

Some Extra “Stuff”

I have had two sons graduate from the Oswego City public schools and then move onto to higher education. My oldest is in his junior year at Clarkson and currently is studying abroad at the University of Lulea in Sweden. My youngest graduated in in the .5% (yes that is .5 % not 5 %) of his high school class and has just completed his first semester at Ithaca College Park School of Communications with a 3.85 GPA. *I do not say this to brag, I say this to emphasize that our public schools have helped not only my children, but millions of children across the state.* In the case of my sons: both of these young men have entirely different strengths and weaknesses regarding academic, social, and emotional intelligences, as do their friends. I have seen in them all of the potential of human kind. I will always support public schools and public education.

I myself am a product of public schools as are the vast majority of my contemporaries. I also achieved an Associate’s degree in Business Administration from Tompkins Cortland Community College, and then went on to obtain both B.S. in education and my Master's degree at SUNY Oswego. Not only am I proponent of solid and supported public schools, I am a firm believer in the benefits and offerings of community colleges, our state colleges, as well as private universities. They all have a place in communities and in society.

I have been BSA Tiger cub leader, worked in RESPITE programs, done private tutoring, and am an active volunteer for St. Baldrick’s Foundation to fight Childhood Cancer and other events in my community: I have seen firsthand the overwhelming and overpowering potential of the human spirit and generosity of the human heart.

All my life I have wanted to have a positive impact on the lives of any child/student I come into contact with. Quite honestly, the amount of support and encouragement I have received for this endeavor is very humbling. I have received support from some of the most unlikely places. Every time...EVERY TIME....I read a note of encouragement I become very emotional in a very positive way. It is a rare an individual has an opportunity like this come along. Maybe, just maybe, I can finally do something good for all of our children, and be a voice for those who feel they no longer have one. How could I not heed this call?

I will close with a statement I used when addressing the Central Square Board of Education:

"There is a popular Latin phrase that is stated by many people but rarely does such an opportunity present itself when it matters most.

That phrase is *carpe diem*...it means seize the day.

More and more in today's world it seems that people like us, communities like ours, rarely have an opportunity to truly seize the day in the scope of state, national, and global events. Much has been taken from us, and our children. This may finally be our opportunity to seize the day, for all of us, our schools, our communities, and our children.

This is our chance.

This is our time to make a stand.

I ask you to Please stand with me.

Please, seize the day.

I will not let you down.

Thank you".

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Sheffield