

McTimoney, David (ASD-W)

From: Sabrina McFarlane <sabie14@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 4:38 PM
To: McTimoney, David (ASD-W)
Subject: Coles Island School

Everyone has heard the saying "it takes a village to raise a child" but one of the lesser known facts is "it takes children to save a village " and to have children in a community you need a school.

One of the first things our ancestors did when they arrived and found a place they wanted to live was cut the trees and built three buildings, a house to live in, a church to worship in and a school to educate their children in. As more families came a community was born.

Coles Island area was one such community, the Cannan river divides and forms the island. The river provided a transportation route to get needed supplies from Saint John and also a means of transporting lumber and other products to the city. Many, many other communities in this province were formed the same way, it is how New Brunswick was built by people, proud of their identity, their way of life, their province but most of all their children.

On Thursday evening March 19th /2015 at 6.30pm in Fredericton the DEC, district education council, in the span of about 2 to 5 minutes will vote to either keep the school doors open in Coles Island or close them for ever.

We the " LETS SAVE THE COLES ISLAND SCHOOL GROUP " have done everything we can to try and convince the " DCE " that they are not just making a decision to close the school they are making a decision to close the community. They are making a decision to bus kids as young as 4.5 years of age from their homes starting as early as 7am to Chipman and bring them back sometime late afternoon.

Included in these students are students with learning disabilities such as attention deficit disorders that need teachers assistance when they get to school after traveling for almost an hour and a half with older high school kids and then that same amount of time to get them back home again.

Our school at Coles Island is under used, we agree with that, but we also agree that there are many other services that can be provided to the community at this school and also allow for the 30 plus students to be educated in their own community. The students we are trying to protect are K to 5 students. Students too young to speak for themselves, and too young to be forced to be bussed that far each day.

This week is our last chance to stand up for a young students, our last chance to make a plea to the " DEC ", our last chance to impress on the government that closing school after school in rural New Brunswick is not the way to improve the education system in this province nor will it save you any money in the long run.

The people of Coles Island have always been very proud people, like many other rural New Brunswickers, we are known as the Hunting Capital of New Brunswick, so they closed our Ranger station, there are a maze of roads that have to be looked after, so they closed our government garage. Our DR is long distance, our MLA is long distance,

The working men and women of our community are willing to get up early early morning to commute to work over dangerous roads so their young children don't have to do that on a crowded bus to get their education.

I only ask the " DEC " to ask themselves one question, IF THESE WERE YOUR YOUNG KIDS <HOW WOULD YOU VOTE ??? Please do it for us, please do it for Rural New Brunswick.

Steve McCready

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