

# Eskasoni High School

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TO: AFOA

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ATTN: Deoff

DATE: Jan 12/07

SUB.: \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE: As per conversation

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NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE) 7 of 7

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: Star Rais Teacher

January 12,2007

Steve Parsons  
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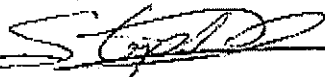
To Whom It May Concern:

For the past seven years I have been employed as a business curriculum teacher at Eskasoni High School. This year I have the pleasure to teach as part of my Entrepreneurship 12 class Justin Stevens. Justin is the type of student that every teacher wishes there were more of. This is my second year teaching Justin and I can honestly say without prejudice or hesitation that he is truly an ambassador for his school. This year Justin is registered in grade 11 and is expanding his studies in the field of business by studying Entrepreneurship and Business Management which are grade 12 credits. This academic plan is representative of Justin's attitude. Last year he registered for Consumer Studies 10 in which he was very successful in achieving a score of 85% and this year is well on his way to reaching honors with distinction.

Justin is the type of student that respects all aspects of the education experience. In fact, being the only student participating in this competition just goes to show his level of commitment. He treats all of his teachers, fellow students and school administration with the up most respect. When it comes to extracurricular functions, you can always find Justin at the front of the line volunteering. He is a member of many school groups including the Envirothon and the National E-Spirit Business Plan Competition. Justin is considered to be a "role" model for his peers and has a very promising future ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this competition and for accepting Justin's essay. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Yours in Education



Steve Parsons - Business Curriculum Teacher ( Eskasoni High School)

**Personal Information**

*Students name: Justin Stevens*

*Age: 16yrs*

*Parents: Shelly Stevens (mother), Daniel Stevens (father)*

*Phone # :902- 379-2103*

*School: Eskasoni High School*

*Location: Eskasoni , NS*

*Phone : 902-379-3000*

*Teacher: Mr Steve Parsons*

*Address: 37 Amberwood Cres, Sydney, NS. B1R 2L1*

If I were in charge

By: Justin Stevens

If I were in charge of my community, what would I do to make a difference? I would first of all put more funding in our immersion program which is only from kindergarten to grade 3. I think our language is very important. It makes us who we are and that is aboriginal. A good leader should be able to listen and get input from the people. I personally think our past leaders didn't do that. If I were in charge I would, I'd talk to our Elders and youth because the youth is our future and our Elders are the link to our past and heritage. I respect my elders and listen to their advice and teachings. Going on, Education is the key if you want to succeed in life. I would support and try to get all the funding we need for anyone interested in going back to school and for students getting a post secondary education.

Politically I wouldn't make promises I can't keep. I'd try to make fair and good decisions for the community of Eskasoni. And I wouldn't hide anything from the people, if there was something wrong; I'd inform the people and not hide it. Keeping them up to date in decisions we make as a community. I don't look down or up to people, I see us as equals. Being honest to the people is the only way I see us as a people and a community to grow. And if we are to grow as a community we need to be not so dependent on welfare, people rather not go school and become something because they're so dependent on the government taking care of them or spoiling them, well that's what I think of welfare maybe some people need it and others are just too lazy to get a job. As a leader I'd encourage people to come and talk to me and discuss things that are wrong in the community. There are many problems in first nation communities two main problems are

alcohol and drug abuse. I think all departments in the community should have the fit to work program.

As leader I'd try to be more involved with the community socially. Which I think our past leaders didn't really do. I'd be at community events such as pow-wows, telethons, festivals, parades and community box socials things like that. Being involved with things like that would help me connect with the people making them see me as they're equal. One thing I'd do which is really a big thing in our community is sponsoring girls and boy's who are taking part in the Princess pageants and Mr.Eskasoni pageant, also sponsoring student travel groups and field trips. Technology in our community can be used to our advantage, because we're so far from the city so we can't rely on tourism so using the internet we could reach outside of Eskasoni. People could start an e-business for selling native arts and crafts or anything really there is no limit with the internet and technology in today's age. Moving on us as first nations people are suppose to respect nature and help it. I think we should stop dumping things on our native land, and start recycling. We could also use our natural resources and renewable resource such as wind turbines to power the community. That would help a lot of people, because people wouldn't have to pay power bills and what we don't use goes back to the power grid.

I also would like to talk about someday having a drug and alcohol free community. We could build a recreational centre to keep kids and teens from drinking alcohol and doing drugs. The centre could have a lot of activities like native arts and crafts, native dancing classes for people who want to learn how to dance traditionally, and have day camps

where kids will learn about their culture, business and how to be an entrepreneur. It would also include a swimming pool, fitness room and gym and also a basket ball court. The kids right now have nothing to do so they start drinking and doing drugs at a young age. This is really sad for the mikmaq people. There are a lot of problems in my community, but I'd try to solve all the problems I can by getting the whole community to work together and build a better stronger future for us all. It will be tough but I think will be able to do it. I believe in my community. There is no other place like Eskasoni, everybody is a family, and everybody knows each other. They say you can never go hungry here because your family, friends and neighbors will feed and take care of you. Everybody's door is open and they greet you with a warm heart and warm meal. So if I were in charge of Eskasoni, I'd make it a better and more positive community.