

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Fellow Educator,

As a recently retired educator from the KASD, I am writing to encourage you to sign the recall petitions if you have not already done so.

The role that educators play in molding the future of our great nation is vital. The Kimberly Area School District, including school board, administration and staff, continually works hard to provide a quality education for our students. I am proud to have spent 32 years of my teaching career in the District.

I have thought long and hard about the dilemma facing educators in today's highly charged political climate. We have been put in the middle of a political conflict that we did not create. Even more than the financial sacrifices, we are suffering both personally and professionally. We are dedicated professionals who deserve to be treated with respect, valued for our opinions and paid professional wages/benefits. By the way, we are not overpaid – thanks to the QEO. The damage that has been done to the teaching profession will take years to overcome.

I do trust that our current administration and school board will do their best for the students and the employees in the District. But they can only do so much given the controls instated by our governor. And, the timbre of the school board can change in one election, as we have seen on the state level. What really hit home with me was when I found out that Walker never even once met with our State Superintendent of Education prior to presenting his budget proposal. In fact, Tony Evers had to attend a public hearing to have his voice heard. But, Walker did take time to meet with school choice lobbyists. I am afraid that this is just a hint of what is to come.

It is time to step up. The most important thing you can do is sign the petitions. I and several others will be available on **Friday, December 9, from 3:00-4:00** in the parking lot of Dollar General (vacated) - across from Kimberly High School on Kennedy Avenue - if you wish to sign the petitions.

Also, please consider collecting signatures from your family and friends and/or volunteering through WEAC or the Outagamie United Wisconsin Recall Office (612 W. College Avenue – phone 216-9377). **You are needed.**

Best wishes for a good year. I hope to see you on the front line with head held high!

Carol Lenz