

June 25, 2009

School Board does poor job listening

Much has been said recently regarding educational equity and enrollment issues in the Iowa City School District. Much more needs to and will be said about these issues.

We cannot think we will solve one problem without looking at all the other facets affected. We have problems with our boundaries, which reflect on enrollment inequities.

Enrollment issues reflect on building repairs and closures. Building, facilities and enrollment issues reflect on course offerings. Loss of course offerings reflect on enrollment.

All of these issues lead to a very poor perception of what our east-side schools -- and City High in particular -- can offer.

There does not seem to be push back from the west side or the school board concerning these issues. Truly, they seem to simply ignore. Worse, the school board blithely goes along voting to close good neighborhood schools, making plans for a third high school, ignoring the fact that they're underutilizing the east-side comprehensive high school.

The school board -- who will look at speakers, and will claim to read e-mails and letters -- actually ignores the groundswell of community support for the righting of these wrongs.

I would suggest that all involved stop ignoring. Without change the inequities will grow and the relatively small problems we face now will grow out of control. We won't just go away.

We listen to the mind boggling conversation at the school board meetings. We read minutes and reports. We know that some of our board members have already "checked out" well before their terms are up. We will support new school board candidates. We will vote. We will work together to begin erase the bad public relations, and the prismatic inequities of our district's policies.

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