



## Walden-Community Action Network Education Task Force

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### « **BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION** »

ARC – Sudbury West  
Rainbow District School Board

Presented by: Richard Bois, Co-Chair, Walden – CAN  
Gwen Doyle, Co-Chair  
June 20, 2007



## The Walden Community Action Network (CAN)

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- Formed in 2005 – part of CGS Healthy Communities Initiative
- Executive Committee Members from:  
Beaver Lake, Whitefish, Penage Road  
Naughton, Lively-Mikela & South-end  
communities



## Working to Find Solutions

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- Identified Community Issues:
  - Safety and Security
  - Re-opening the ski hill
  - Walden Help Center
  - Family Physician Recruitment & Retention
  - Anderson Farm Museum
  - Highways & Roads



## Working to Find Solutions (cont'd)

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- Hundreds of volunteers working to find solutions in partnership with:
  - Community
  - Greater Sudbury Police Service
  - CGS Staff & Council
  - Provincial Governments & Institutions



## Working to Find Solutions (cont'd)

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- Provided input to CGS & GSPS re:
  - Constellation City Report
  - Ward 2 Police Forum
  - CGS Budget 2007
  - Priorities Committee in Walden



## Constellation City Report & ARC – Sudbury West

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**We strongly believe that the adoption of the Constellation City Report by CGS Council should have a direct impact on the Rainbow District School Board's current ARC – Sudbury West process.**



## Walden – CAN Education Task Force

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- We strongly believe that access to neighbourhood/community education from pre-school to secondary school is vital to the communities of Walden/Sudbury west.
  - 4 members of Walden-CAN Executive and 2 former educators
  - Followed the 2 Guiding Principles of ARC Mandate
  - Gathered and examined all available data re: 5 schools & future economic & social development
  - Will present the best options for all students & communities in Sudbury West



## Recommended Blueprint For Action

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We strongly believe that both Copper Cliff & R.H. Murray Public Schools should be maintained and strengthened as vital neighbourhood and community schools.



## Copper Cliff PS – a strong neighbourhood & community school

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- 70% of students walk to school
- Only 2.5% of students out of boundary
- Structurally sound/well maintained
- Grounds superior
- Strong corporate/community support
- Hub for community activities
- Community partnerships re: upgrades
- Government initiatives: Best Start Hub
- Only accessible school
- Mining growing/developing



## R.H. Murray PS – Only Rural community school from Espanola to Lively

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- Only option in 400 square km area
- Last standing elementary school
- 97% of students are bused
- Average 11.5 km distance / 53 minute ride
- Focal point for rural community
- Serves Whitefish Lake First Nations
- Top ranking by Fraser Institute
- Government initiatives: Best Start, OEYC
- Totten Mine – 250 jobs/development stage
- Land re-classified to rural



## Surplus space

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We believe that the solutions for eliminating surplus space in Sudbury West lies with 3 schools:

- George Vanier PS
- Jessie Hamilton PS
- Lively DSS



## Lively DSS

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We strongly believe that the Rainbow Board should maintain & strengthen Lively DSS as a viable choice for students – now & for future generations

- Only secondary school in Sudbury West
- Huge geographic area to service
- 80.41% students bused / 17% walk
- 32 minute average bus ride now
- Best condition / recent renovations
- Strong academic programs



## Lively DSS (cont'd)

- Special Programs: technical / mining
- Partnerships & Government Initiatives
- Community Hub: physical / recreational
- Strong corporate / community support
- Totten Mine Project: 250 jobs initially
- Numerous subdivisions in Walden

Only secondary school close to Whitefish Lake First Nations.  
Majority of parents & community want LDSS to remain a viable choice.



## Reduction of surplus space at Lively DSS

- To reduce surplus space at Lively DSS, we recommend:
  - A. Move grade 7 & 8 students from George Vanier PS & Jessie PS into Lively DSS
    - Total grade 7 & 8 students at 2 schools 06/07 = 192
    - Grade 7 & 8 students + Lively DSS = enrolment of 591
    - Enhanced access to facilities: gym, track, shops, student services
    - Better liaison for intermediate teachers/programs – grades 7, 8 & 9
    - Enhanced sports programs (coaches from high school)
    - Precedents: CVDC, MacDonald Cartier, Northeastern



## Reduction of surplus space at Lively DSS (cont'd)

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B. Establish childcare for infants & toddlers with Walden Day Care

Government initiative with Walden Day Care would use 2 classrooms

C. Support & expand special high skills major in mining

- Walden is center of secondary industries / employment growth for mining
- Mining industry is booming – market the opportunities
- Develop other industrial / technical partnerships



## Recommended closures

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We strongly recommend the closure of both George Vanier & Jessie Hamilton

Closure of both schools is fiscally responsible for taxpayers & school board

- Save \$7.5 million in capital repairs
- Save in busing costs
- Save ½ operating costs - \$95,000
- Gain in sale of land / buildings





## New Elementary School

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We strongly recommend the construction of a new elementary school (JK – gr. 6)

In the Growth Corridor – on the south side of Highway 55

\* Final location to be determined by Rainbow Board



## New Elementary School (cont'd)

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- A new plant results in savings of \$7.5 million in repairs to old buildings
- One new **Green**, energy efficient school would lower operating costs
- Two less old plants to run; significantly reducing maintenance / administrative costs
- One strategically located school; better access, safe traffic flow
- Increased parking for staff & visitors



## New Elementary School (cont'd)

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- Would meet need of regular & FI students & have potential for growth
- Improved & expanded programs & partnerships for students & community
- Would include auditorium, gym, library, art & music rooms, special education rooms, childcare space, etc.
- New grounds could have green space, shaded areas, potential for outdoor education, sports areas, playground equipment
- Enrolment – 491 JK – gr. 6 students from George Vanier & Jessie Hamilton



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**THANK YOU!**