

Anderson Community Schools

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Date: February 1, 2010 Monday
To: Memo to All Staff (MTAS)

Constructive Action

My last MTAS dated January 8 in regards to “showing your passion” has been well received and I want to thank you personally for creating a more professional and caring environment in Anderson Community Schools (ACS).

As you all know, ACS is facing multi-million dollar budget deficits. My evaluation of ACS’s current situation is that **conditions will get worse before they will get better**. I realize that it is difficult for everyone in the community (from board members and employees to students and parents) to give up what used to be there. However, everyone has to make some very tough decisions today in order to build a strong tomorrow. **Today’s sacrifice is tomorrow’s security**. I wish I could tell you that I have a magic bullet to solve all the problems instantly. The truth of the matter is that I do have a solution. But it is a long hard road for the next few years.

While I am still working with Administration to put together the 2010-11 school plan which includes the forecast on budget, academic programs, and staffing, I want to ask you to take two simple steps: [1] do one thing that you can do that will help ACS to save money or increase quality without additional cost (for examples: turn off the lights and computers not in use; improve some procedures – like registration), and [2] either volunteer yourself or recruit a volunteer for at least one hour a week during the semester or summer. To lead by example, I am already turning off lights and computer in my office area each and every night including weekends. I am in the process of evaluating the registration procedures as well as the budgeting cycle. Personally, I will volunteer to coach a chess club(s) depending on interest from students for at least 5 hours a week.

The recession is not going to last forever. However, the current situation is a major challenge to all of us. Let me paraphrase President JFK, “Ask not what **your** school district can do for you, ask what you can do for **your** school district.” If you share my vision and trust my integrity and skills, let us travel the same long hard road together.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Felix', written in a cursive style.