

Suggestions for Sustainability 5

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We believe Millville Elementary School is worth saving. Here are some suggestions we have:

1. **Reconfigure the Millville Elementary School catchment area**- The catchment area presently does not even include all children who live within the village limits. This means that children who live within 5 minutes of our school (on the 605) are bused over a half hour into Nackawic. The original catchment took in Caverhill Road, Maple Ridge, Upper, Central, and Lower Hainesville, Nortandale, Millville and Maplewood. The catchment area has not been reviewed in over 35 years.
2. **Allow Millville Students to Take a Proficiency Test to Enter Late Immersion**- Millville Elementary students used to have the option to enter French Immersion in either grade three or six. In recent years, the pressure has been put on parents to enter their children in the Early Program to avoid missing out on the Late Immersion program. The district announced it will no longer offer the grade 6 entry point after this year. To allow students to remain at Millville Elementary from grades K-5 a number of options could be considered.
 - Keep students at Millville Elementary from kindergarten to grade 5 as we have a 2 year intensive French program in grades 4 and 5. This is twice the amount of time most children spend immersed in French.
 - Allow the children to take a proficiency test for entry into grade 6 French Immersion.
3. **District Could Reevaluate the Transfer Request Process**- A review needs to be done to figure out why requests for transfers are happening so frequently. They often occur due to miscommunications about educational opportunities or the appearance of advantages that one school has over another.

The adults who have been given the responsibility to decide the fate of our children, our school and our community need to take into consideration the well-

being of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. The children of our village are not being offered a better education, a shorter commute, a strong connection to community or a greater opportunity to be involved in extra-curricular activities. You must put as much effort into seriously considering ways to SUSTAIN Millville Elementary as you do in finding reasons to ELIMINATE it.

What Matters?

A vote to close MES says that:

- **Quality of education**
- **Impact on the community**
- **Academic achievement of students**
- **Over 400 hours a year on a bus**
- **What's right for children**

Does Not Matter

What Matters Most?

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Closing Millville Elementary School is a bell that cannot be unrung. The far reaching consequences cannot be determined based on projections formulas or expenditure spreadsheets. Once you close the doors of a school, the life and vitality it provided for a community is gone. The empty building, unkept lawns and silent playground will whisper of the past but there will be no way to turn back the clock and recapture what's been lost. It's a major decision, a life changing decision for a community of families and should not be taken lightly.