

THE VIEW FROM HERE

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Public schools have historically been the foundation of America's democracy. If the people are to play a central role in our government, of necessity, they must be well informed. Our public schools cherish this responsibility. I believe that our communities will be as strong as our public schools.

Grass roots democracy is practiced in the Poynette School District. The Board of Education is in a position of trust and responsibility. The success of all the students in our school district is their charge. It is an awesome responsibility, but it is compelling. Our future is in the hands of our youth.

As much as adequate funding is essential to public schools, I believe that public engagement is even more crucial. Just as nothing is more damaging to the culture of a public school than poor student attendance, a lack of participation in our schools by the public has this same effect.

Parents and guardians talking with teachers and administrators would be my building block for public engagement. This is a conversation between co-educators. The focus is the student. I believe this is both a model for public engagement and for increased student learning.

The political landscape has made listening and dialogue only hazy memories of how our responsible leaders acted in the past. I am pleased to say that our public educators still value and practice the art of conversation. Mutual respect is essential to all relationships, and as educators, we strive to make it the heart of our learning culture.

I believe that schools and all organizations are either progressing or regressing. They are dynamic by nature. The School District of Poynette places a high priority on professional development that will directly result in improved instruction and student learning. We accept the challenges that the future presents and the vision we have for our students. They will be tomorrow's leaders.