

More Letters . . .

From page 10

I found it very interesting that only two candidates had spouses worth mentioning. Yes they are district teachers, and they do have names. If spousal occupation is of such relevance I would have appreciated knowing the names and occupations of the other candidate's spouses. One cannot help but sense that there is an attempt here to show some sort of conflict of interest. This is certainly not the case. Randy Hansen and I are both concerned parents and taxpayers of this district. Remember this is an elected non-paying volunteer position which we are seeking. To the voters, I can assure you that I would remove myself from any teacher contract negotiations and that is most likely reassuring to many teachers because when it comes to government spending I consider myself to be fairly conservative. If our spousal occupation relationship is a problem for anyone just remember that within our district we have two paid administrators in supervisor/subordinate positions that are united in marriage.

Last month I was asked by an Independent staff member why I did not seek appointment to one of the three vacant board positions within the last year and why I choose to run now. I attempted to politely answer, but for some reason I sensed that my answers were not quite good enough. For the voters I can share that I have been vaguely considering this position from afar for about two years now. I did not seek appointment primarily because at that time I was not ready or willing to commit myself mentally or physically to the position. Furthermore I did not wish to be appointed at that time as I would have otherwise felt an obligation to the other board members and less so to the voting public and my personal beliefs. As my interest grew I began to attend the regularly scheduled board meeting in attempt to learn about them. Honestly I can say I have not learned much, other than I personally believe there needs to be changes. I do not know all the issues, nor do I have hard and fast answers, but I am willing to work with the new board and superintendent to make

our school a better place for our children. I attended my first meeting December. It was there that I first realized how few people attended. Whether elected or not I hope to make my attendance a future priority.

Some might say that I am critical of administrators, you are probably right. There is a reason why they are paid their substantial salaries. Regardless of how much education, knowledge, and experience they may have, it is an opinion shared by many that they still must earn it. Effective two way communication is paramount at all levels; building rapport with students, parents, all employees, and the community is a responsibility that will translate into trust and respect. Everyone involved must share in this, but a greater burden of accountability falls on the administration and the board.

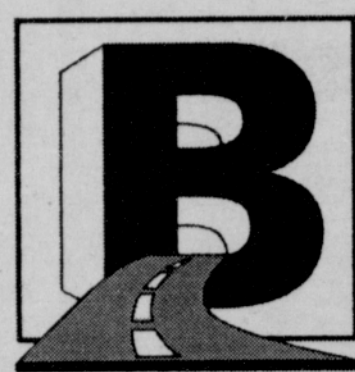
I have not met, nor do I know all the current board members. I wholeheartedly believe that the current board is made up of some very fine people with many good intentions and attributes. It is the groups dynamics that are in question. It is time for a

change. I had wished to stay clear of this stage knowing that if elected I would be working within the very group I am criticizing. After all the "warm fuzzies" in the letters to the editor last issue it seems only fair to share an opposing viewpoint. Though certainly not entirely true there is a perception amongst some of the community concerning the boards work. This can be somewhat visualized as a mother goose leading her seven goslings

from the park to the pond. They all share the same final goal, but the same trail as well. Personally I would rather see seven individuals traveling seven different paths with one following close behind and arriving at the common goal together.

To serve this district one does not need a great occupational title, or be a financial wizard, but rather exercise common sense, be willing to listen, and then act accordingly. All

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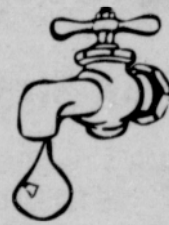
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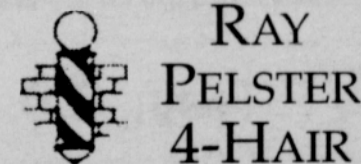
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