



## Steve McCready

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**From:** "Steve McCready" <smcready@nbnet.nb.ca>  
**To:** <Draft>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:10 AM  
**Subject:** Lets save the Coles Island School Opening remarks

Thank you Mr Noel Good evening everyone, and Welcome, and thank you very much for attending this very important meeting, We have many many reasons why this little rural school should remain open

And you just saw and heard from the most important ones, and we are very very proud of them.

Just a couple of house keeping items, There are washrooms just down the hall to my left, in case any of the presenters get too nervous

We also have exits on either side of the Gym, those are for anyone not supporting keeping this school open.

A special welcome to our superentendent " Mr McTimoney " and his staff, from district office, I was very impressed with the knowledge his staff had on recall at the first meeting, Jena was like a walking computer. I would just like to know who programed her. We all know the importance of Information and knowledge But we can never forget the quote that says (People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care )

I love quotes, I feel when used properly to capture what you want to say they are very powerful way to get a point across in the shortest period of time

And members of the " DEC " If we were a city it would be at this point we would present you with the " KEY " to our city. You are the ones that will vote to will determin the future of our School

But we are not a city, We are a rural community, and you have the key to our Coles Island School in your hands, We are here tonight to help convince you never to use it to close this school down.

Two quote I would like to share with you, ( Always Treat with respect the power you have to form an opinion ) And secondly ( It is always better to measure twice and cut once )

I have always used country song titles to get a point across, they say if you play a country song backwards, your old truck doesn't break down, your dog doesn't die, and your wife doesn't leave.

Having seperated after 39 years of marriage, I have often been reminded ( It would have been cheeper to keep her ) and ( She got the gold mine, I got the shaft )

But the one I really want to use here and now is a quote by Jackie Kennedy who once was Quoted as saying ( If we fail to bring up your children properly, nothing else we do in life is really going to matter )

We all understand that bringing our children up properly includes they get the right start to life and a solid education.

For a very brief update, on Nov 20 the " DEC " was here at Coles Island and presented their sustainability study for the Coles Island School to us. That was their night to present to us the cold hard facts that described to us their take on the situation they saw our school in.

Ladys and gentlemen tonight's meeting is our chance to offer the " DEC " More insight into our community and reasons why we strongly feel that a community without a school for it very young students is not really a complete community, and that is why we as parents and caretakers of our children and our community would not be doing our job, or fullilling our obligation unless we stood up for our children, our school and our community Thank You !

You have an agenda, and we will now begin with our presentation, Thank you, Part 1 please

,Part one Please !

**Steve McCready**

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**From:** "Steve McCready" <smcready@nbnet.nb.ca>  
**To:** <Draft>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 2:22 PM  
**Subject:** " Lets save the coles Island School "

50 schools have closed in New Brunswick in the last 10 years, aprox 5000 less students now in school in this province

10 years ago we had 367 schools we now have 317, almost 14% of our schools have closed in 10 years

10years ago the New Brunswick Department of Education budget was aprox\_ \$ 740million Dollars \_\_\_\_\_

This year the Dept of Education Budget is \$1,012 Billion Which is \$272 million \$ more than it was 10 years ago, or a 36% increase with 14% of our schools being closed

FACTS WILL VERIFY New Brunswick still has Less than a 50% Literacy RATE, WHICH MEANS THAT <50 % OF OUR POPULATION READ BELOW( LEVEL 3 )OR THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION LEVEL

WE ALSO KNOW THAT 60 % OF OUR POPULATION DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE MATH SKILLS.

YOU WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT AND PROCESS TO FIND IT COSTS \$ BETWEEN \$ 250,000, AND \$ 300,000 TO KEEP 1 FEMALE PRISONER IN A FEDERAL PRISON FOR 1 YEAR

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN FIGURES THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO PROVE THAT THE COST TO EDUCATING A CHILD FOR ONE YEAR IN COLES ISLAND IS \$ 1,350.37 DOLLARS MORE THAN THE PROVINCIAL AVERAGE.

ESTEMATED COST PER STUDENT IN COLES ISLAND \$1815.00 ESTEMATED PROVINCIAL COST PER STUDENT \$ 464.63

I AM SORRY BUT ALL THIS PROVES TO ME IS --THAT 60% MATH NUMBER COULD BE LOW! NOT EVEN THE NEW MATH WILL MAKE ME BELIEVE THOSE NUMBERS.

WE IN COLES ISLAND REALIZE THERE ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM,

BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SENDING OUR CHILDREN BETWEEN 4 AND 10 YEAR OLDS TO CHIPMAN WILL SOLVE ANY OF THOSE PROBLEMS

WE ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO HELP FIND AND FIX SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN OUR SYSTEM.

BUT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO JEPRODIDE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN OF ANY AGE IN DOING SO.

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**From:** "Steve McCready" <smcready@nbnet.nb.ca>  
**To:** <Draft>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 12:56 PM  
**Subject:** WE MUST THINK OUTSIDE THE BUS

With today's technology and means of transferring information instantly from not only point "A" to Point "B" but the rest of the alphabet in a heart beat, I feel our education system is falling away behind in not only its delivery of but also the diversity of our education material especially to rural communities and small school New Brunswick.

To make available a curriculum delivery system via the internet would be a huge step in reducing structural costs, transportation costs, books and paper supplies and staffing costs in our smaller rural schools. Kids pick up on new technology very quickly, I would say much faster than many adults. So let's use modern technology to subsidize for the lack of any short comings identified in expertise available in our education facilities but especially in rural New Brunswick which quickly seems to be becoming "REMOTE" New Brunswick. The technology is "HERE" ITS HERE NOW!

I will give you an example, my 5 year old grandson ( BEN ) had one item on his Christmas list, an Ipad, value \$ 400 plus dollars. He got this Ipad but with the understanding he must share it with his 7 year old sister ( Hillary ), he had no problem with this rule because he knew she didn't have the same interest in the Ipad that he did. On boxing day we had a large gathering of immediate family/ relatives at my son and daughter-in-law's house, after the main course we had a variety of homemade pies available for dessert, on their own my two grandkids instructed me to cut one piece of each pie available, I thought they were going to take them around to show people, and they did, but used their new device, took a picture of each piece of pie available and showed it to each person at the table and recorded how many pieces of each pie we needed. Very Smart.

We have passed the day that educators are provided with the most modern and up to date communication devices available which are equal to or superior to what many students own or have access to

I am also aware that giant strides have been developed in material to educate our special ed students this material has been adjusted to ways and means that they better understand, ?? (are we fully utilizing this new technology ?) personally I don't think so. Rather we are providing TA'S to try and help keep special ED students involved and interested in the delivery of our regular curriculum, a process which must be totally boring and uninteresting to them. I am all for helping every child get an education, but I do not feel our present delivery system is using all the tools in its drawer to ensure this is happening.

I feel very disappointed that the marking and testing and averaging and recording of test scores in New Brunswick and only in New Brunswick include a "O" for special ed students that do not even write the test, anyone who is involved in this process understands that this gives those classes lower scores and lower class averages, + add lower class size to this equation and it further skews the results, for those parents who this was never properly explained to, it leads them to believe that their children are not getting a proper education and they start blaming the teachers and the school. And that's a shame.

I strongly feel that with this beautiful school here at Coles Island being under utilized that one way we could change this situation and improve the education delivery to special ed students at the same time is to offer an up to date modern learning program and environment for special ed students right here at Coles Island. That would allow us to keep educating our very young ( Pre School plus K to 5 ) right here in their own community under the same roof. Bring in these students at a reasonable time each day. I feel many parents may even consider relocation to the area if such a school of excellence and expertise was developed here. We have to teach inclusion and develop an inclusion environment for it to work, young children learn fast, most seem to accept and understand differences and adjust to them probably better than many other members of society. I know it would make every member of our community so proud to be part of such a challenge and we would work with the Dept of education to make it happen.

In this day and age it is no longer necessary to drag kids out of bed anytime after 6am to get them up, cleaned up and dressed and fed and have them ready to get on a bus in the dark at minus -20 celcius. All children require so many hours of sleep each night to be healthy and grow properly both mentally and physically. One recent study indicated we would have better results educating not only our very young students but slightly older ones as well if their school day started a little later to allow them more sleep time

The most challenging times in many household is getting the kids up in the morning, and in the evening, convincing children it is time to go to bed !! Stop and think about this, from anytime after 6am they have had their day dictated to them and instructed where to be and what to do every minute, right up to doing their home work after supper. Then we tell them its time for bed, and they usually protest, they want some " me " time, they fight and argue for " "me"" time, unfortunately there " me " time has to be spent in bed. We can use more modern technology to help better educate our children in a more user friendly time frame and manner.

It is a known fact that the NB government is under going an other evaluation of our education system, we take our Premier at his word when he says that his government will take its time in bringing about changes to the New Brunswick education system. I hope in some small way we the people in this small rural community of Coles Island can influence that education evaluation process to the point that it makes those in charge of preparing this education evaluation to realize there is technology available that can be used to help educate the very young in small communities of rural New Brunswick in their Communities.

TO DO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL WE MUST WORK TOGETHER AND " THINK OUTSIDE THE BUS "  
THANK YOU .