Public Commentary
3/24/10

Dear Trustees,

Well, here I am again.

I know that some of you have already made your decision regarding the issue of privatization. I also know that whatever I may say may not change your mind. However, I hope you will read my words. First, I would like to say, thank you very much for allowing me to express myself before you.

The reason that I immigrated to the USA is for freedom of speech and the American Dream. It is sad to see that those things are disappearing in the USA. There is no more job security.

It seems absurd to me and I don't understand how for the second part of the year, the superintendent can give 8 % of his salary and his cabinet 4% but the custodians are being asked to give 100%.

The School Board looked for answers from the public but you don't care what the community is saying. I attended every community meeting and it was clear that the support against privatization was unanimous. Why is the Board not listening to the public?

Having come from a country where corruption, unemployment and a lack of academics predominated the society, I pray that the USA does not turn out like my country.

I hope that the public will speak up against the decisions that the Ann Arbor Public Schools are making regarding privatization when something goes wrong.

A few questions for you.
Are you going to left your children or grandchildren be with a stranger? I'M NOT!

Do you realize Novi Schools already have two sexual harassment charges in less than three months, after they privatized?

Do you really think privatization is the answer to the problem?

Are you ready for the consequences?

For me: You can take my pension, you can take my job and you can privatize it. But, the item you will not take from me, is my pride and the satisfaction to said. I did my job as best as I could. I care for all those students in my school.

It is sad to SEE that so many people think first and foremost about themselves. It is unfortunate that so many don't care for others. Where is Gorge Fornero our former Superintendent, that did all he could to see that Skyline would be built, And I ask, where will Todd Roberts be in a couple years from now?
Is this always a game?
Is this is what is involved when climbing the ladder?
Is this how school administration and the Board work?

I sent you Ideas for budget cuts. And I can give you more suggestions but your mind already appears to be made up. I know that life must go on.

I was at the Board Meeting the night he new Trustee was elected. I hope to see that all of you will follow the oath you swore to take. The oath that is your guiding principles to make this community better.

Thank you very much and God bless the United State of America.

Humberto Valencia