

*Good Morning Karen,*

*I am hoping that with this email I can get your help in mobilizing the Deaf Community, its family and friends to make their voices heard.*

*My daughter is a junior at Highland High School and an ASL Honor student. She has fallen in love with ASL and the Deaf Community and has decided to dedicate the rest of her life to working with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Her ASL teacher, Ms. Eileen Truszkowski (Ms. T as she is lovingly known), is so passionate about teaching ASL that her passion has spilled over into her honors class (mostly juniors). Many of which, are also interested in majoring in Deaf Studies/ASL and becoming interpreters.*

*It has come to my attention that due to educational funding cut-backs by the state, ASL is one of the classes the School Town of Highland is eliminating. What an outrage! I can't believe that of all of the "foreign languages" offered in the high school. ASL is the only one being cut.*

*Ms. T has done a wonderful job teaching these kids to love and respect the Deaf Community. The news has really upset them making them question how the school board could come to the conclusion that ASL should be cut; I would like to know myself. The kids understand the importance of learning and teaching ASL and what that means to the entire community. It bridges a gap that most people don't realize exists.*

*There is a school board meeting on Tuesday, February 16 2010 at 6:00PM. My prayer is that the Deaf Community, its family, friends and/or supporters rally together, in opposition of the School Town of Highland's decision to eliminate the ASL program. We need to come together and make them realize the importance of ASL and what it means to the ENTIRE community. It is NOT just another foreign language!*

*School Town of Highland  
9145 Kennedy Avenue  
Highland, IN 46322*

*The following are three school board members that have contact information, should you want to contact them.*

[LJschoollboard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LJschoollboard@sbcglobal.net)

[lawrence.vassar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lawrence.vassar@sbcglobal.net)

Mr. Dave Turoci does not access his school town email. However, you may contact him by leaving a message at school administration (924-7400), or by calling him at home. His home number is available in your local phone book.

*I look forward to a great turnout. Thank you, in advance, for your help. I trust that you will do all you can.*

*Respectfully,*

Bernadette Perez