

1/20/10

Hello my name is Humberto Valencia and I am the head custodian at Slauson Middle School.

I stand before you to say NO to Privatization. (pri-vet-is-ation)

To me everybody is a custodian. Management is a custodian of finances, teachers are custodians of children and janitors are custodians of the building facility.

Custodians are one of the lowest paid employees in the district. It does not make sense to cut costs by privatizing the lowest paid employees, just as it would not make sense to privatize the highest paid positions. Sure people can be found to work for less money but a lot more than just dollars will be lost. Imagine if a recent graduate replaced the superintendent. The district would lose the superintendent's knowledge, expertise and compassion for education which only comes with experience.

As I see it, the problem centers around a lot of

employees earning a lot of money. Yet the question is, are these employees willing to give a lot? I feel the people who earn more need to give more. At the very least shouldn't an evenness exist among employees. For example-- health care. Offer only one health plan for ALL district employees.

I am not pretending to have the solution to the budget crisis. However I have ideas that can help. It is not correct to save the jobs of the supervisors and crew chiefs while sacrificing the jobs of the workers in the field. If the custodial staff is eliminated who will the supervisors supervise?

Don't we all need to help each other? It does not make sense to have some employees give 100% of their salary to save the district. I encourage the Board of

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Education to create a budget plan that is more realistic. A plan that will maintain the Ann Arbor Public School team.

The team that is built on experience, pride and a true interest in the district.

I agree now is the time for change. BUT please say no to privatization. A private company does not have the interest of our district as their priority. The company will say what you want to hear. They will pretend to work for the Ann Arbor Public Schools but their priority will always be to make a profit.

In closing I encourage the Board to look closely at the numbers and the structure of the various departments they are proposing to cut.

Put the right people in the right positions. Truly give to the district and do not pretend to give. AND remember,

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the Ann Arbor Public School employees are capable of  
doing their jobs. Do not award the jobs to a private  
company.

SAY NO TO PRIVATIZATION. (pri-vet-is-ation)

Thank you for your time.