

Re: Stanley Elem. + High School

I have a fairly long history of involvement with the Stanley Elementary and the Stanley High Schools. We had a busy Home and School association in the 90s and when the PSSCs were started I was a member and then the chair of the High School. I think the biggest complaint I had at the time was the lack of guidance when my kids were in Grade 12 and making some of the biggest decisions of their lives. Now I know why. One guidance counsellor for two schools! It was obvious to me too that a principal's job is very stressful and all consuming. How would one principal look after two schools? Who will lose out?

When I retired last year after 36 years as a chemist at rpc I joined the elf program. My thought was that children can't succeed if they can't read. I thought it would be easy! The training was intense and I was probably the only non-teacher there. It showed me that teachers need elementary school training in order to teach in an elementary school. Being in the school again is also showing me how hard the teachers work. And the office. The phone rings constantly. Who will answer the phone or make the calls if there is no one in the office?

Elementary  
Literacy  
Friends

I was told that the DEC is trying to find efficiencies to save money. Combining the two schools will save \$53,621 in year 3. That works out to \$1.17 per day per student. These children are worth more than a cup of coffee a day!

When my son was in elementary school he was very shy and could not even walk through the front entrance if high school students were present. But thanks to Mrs. Sansom and her

staff he excelled in the small intimate climate of the elementary school. One of the superintendent's quotes in the website is "An initial look at this shows the office location in the high school would be suitable". When my son was in Grade 3 one of his best friends was being bullied on the playground. My son along with his friend went to the principal and reported the bullying and it was dealt with. These kids would never have gone to a principal in the high school and the bullying would likely have escalated.

My son went on to middle school and with some quality one on one time with the high school principal he graduated with honours. He went on the UNB and graduated from the electrical engineering program with honours too.

I support the two school system in Stanley and I implore you to support it too.

This is a direct quote from the DEC website:

One of the main roles of the DEC member is to ensure the wishes of the community are reflected in the management and operation of the community school. The DEC members must be willing to ask the community what it needs and wants from its schools.

I think it is obvious from this meeting that the community wants the status quo...two separate schools with two principals.

Thank you.

Thelma Green