



Welcome the DEC members. My name is Jodi O'Neill, and I would like to introduce you to the roles that I hold within the community. I am a member of the Village council, member of the Bath Middle School PSSC. Coach of two local sports' teams and I help to coach the summer rec sports programs with the village of Bath. I am foremost a parent with kids in each of the schools that we are talking about tonight. Throughout the night, please keep in mind that we are talking about the kids, and not just about the two schools. This decision will also have an enormous impact on the village and the step-ahead daycare.

I would like to give you some background information on how the village of Bath and the surrounding communities support our schools.

Soccer Field

- ✦ In 2008, I was part of the village rec commission. The Bath middle school soccer field and track was in dire need of work
- ✦ The total cost to restore the track and field to a usable condition was \$30,000 of which \$10,000 came from the McCain Foundation and \$2,000 from a government grant to supply the crusher dust for the track.
- ✦ The village made the track and field possible by covering all costs not covered by grants. The village also generously supplied the volunteers working on the project with free barbecue meals to recognize their efforts.

- ✦ Track was grown up in weeds and grass
- ✦ The kids couldn't use the soccer field due to an infestation of bees in the sand on end next to the elementary school.
- ✦ The rest of the funds equipment and man power was all donated from the surrounding communities, Dave MaCarthy donated the grader , Pond View farms provide a payloader Crain Farms provide a dump truck and driver, Mat Brennan provide a dump truck to haul the bush away that was clear from the side of the track, Tompkins mill provide a pulp loader and operator to load the brush, Grayln Drost provide a dumping location for the bush Peter Brennan survey the field and track and I know I have left several people. Just to mention a few of the people involved.
- ✦ The Bath Lions Club also donated the new equipment need for the soccer field corner post line sprayer etc.

I feel this really shows the sense of community that we have in the village of Bath and surrounding communities.

Community and School groups currently utilizing school gyms

- ❑ Bath Mini Boys basketball team (BMS)
- ❑ Bath Mini Girls basketball team (BMS)
- ❑ Bath Bantam Girls basketball team (BMS)
- ❑ Bath Middle School boys basketball team (BMS)
- ❑ Adult volleyball (BMS)
- ❑ Adult basketball (BMS)
- ❑ Seniors music night (BES)
- ❑ K-1 Basketball team (BES)
- ❑ 2-3 Basketball team (BES)
- ❑ Great Strides walk for cystic fibrosis (BES)
- ❑ Combined rugby with CCS (BMS)
- ❑ BES Drama (BES)

Without status quo if either school closes one or more of these groups will lose the gym time they have now. Presently the NCMBA is renting the gym in Florenceville to allow the rec teams to have a gym to play out of. If the minor basketball association has to rent more gyms on the weekends it will increase the fees they charge now significantly which would also limit who is playing now.

School Sports Teams

Over the past several years the following teams have represented the Bath Middle School:

- ▣ Middle school boys basketball team
- ▣ Volleyball teams
- ▣ Co-ed soccer team
- ▣ Badminton team.
- ▣ Rugby

- 2012-2013 Middle school boys basketball team which was made up of 7 players finished second in their division at provincials.
- ~~Same year the boys volleyball team placed~~
- Last year the co-ed soccer team finished second in zones. But most importantly was the opportunity that allowed these kids a chance to represent their school and community which I must say as a parent and coach I was very proud to be a part of. Several comments were made about how well the kids behaved and the sportsmanship they showed on and off the court.

~~Removing the 44 students to Florenceville would eliminate their chance of playing on a school team simply due to the number of kids trying out for these teams.~~

~~If you try out~~

Being from a small school allows most of the kids a chance to participate on a school team. For some of them this will be their last chance to do so. Do you really want to be the ones who take away this opportunity from the kids.

Pool and Splash Pad

- ☐ The cost of operating the pool is approximately \$35,000/year.
- ☐ The cost of operating the summer sports programs is \$15,000/year
- ☐ Tax base of BMS -\$42 000/year
- ☐ Tax base of BES -\$30 000/year
- ☐ Pool employs 6 summer students each year.
- ☐ The village is currently planning to install a splash pad at the pool site. These plans have been deferred until a decision has been made regarding the status of our schools

- ☐ The pool employees 6 summer students each year from the village and surrounding communities. With the loss of either school it will impact the community greatly and hard decision will have to be made.
- ☐ The village started fundraising last fall just before the announcement was made regarding the study of the schools. Once the announcement was made we decided to put the splash pad on hold until we knew the fate of our schools.

WE DAY

November, 2013, a group of BMS students, teachers and Mr. Sullivan had the opportunity to attend "WE Day" in Halifax. At the event they were asked to think of a project that they could do as a group to make a difference both locally and globally for others; to change their thinking from ME to WE. Despite having only a small number of participants, they decided they wanted to build a school in Nicaragua. The cost to build the school was \$10,000 and the participants had a year to fundraise. They began in January 2014 and over the next five months they ran the following fundraisers:

- Spaghetti Dinner
- St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- Bake Sale
- Cookie Sale (Seniors music night)
- Movie Night
- Yard Sale
- Family Night
- Car Wash
- Dress Down Friday Funds
- Invitational School Dances

- + Over the next five months, the students of Bath Middle School, along with community support, raised an impressive amount of funds for the project to the sum of \$8,500.
- Having reached their goal of \$10,000, one of the teachers at BMS was so proud of the students that she nominated them for an award. The students won the award and received a grant for a ~~total~~ \$8,000 to add to their fundraising efforts, bringing the total to \$18,000. *another*

- Spaghetti dinner was supported by the community and surrounding villages also. The Florenceville – Bristol chamber of Commerce held their monthly meeting in the school just so they could attend the supper and support the kids when they heard of this.
- Two of the girls on the fundraising committee hold a cookie sale at the seniors music at the Bath Elementary School.
- The Bath Fire department help the students with a car wash/ barbeque at the Bank of Nova Scotia parking lot on a Saturday and the volunteer fire fighters that showed up to help did so on there day off and several of them had no connection to the school at all.
- Also one of the students along with the help of her friends start to paint bricks and sell them and I think the David actually was one of the first people to purchase one of these bricks if I am not mistaken.
- + The students had raised \$8500 in just over ~~four~~ ^{five} months of hard work and that's when a local business man step in to help them reach their goal. The gentle ^{new} knew how important it was to the kids to finish this before the school year end and went around the community soliciting business to raise the last portion of the money.
- Now as I stand here before you tonight I must say how ironic it is that last year at this time the students and staff of the BMS was ^{receiving an award} celebrating there achievement of actually building a school to help less privileged kids and now we are the ones fighting to keep our school open for them.

Monquarters... it's an identity

- School logo
- Monquarters... recognized everywhere
- Two types of people

Monquarters as an identity

The true meaning of Monquarter is "The meeting of two streams" or "meeting place." There was a misconception that Monquarter held a different, negative, meaning, and due to this misconception the logo was removed from our schools. That's when the Baracuda replaced Monquarters. Although the school logo had changed to the baracuda, the students remained Monquarters at heart, did not associate with the new label, and the sports' teams continued to use the Monquarter as their mascot. 2013/14 saw the return of The Monquarters through a PSSC/Community revitalization effort. The students participated in a logo contest and came up with several great ideas. The process also helped connect our students with the history of the Monquarter and their community.

* when traveling for basketball several people have come up to us saying that they recognize the monquarter logo and know of this area and have fond memories of the school.

If one of the seniors here in the village told me that there is two types of people in this world. The true monquarters and then the wantabe's

In closing

Think about...

- Community Impact**
 - Local services available
 - Summer student opportunities
 - Access to a gym
 - Access to community space
- Community Support**
 - Strong sense of community and volunteerism
 - WE Day support
 - Christmas Dinner for students
 - Coaching
 - Summer programs
- It's all about the kids**
 - Opportunities for everyone
 - We want our kids to chose to live here
 - Newborn-grade 8

In closing, we would prefer to remain at status quo, with both schools open and operating. We understand that this may not be possible, so we are open to discussion about combining the schools into one Newborn-Grade 8 facility housed in the current middle school building.

* Local Services

- Adult volleyball
- Adult basketball
- Great strides walk for Cystic Fibrosis
- 6 summer students the village hires at the pool and one for the rec program.
- minor basketball association

* This is the last chance for several of the students to play organized sports and represent there school.

- By showing the kids how we support them by coaching and volunteering within our community, we hope this will bring the kids back home to do the same ~~after~~ after college. Several high school students come back now and help coach the younger kids now play basketball in the minor association.

In closing I know status quo is not an option But we need a newborn to grade 8 In the village of Brith.