

LETTERS | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Seek understanding before criticism

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In response to a recent letter in regard to Superintendent Tim Winter in the SKSD:

I too was disappointed when I learned of Superintendent Winter's potential leaving South Kitsap School District as a finalist for the same position in the Peninsula School District. But the disappointment was not in him. I was disappointed in the potential of losing such a strong leader and advocate for students and the SKSD.

Perhaps the letter writing calling for the school board to not renew his contract should do a bit of research to learn and understand the reasoning why Mr. Winter applied rather than being divisive and calling for his head. Because someone does something you disagree with doesn't make them wrong, a bad person or leader. I served in the SKSD for 30 years, 23 as principal at South Colby Elementary. In year five I applied and was a finalist for a planning principal position in a neighboring district. Were there people calling for my dismissal, no. The staff and community continued to support me/us and in the 18 years that followed we had a very successful and productive run, focused on what was best for the children. Disagreements, yes, but working together made us stronger and provided the framework of some pretty strong learning by children and adults.

Agree to disagree. Seek to understand and appreciate others' perspective. Let's stop the tear down and work together to understand and be a part of the successes that are possible.

Here is to many more years and successes to Superintendent Winter and the entire SKSD!

Brian Pickard, Port Orchard