

January 17, 2017

Mr. Hugh Nerlien: Kelvington, Wadena  
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Dear MLA Hugh Nerlien:

I understand changes are being considered in our education system. As the MLA who represents our area, you understand the importance of local voice and listening to the community.

Education belongs to community and I want you to know that I support the **North East School Division** and ask you to share these important messages with your colleagues in the provincial legislature:

1. We need to keep our school boards locally elected; and,
2. We need to keep decisions close to our communities.

Students do not benefit from moving decisions further away from the community.

Sincerely,

## POINTS TO CONSIDER IN LETTERS TO MLA'S ETC

- Local democratically elected school Boards are the best choice for my community.
- Local accountability comes from locally elected boards making decisions for local communities.
- School boards make planning, staffing and budget decisions close to communities with the resources made available. It also encourages civic engagement in education.
- Based on past experience, amalgamation will put the focus on governance, administration and change management. Students will become secondary focus setting back the advancements that have been made in literacy and improved graduation rates.
- The previous NDP amalgamation caused disruptions for at least 5 years and education spending continues to rise. Economies of scale have been realized.
- This would be the second time that forced amalgamation excluded Separate (minority faith) School Boards, firstly in the NDP action and now in the Sask Party proposal.
- It took at least 5 years for the Boards, formed only 10 years ago, to become accepted as our community's school system. Significant improvement in learning is just beginning to be achieved in the last couple of years.
- A large percentage of the funding for education still comes from local property taxes. While the Province sets the taxation rate, the local taxpayers still pay the toll. Taxpayers deserve local representation for education. This is different from Health where all funding except portions of capital come from the general revenue fund of the Provincial budget.
- Locally elected boards are responsible for placing student needs first when making decisions, and are accountable to their electorate. They are

responsible for ensuring all students within their jurisdiction have equal opportunities to reach their maximum potential. This may be lost with larger elected boards or appointed boards who may be more influenced by politics because they are responsible to the government who appointed them.

**Addresses:**

- 1) **Honorary Brad Wall - Premier**  
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- 2) **Honorary Don Morgan – Minister of Education**  
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- 3) **Mr. Kevin Phillips: MLA Melfort**  
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- 5) **Ms. Nadine Wilson: MLA Saskatchewan Rivers**  
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