

My name is Kim Peura. I live in Lively; I work in Lively; and my children attend our excellent community schools. I have a son in grade 10 attending Lively District Secondary School. I have a daughter in grade eight attending Jessie Hamilton Public School who is eager to become a Hawk. She is ready for the next stage of her academic life. She began school at age 3 attending Walden Nursery along with many of her current school friends. So, she has been in school for ten years. Two years earlier than I did, so she is more than ready and mature enough to handle the transition into high school. She is ready and wants to be treated as a young person.

I moved to this community of Lively 19 years ago because of one thing -- it's sense of community and room to grow. There are many elements in maintaining a strong community. One of the important elements for me is schools along with businesses, churches and community groups. A big reason my son chooses Lively High because it is a community high school. He feels safe and comfortable at Lively high. He never considered any other high school. He did not want to spend over 90 minutes on the bus in a school day. He spends only 20 minutes a day on the school bus going to Lively High. As parents we did not want him traveling the highway to school. He is proud of where he lives and he is proud of his high school. He is comfortable with the teachers. They treat him with respect and as a young adult. His experience at Lively High is a well-rounded school that creates a safe and healthy learning environment with a lot of fun mixed in. Some of the students at Lively high are accomplished musicians who have released CD's. These musicians have been in a rock band, concert band and jazz band. They have won gold and silver awards not only in the Rainbow district school brd but also nationally for their beautiful musical abilities. They have performed for audiences who thought they attended a school of music. There are students who attend this school who have won awards for their films within the Rainbow District school brd as well as cinefest in Sudbury. There are students who attend this high school who are published authors. There are students who attend this school and will attend this school who have performed on the world stage in their sport; who compete in NOSSA and OFSSA. There are graduates of this school who have began their singing careers at Lively high school. There are students who attend and will attend Lively High who are continuously on the honour roll from elementary school to secondary school. These same students watch out for each other. They help each other out when one is need of help. They volunteer to raise money and awareness for relief funds and charities. They volunteer at George Vanier's day care centre after school. They volunteer to clean up at the ski hill. They volunteer at the winter carnival organizing a very, scary haunted house. The students who attend Lively High and the students will attend Lively High are well-rounded, well-behaved, motivated, intelligent, young people who wish to live and learn in our community of Lively.

The principle and staff at Lively District Secondary School are trying very hard to attract the students from our feeder schools to Lively High. They need our support and input to achieve this goal. They have brought many new programs that are needed for our students to achieve success at school. The parents and school has brought back the football team. There are 2 new aboriginal courses, Native studies and Ojibwe classes. The school offers a new mining program, specialist high skills major. The school has a

new teacher on staff that is excited about bringing a new and improved outlook to the home economics course. The staff and students have achieved success in the EQAO testing placing in the top three schools in academic math in the Rainbow District school board. In the applied math seventy-two percent of the students met the provincial standard of 75% or above vs the 30 % across Rainbow District school brd and 35% across the province. In the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 83% of students at Lively met the provincial standard of 75% with a 19% gain for the applied level students. Check out the Hawks Herald to read all the great things happening at Lively High.

The staff at Lively High are caring, helpful and attentive to the needs of the individuals that attend Lively District Secondary School. As a result of such wonderful teachers and school community our children are wonderful roll models for the community. A suggestion to all parents, try googling Lively District Secondary School to see the many success stories from our own community high school

As I mentioned previously I moved to Lively 19 years ago. I grew up in Copper Cliff and I am one of the last students who attended Copper Cliff High. We are here for the same reason Copper Cliff High closed -- low student capacity. The reason for the low capacity was the bussing of students into Sudbury schools because the enrollment in Sudbury was beginning to decline. The students were being bussed out of Copper Cliff, but there was no bussing of students into Copper Cliff. Now some 23 years later a school in Copper Cliff is again on the list to be reviewed for closure. I do not wish this to happen to our community. It has taken over 2 decades to reduce the student enrollment at Lively High School. Closing a school changes the dynamics of the community for the worst. The reason people are buying or building and staying in Lively is because of the strong community. It definitely isn't because of our high taxes and expensive homes. Our community needs this high school and our community needs to support this high school.

I have two observations to share; one being Lively District High School is the only high school that does not offer French Immersion. There are six other high schools that offer French Immersion for only 762 students. So, there is an average of 127 students per high school. I am sure there can be some savings in reducing the number of schools that offer French Immersion and bringing the students together in one school that is presently under the 80% student capacity.

I would like to remind everyone on a comment made by Jean Hanson at the last public meeting for Sudbury West that was "Anything is possible!"

So, after all this I have 2 suggestions: the first being changing of the school boundaries. Since Copper Cliff Elementary School is part of Sudbury West, they should be a feeder school for Lively District Secondary School. This was brought to the stand by Terry Shields last meeting on September the 19<sup>th</sup> and has been brought to the table at the ARC meeting on October the 10<sup>th</sup>.

The second suggestion is to stop the bussing and funding of students to other schools outside of the high school boundaries where there is a school in the community or in a

near by community. If the parents decide to send their children to another high school other than the one in their community, the parents should be the ones finding and paying for their transportation. Not me!! This will not only help Lively District Secondary school, but it will also help Confederation, Chelmsford, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. There are children being bussed from Levack to Sudbury schools; there are children being bussed from Manitoulin Island to Sudbury schools. This should be stopped. This will reduce the twenty million dollars spent by the school boards each year on busing to the consortium, freeing dollars to be spent in the classrooms and on the schools. It would reduce gas consumption, insurance rates, and emissions into our environment. I suggest stop busing for grade 9 students as of September 2008.

A final word to reiterate that closing a high school changes the dynamics of a community for the worst. Our community needs this high school. Our community needs to support this high school.

Thank you