

## **Board – Wake up and smell the coffee – Eric Winkelman**

During the last study session of this Board in 2011, it was suggested by both Chris Fellin and me, that the placement of Public Comment on the agendas was basically a deterrent for public comment, since it came at the end of what at times could be very long and laborious meetings.

Unlike the BHSD Board under former Board president Mary Ellen Miller's leadership, you and other BHSD Boards have intentionally chosen to go back to the unfavorable agenda placement of "Public comment" as it was during the time when Steve Gaynor was superintendent, and Steve Weiss was the President of BHSD Board of Trustees.

It was further suggested that perhaps two public comment opportunities, might prove to be very useful.

You see, a few of you at a time, will come to the "town hall meetings," to make it seem that you care, and therefore, the other members of the BHSD Board are also interested, and accessible. But frankly if you are going to turn, what I believe are the dominant, current, prevailing, negative, attitudes of the general public towards you as a Board, around, that is just not enough. It is only a first step!

Furthermore, as trustees, you need to be accessible, both individually and collectively. So the continuance of the "unfriendly," placement of public comment on your meeting agendas shows that there is little effort on your parts, to want to be more open to the public at every opportunity.

So now I am going to give you my personal assessment, general in nature, and it is based on both my rational, and unrational\*\* perspectives, thoughts and feelings. \*\* [as per the definition in: "The Search for Unrational Leadership," by Charles Fleetham]

Over almost a 5 year time period, I have been able to observe a great deal in the BHSD, of course not everything, but quite a bit more than your average citizen including many current parents.

My initial conclusion is that BHSD is pretty dam good. There is a lot to be proud of and at the top of the list are the teachers and support staff, the curriculum, as well as our current superintendent and the administration.

So now, you may be asking: "Winkelman, what then is the problem?" Let me be very direct and forceful by putting it this way.

What's the weakest link in the "chain" of success, that indeed the Goal and Mission of the BHSD 2018 Strategic Plan will be fulfilled? What is that weakest link? In one word, both a singular and collective word...it is...YOU!!!

That's right, YOU who unknowingly manifest insensitivity, an out of touch attitude towards the community. That's right YOU, the current BHSD Board of Trustees. Not the overall BHSD, but in my estimation it is mostly YOU!!

You see you failed a very simple test to show that you were not only different, but you as a Board were changing as well!! That test was to go along with a previous, simple, logical, community friendly idea regarding the placement of public comment on YOUR meeting agendas!

So it appears that the current grade for that test is now an "F!" However, the opportunity to redeem yourselves from that severe evaluation still remains, but you will have to make the conscious choice to take that step!!

So if you ever want a chance for a Plan A outcome, then it is up to you to change and show that indeed you are a different BHSD Board of Trustees. The ignorance of a simple agenda placement of "public comment" so as to make your meetings more constituent friendly for the general public, is *prima facie* evidence, at least for me, that: " You guys still don't seem to GET IT !!!"

Oh, and if your are now "pissed off" at me because you think I am out of line, then GOOD!!! Because you should be "pissed off!!!" Except direct that emotion not at me, but to yourselves, and use it to change, or community trust will never return to this district as long as any one of you sit on this BHSD Board of Trustees !!!

So wake up now, and smell the coffee!!!