representation of parents some of whom have been long time Sudbury West residents, others who are new to the area and a parent from Sudbury proper. Most members have or have had children in various schools and programs throughout the City and felt well-equipped to participate in the discussions both directly and indirectly. There is a good understanding that the Rainbow Board's approach to education provides a range of possible options, regardless of the students' pathway.

Lively District School Council has closely monitored the review process over the past several months. Moreover, we were fortunate to have Council members current Chair Julie Beare and former Chair Ernie Heerschap directly involved on the Accommodation Review Committee. To this end, we also commend the Board for the process that was instituted as part of the review. We find the processes and methods undertaken throughout the review to have been sound, engaging and highly consultative. Stakeholders and partners on all levels were given an opportunity to have their say. Further, the numerous reports generated contained not only excellent qualitative data but also relevant and instructive information, responses to questions and well documented reports. Information was also readily available through the Board Web site.

Clearly, in our view, the data well supports the urgent need for change on multiple levels, most importantly, however, to effectively "ensure that all students continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities". We believe the recommendations that have emanated from the Accommodation Review will indeed maximize student learning within the resources available to the Board. Ensuring student learning is the first and foremost priority and has served as the one of the mandates that guided the entire process. We don't look at this as a reduction of surplus space, but rather a solid response to the need for improved physical plants for our students in a highly cost effective manner. When we look at the current and future costs associated with maintaining and/or retrofitting our aging infrastructure, we concur that the construction of a brand new facility is categorically the only way to go.

Our Council supports the plan for Lively District Secondary School. Its physical plant, while requiring some capital improvements, is a viable school structurally and in terms of current and future capacity. In consideration of forecasted demographic changes in Greater Sudbury, but particularly Sudbury West, being positioned for growth and expansion is essential.

The Ministry of Education sees the intermediate years as grades 7 to 10. Academically, we know that students in secondary school are taking academics that our generation used to do in University. As a result, students in grades 7 and 8 are looking at concepts which weren't taught until high school. Teachers need to be or have access to subject specialists in some areas. We need to have contact with the secondary schools to improve outcomes of our secondary school students.

With that being said, we are in full support of a new high school that includes students from Grades 7 to 12. The model has proven effectiveness in not only several Sudbury schools, but throughout the province and in fact the world. There is solid research that shows the inclusion of multiple grades on a single campus improves academic opportunities. Lively District Secondary School offers a barrier free environment with access to technology, larger gymnasiums, an expanded library, computer resources, science labs and technical activities such as auto mechanics and wood working can only serve to benefit these students. We believe that the integration will improve academic availability for students and given the appropriate framework and model of student learning and provide for enhanced social development. This will be achieved through the next steps which we propose include consultation and collaboration amongst teaching staff, the broader professional learning community, students and families. Our primary objective will be to ensure a smooth transition and adjustment of this age group into our school with success and comfort. Our school is proud to be recognized as the small school with a big heart.

Lively District Secondary School Council is ready and excited to start planning and to welcome this new cohort to our School. Our preliminary vision includes the reconfiguration of the school to provide for a designated area for Grade 7 and 8's, the development of an expanded peer mentor program, formalization of central resource staff and a review of differentiated strategies for creating an enriched learning environment to respond to the individual learning needs and the various developmental stages in adolescence.

If proven viable given the parameters as set out in the Administrative Council Recommendations, we support the offering of a French Immersion Program.

One of the greatest benefits we see resulting from the review is the consolidation of schools in the area with the construction of a new elementary school for Sudbury West. This makes sense economically and addresses a major crisis that exists within the current facilities. Notwithstanding the obvious benefits to be gained through a new energy-efficient building, the educational, economic, health and environmental perspectives will definitely create a superior learning environment for JK to Grade 6 students in our area. The model used for the Valley View Public School has shown the Boards' commitment to sustainability by putting sound environmental practices in place with the development of this high performance green school which will include best practices for resource utilization, waste management, building materials and interior environmental quality.

As the public becomes better educated on how quickly Climate Change is happening with data now suggesting that there are only 40 years of oil available at current consumption rates and 25 years of oil left a projected consumption, we will need to make community schools more viable. For the sake of our children and grandchildren's futures, we need to look at all ways to reduce energy costs. The green school concept is vastly far more important than we all realize as is investing in programming such as French Immersion and Enrichment.

In keeping with the focus of sustaining our environment, our School Council has also identified the need to improve City bus services in the Lively area to further facilitate student involvement in school activities outside the regular school day. The student need for more effective transportation will be explored through a separate forum with the respective individuals. We feel fortunate to be one of the communities that will have the opportunity to promote an environmental awareness within the school, for our children and the community creating a healthier environment for students. The benefits of the proposal simply cannot be argued.

Maintaining Copper Cliff Public School makes sense in terms of enrolment levels, physical plant condition status and its Best Start Hub status. While we recognize that Copper Cliff was traditionally part of the City of Sudbury, we remind the Board that it is now part of the City of Greater Sudbury. The historical agreement that was established to bus Copper Cliff area students to Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School needs to be reviewed. Given the changes in the educational dynamic in the Sudbury Board, this relationship has and should be changed. We see no reason why Copper Cliff would not also be a feeder school to Lively District Secondary School. Reliance on a historical agreement of this nature that maintains this feeder relationship simply does not make sense legally or practically, nor do we see any requirement to honour this established relationship in a time where the Board has demonstrated an overwhelming commitment to change. We urge the Board to make a review of this document a priority as well.

In conclusion and to summarize our position,

- ✓ Lively District Secondary School Council whole heartedly endorses the recommendation that the School to remain open;
- ✓ Lively District Secondary School Council fully embraces the integration of Grade 7 and 8 students starting in the fall of 2008;
- ✓ A French Immersion Program at Lively District Secondary School is support if the numbers justify the initiative;
- ✓ The construction of a green school offering dual track English and French Immersion programs is fully supported; and,
- ✓ Lively District Secondary School Council supports Copper Cliff Public School remaining open; however urge that the agreement that maintains the feeder relationship to Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School be discontinued

Our support of these recommendations is contingent only on the availability of funding from the Ministry to construct a new school that will realize the model as described in the report. Should such funding not be available to make this a reality by 2009, our Council cautions the Board that the entire plan must be revisited. Without the necessary financial supports, we have grave concern that the Rainbow Board's stated plans and proposals are very much at risk.

Again, Lively District Secondary School Council thanks the Board for allowing our submission this evening. We recognize that reaching unanimity in this type of review is difficult and again salute your efforts in this multi-faceted and complex process. The contemplation of the many issues that surfaced is obvious and we wish you success as you proceed with the next steps. With the necessary financial and other resources, Lively District Secondary School will be prepared to embrace the addition of Grades 7 and 8 students and faculty with anticipated excitement and enthusiasm.