

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

Dear Parents:

I am heartsick over the results of the Referendum. I am saddened that our children will be forced to bear the brunt of this election – that the School Board will be forced to make some very difficult choices in the next couple of months, and that, despite the amazing efforts shown by the astounding voter turnout of our parents, we just couldn't make it happen this time.

What I wanted to tell you today is that I am proud. I am proud of our parents. So many of you voted for the very first time to try to get this referendum passed. We registered almost 50 new voters at our events in our district in December alone.

I am proud of our kids. I saw so many of our children, dragging their parents to the polls yesterday, reminding them that every vote counts. Showing us that they want to keep their activities, they want to keep their opportunities, and they want to keep their options for their futures open.

I am proud of 43% of our entire community – not just the parents of our students, but the community at large, who voted “yes” for us because it is the right thing to do. They saw that this is not just an economic or tax issue, that this is a social responsibility issue. They understood that the best thing we can give our kids, after a loving family, is a great education.

I am proud of our teachers. They showed up. They made reminder calls. They were incredibly creative in “getting out the vote” opportunities. They stood in the snow, then the cold, then the wind, then the sleet, then the darkness yesterday to explain to each voter why this was so important. They didn't leave until the doors to the polls were locked for the night. I am sure many of them were tracking the results of the elections at home until late in the night. I am sure all of them are also heartsick over the results. I am so very proud of them, but I am not at all surprised. I have come to know them very well in the last two months, and what I can tell you, is no matter how under-funded our district may be, your children are in good hands. These teachers are committed to not only teaching academic subjects to your children, they are committed to helping your child realize their own full potentials. And I, for one, am very impressed.

I am proud to have been of service to you. I wish that the results had been different.

Thank you for all of your support,

Amanda Frankel
Parent (and CCSD 180 referendum chair)