

Memorandum

TO: Blue Ribbon Panel on Education
FROM: Joie Cadle, District 1
RE: Suggested Topics

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you on issues facing this District. Here are a few possible areas of focus:

- School Uniforms – Does student achievement increase with a uniform dress code? Private schools all require uniform dress; does it make sense for OCPS?
- Nationally Board Certified Teachers – Are they really the best?
- Classroom Teacher Association and its effect on academic success. Are mediocre teachers protected by the union?
- Creating a Technical High School in Orange County. Could the Evans High School site be converted to a Technical High School? A study has been prepared on the concept and the Superintendent has a copy.
- Are we too lean in administrative support? Do we have too many district level employees multi-tasking? It is my fear that we have been forced to make so many budget cuts during the past three years that we are now jeopardizing customer service.
- What is the effect of unwarranted negative media on this community? What effect does it have on our families, students and teachers? What is the long term effect of the negative media on the future of this community? Are quality applicants for top management jobs not applying or accepting offers of employment because of the negative news reporting?
- Offering more International Baccalaureate Organization programs through out the school district. There are both elementary and middle years programs.
- Would customer service training in the schools foster a climate of increased parental trust of the schools?
- Compare the size and scope of the superintendent's support staff, specifically communications and governmental affairs staff, to other municipalities and government agencies of equal size. Are we losing out in the public's perception of the school system simply because we don't communicate adequately with those that form public opinion?

Best Practices in OCPS

- University High School and the progress made last year moving from 30 points from a "C" to a "B" school. Focus on Pre-AP and AP offerings. Look also at the math remediation program.
- Use of AVID (Advancement Via Independent Determination)
- Discovery Middle School Scientific Research Based Reading Program. First Lady Laura Bush visited to school last year to learn more about the program.
- Middle Years Program at Glenridge Middle School
- Look at interventions for all Level 1 and Level 2 students in our high schools. Elimination of electives until proficiency is shown in English and math.