

September 27, 2006

## **BOE Mtg. Speech**

**We are all connected in this community**; there is no “us or “them”.

We are parents. Administrators. Teachers. Seniors. We are volunteers. Employees. Neighbors. We are family. Most importantly, however, we are the children of District 15 – and we are ***all in this together***.

There is no “us” or “them”.

We need to **not** be divided. We need to **support** those we elected to do their job and we need to support those whose job it is to teach our children. **We need to remember why we are here.**

*We are all here because of the children.*

We are not here because of our egos or personal agendas. It is already becoming so bitter and ignorant. (pause) It is **shameful and it is embarrassing**. *To ALL of us.*

We need to remember the little things, the **obvious** things like – **respecting** one another. **Agreeing to disagree** (*agreeably*). To **learn facts** before spreading rumors – and to swallow hard when we may want to react before thinking.

On behalf of the **Northwest Suburban Council** I would like to **publicly thank** all of the **wonderful volunteers and PTA Presidents’ who continue to display pride, respect, dedication, leadership, kindness and courage during this challenging time.**

- I would like to publicly **invite both the Board and the CTC** to a ***PTA Sponsored Public Meeting*** – where both sides can lay out the facts and information for the parents of this community.

(I would also like to --)

- -- publicly state that **should a strike occur that the CTC give the parents a 24 to 36 hour advance notice.**

In closing, I would like everyone to –

**R**emember back when you were younger (pause) and your parents would tell you – **“If you don’t have anything nice to say - then don’t say it at all.”**

~ Elizabeth Bratkiv  
NWSC PTA President

*Remember to lead by example.*