

What is it we hope for from our children? We hope that they will be educated well by their community so that they will grow up to become contributing members of our society. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see our children grow up, remain residents of our community and give back in some way? It can happen. It has happened.

We are a group of DeKalb residents who spent our entire young lives in DeKalb schools, and some of us even continued on to get our bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Illinois University. We are also a group of people who chose to come back into the DeKalb schools as teachers and dedicate our lives to educating the youths of today. We have bought homes here, contributed our tax dollars, started families and involved our own children in the DeKalb school system. We are proof that if a school system makes an impact on the life of a child, it can then reap the benefits from that child's contributions to our community.

We are not young children anymore, but we still remember our wonderful experiences attending DeKalb schools. We have been students at Lincoln, Cortland, Littlejohn and Jefferson elementary schools, Huntley and Clinton Rosette middle schools, and DeKalb High School. We have experienced Barb Pride and hold it in our hearts even today. We are the people who speak highly of this community and are not afraid to wear orange and black with our heads held high. We are the ones who want our own children and your children to experience what we have experienced, and we'd love for them to stay and give back to this town as they become adults.

We are also fearful. We are afraid that the pride in our community is declining. We are an excellent school district, and we have a lot of successes each day to show, but the overcrowding in our buildings is making it more and more difficult for students to reach their potential and to feel the pride that they should. Our children deserve more. They deserve what we were so fortunate to have growing up.

Please join us on Feb. 5 and vote yes for the Cortland, DeKalb and Malta school building referendum. Help us restore Barb Pride!

LORI PHELPS  
MYLA LEXA  
DANA ROURKE  
DEBBIE PRELLWITZ  
PAULA MOAN  
NONNIE SCORZO  
JAMIE HARTWIG