

THE VIEW FROM HERE

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INTERIM DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Memories are made of this. Lyrics from a popular ballad in the 1950's. *We like Ike.* The slogan used by the supporters of Dwight D. Eisenhower when he campaigned for the presidency in 1952 and for re-election in 1956. It both expressed the sentiment of the majority of voters, and avoided attacking his opponent-Adlai Stevenson.

The contrast between the 1950's and today is powerful. Black and white TV was just becoming a common medium found in the majority of homes. The nation was united unlike anytime since. The post World War II period in our history was a time when Americans stressed what they had in common, not what made them different.

Like all ages, the 1950's was imperfect. Separate but equal was still practiced in the South as well as in many large urban centers. The Civil Rights Movement was still in its embryo stage and the public schools became the focal point of this movement. The effort to integrate schools in Little Rock, Arkansas symbolized the power that Jim Crow laws had in America.

The challenges of today are different from those that many faced in the 1950's. Nonetheless, equal opportunity for a quality education is missing in many communities throughout our country. Public education is viewed by some as unnecessary, and a drain on our resources. In the eyes of some people, the funding of public education must take a back seat to smaller government.

I believe the strength of democracy and public education are inter-dependent. Democracy is the government of, by and for the people. Enlightened and engaged citizens are the foundation of democracy. Many of our nation's founding fathers expressed their belief that our country's future depended upon a well educated citizenry.

The Poynette School District is placing a high priority on communicating with the public and encouraging public engagement in our schools. Currently ten community members are on the Committee that is interviewing candidates for the District Administrator position. With community input, the Board of Education believes that the next District Administrator will possess the values and skills that match those of our community.