Proposed April 8 School Board Comments

The Every Student Succeeds Act of December 2015 requires each state to intervene if a school is in the lowest performing 5%.

1. With our rating – If 100 students were lined up, we would be #1, the lowest in the line.
2. Three campuses earned ratings of 56 or 59%. How can you tell them that you know that they tried their best: False praise – Trophy generation.
3. Ask teachers how they think students will do on spring test. Do not ask the person whose job depends on those scores. They will tell you what you want to hear.
4. Aides are pitifully paid – after insurance some take home less than $400/month. For insurance with a $5000 deductible.
5. Bus drivers carry and deliver our precious children safely, through weather and road conditions, oil trucks playing chicken, other drivers passing a bus on the right. These everyday heroes have not had a raise in at least 9 years.
6. There is little Apache Pride in the secondary schools. Many students consider only themselves, not their school. Schools and grounds are trashed. Football players quit before play-offs. Good players demean other players, so won’t even join the team, students do poorly at UIL believing that they can replace a disliked teacher.
7. Behavior must be addressed. Behavior by students, parents, and – occasionally – teachers. There must be a chain of command that is followed. Very few students can learn with constant interruption. And if there are no consequences, some will begin to wonder, why behave? The FOCUS program was the last behavior program to work. Until behavior improves, scores cannot.
8. Money is spent on unneeded resources. Consult teachers. Ask what they need. Smaller class sizes, more electives, more aides, counselors to listen to kids – not to only be a test coordinator. The dynamic of a classroom is not told by a list of names on paper. Talk to teachers. Respect their knowledge and professionalism.

I have not been contacted at all to discuss any of these concerns. Why do you ask others how I know certain information, instead of asking me directly? Do you care about kids or are you only bothered by someone publicly asking questions?

I have been in the district for 15 -16 years. I have a fairly good memory, and I’m fairly intelligent. I talk to people; students talk to me. I research, and I crunch data. Some problems are clearly visible. So ask.

Ask me. Ask teachers. Ask various community members. If you aren’t willing to do that, we need a new school board. At the least, we need term limits. The board should serve the schools, not “own” them.

I recently learned the word responsibility can be broken into two parts: response and ability. Do you have the ability to make the changes needed for GISD to prosper? If so, what will be your response to the situation?

As a post script:

I recently was made aware by a community member that the current superintendent salary is not $190,00, but $199,000. If not true, and people are saying so, then you have a public perception problem. If true, and if given after the earned “F” rating; how could an increase be offered and how could it be accepted? Especially in light of other district salaries? Shame on you. Shame on you for so many decisions.