

Madam President and Members of the Board

Last meeting I spoke about the issues in our district. On further contemplation it has occurred to me that I was focused on the wrong priority. This is not about parliamentary procedure or rules of order. The catalyst for my involvement in this case was the termination of the two teachers. Mrs Nesbit and Mrs Royal. Without them you would not have this public outcry. I would not be standing in front of you. My nature is to be bold and to say what others only think. Cheryl Nesbit said my comment about a knee jerk reaction though true is affecting her life. So I need to apologize to the teachers. I lost focus for a little bit but what she said brought the focus back.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Carney the first time at the Transportation Committee the other night. He shared a little of his vision with me. He talked about the healing that is starting at the primary school after the Houk era. He talked about communication between administration and teachers and how important that it is. I think we can all learn from Mr Carney that respect can be shown by both sides and when this happens good things start to appear.

We need to drop the me vs you and join together to make Woodland Schools strong once more. I took a couple of classes at Portland Community College, the first was a 40 hour course on Mediation, The second was 32 hours of Advanced Mediation. My teacher was Tsipora

Dimant, originally from Israel. She talked about her experience in the 1973 war. She was a nurse in the Golan Heights and was witness to horrible suffering and wounds that occurred because of conflict. She spoke about in the hospital even though there were many nationalities, Israeli, Syrian, Egyptian and others, but all you seen was suffering. Then and there she decided that conflict could better be solved by communication rather than bullets. I left with a newfound knowledge that conflict is caused by two things, the need to be right and lack of communication, and a quote. Rumi , a Persian Poet, wrote “ Out beyond ideas of right and wrong there is a field, I will meet you there. Why don’t you meet there?

I ask the board to set up a non binding mediation session with the teachers and the administration to try and resolve the issue of Mrs. Nesbitt and Mrs. Royal.

But still the issue remains about transparency. Ben Fredericks asked about a timeline for a frank discussion at the last meeting. I want to echo those sediments and also ask about the timeline and also how that will look. Is the public going to be invited? I would like further information.

Finally in regards to the statement 5) Avoid personal attacks, complaints about individuals, lewd or obscene language.

How is that defined? Again how can we have transparency if we cannot talk about our issues and the people present can't hear those issues? How does the board define this? My last speech I spoke directly to issues with Mr. Green, which by the way we are still waiting for an apology, and President Watts. These could be considered "Complaints about individuals". If we do sent written complaints what is the process and especially the follow up? Are these complaints privileged or can the be reviewed by individuals? If they are, I hereby request that all written in the past year be shared with the public.

Thanks

Nick Massie