

August 28, 2013

Dear Teachers and Administrators,

Richmond Community Schools" vision, "*By 2020, Richmond Community Schools will be the highest performing school system in East Central Indiana.*" is based on a series of comprehensive leadership values and high expectations. It is articulated clearly in our board goals that are found in our Strategic Plan. We are not afraid to be assessed and to be held accountable for that vision. Our students and community deserve nothing less. However, we would like our assessment to be as broad and comprehensive as our values.

Currently, the A-F Accountability system has flaws, presents an inaccurate picture of our schools, gives preference to low poverty schools, is difficult to understand or explain, and does a poor job of measuring true school performance. It has created tension, frustration, and skepticism. We support and encourage the Indiana School Board Association's Legislative Resolution that calls for the encouragement and the improvement of a state accountability model that will clearly and accurately assess the education being delivered to students. The intent and purpose of assessment is to improve student learning and instruction.

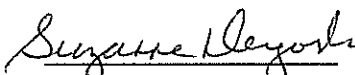
We encourage Dr. Glenda Ritz, Governor Mike Pence, the Indiana State Board of Education, and the legislature to reconsider the A-F grading system as it now stands. We want balanced assessment. We want to insure that school systems are given credit for demographic challenges, socio-economic challenges, language learning challenges and the special needs of our children. We want to insure that the state recognizes how well local school systems meet local goals as set by locally elected officials. We want, as well, fair and balanced state goals for our children. Each area of the state is unique with unique needs and the same is true of our children. That should be understood and recognized. We also want to emphasize that our children are so much more than test scores.

We offer our services and would be willing to assist in the creation and development of a comprehensive and fair state accountability model for all the schools in our state.

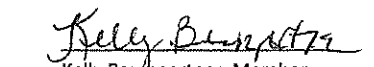
Respectfully submitted,

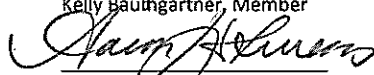
Richmond Community Schools Board of School Trustees

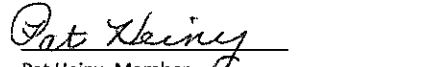
  
Linda Morgason, President

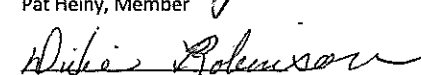
  
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