

Our Very First SKSD Board Town Hall!

"That sure wasn't supposed to be a South Kitsap Citizen Purity Test"

Since the January 28th posting of "**A Joint Statement of Civility**" on South Kitsap School District's Face Book page, there have been "**Over 134 Comments**" from our community so far!



Jan 28, 2022 3:50 PM

Joint Statement of Civility and Respect.

The South Kitsap School District is the heart of the South Kitsap community. Staff, students, families, and community members collectively determine what we stand for – that is the SK Way.

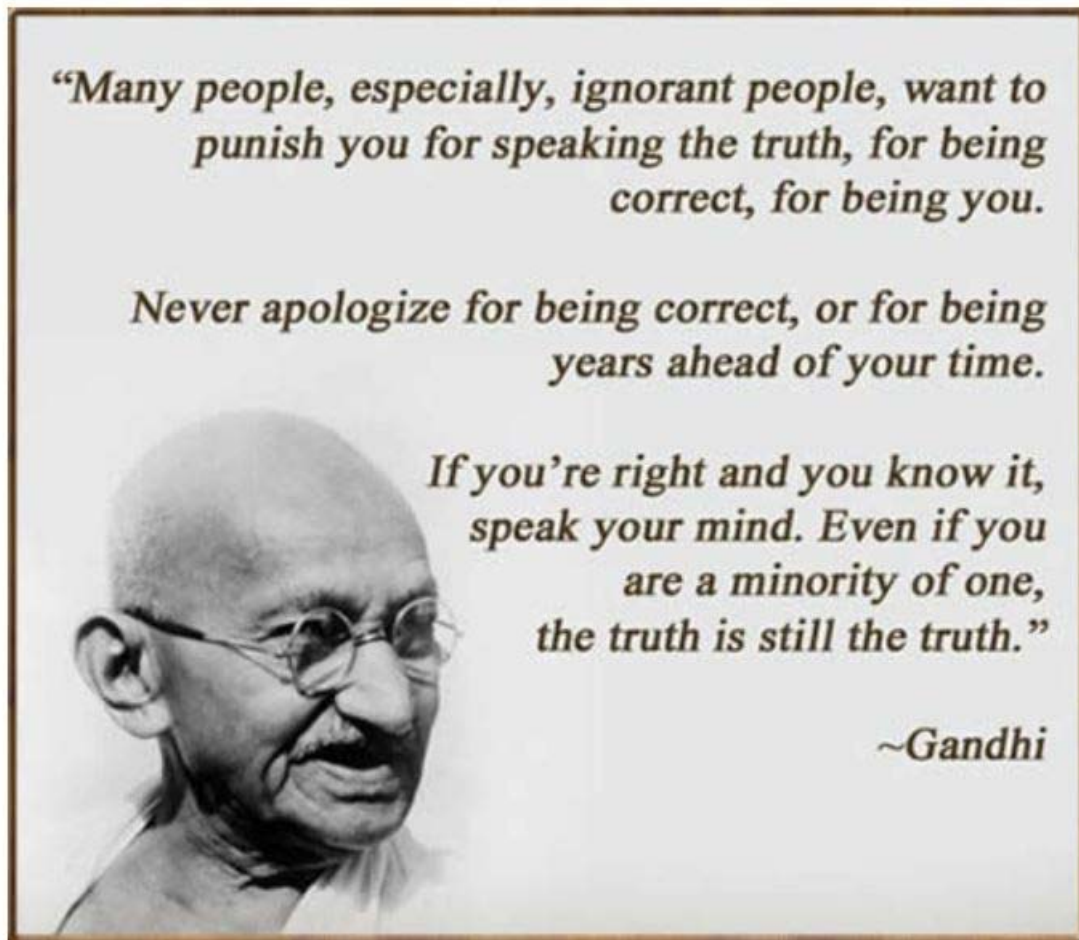
Each of us hold tremendous power in our daily interactions. The words we choose and the way we treat each other matter. We want our students to treat others with respect, kindness, and dignity and that same expectation should apply to the adults in our community as well. In the district, we believe in focusing on student success by embracing diversity and ensuring mutual respect. These beliefs must stretch beyond the classroom into our homes and into our community.

When we witness or take part in a hurtful exchange, it is easy to brush it off and think that the actions or beliefs of a few do not represent our community as a whole. Instead, we must acknowledge our differences. Our unique backgrounds, viewpoints, and stories are what make us who we are as individuals. They are also what make us who we are as a community. Let us strive to listen, seek to understand, and identify what we have in common.

Regardless of our differences, it is the responsibility of us all to show civility, respect and kindness to each other. Finding common ground may be difficult, but it is essential in order to grow and work together effectively. Only then, can we hope to move forward in a positive way.

Together we are South Kitsap!

Tim Winter, Superintendent
Jeffrey Wilson, Board President
John Richardson, SKEA President
Jacque Meddles, PSE President
Troy Grub, SEIU President
Barbara Pixton, SKAP
LaRae Madison, Coaches Association



As you would predict and expect, the responses from the community were both passionate and varied but mostly honest voices of concern for how the district and board are running the district, or how they think they are running the district and how our community members perceive how our children are being treated.

Here are community comments posted on the School District Official Face Book Page as of January 31, 2022.

https://www.facebook.com/SouthKitsapSchoolDistrict/posts/10151646174334944?comment_id=10151647117339944¬if_id=1643682642471855¬if_t=feed_comment_reply&ref=notif

LETTERS

January 31, 2022

South Kitsap schools should listen to parents

Jeff Daily, Port Orchard

I am somewhat perplexed by the “civility letter” from the South Kitsap School District and the need for them to tell the public how to act when dealing with the school district and board. While civility is always correct in any personal interaction, I question the district’s place to tell people how to act. You can’t legislate common sense. Folks seem to have forgotten the danger of getting between any parent and their children.

I am also surprised by who signed the joint statement on civility. Mr. Wilson, board president, was apparently speaking only for himself as no emergency board meeting was held to allow the other board members, of which I am one, to have an input on the letter as required by law. The union leaders who signed, all routinely bargain in secrecy so they can avoid the public eye. The superintendent says transparency is their hallmark but several comments reveal that parents don’t know or understand why or what the district is doing regarding their children’s education.

I thought the reason for the forum was to address parent and community issues and concerns without judgment. Educating parents is the job of the board and district; not defending policies as if parent concerns don’t matter. From what I have heard and read, the perceived civility issue lies with many involved; not just a few. Afterwards, some parent comments questioned voting for district levy’s and bonds when the district, school board, and union leader’s perceived arrogance tells the community how to interact with those who educate their children.

Jeff Daily, Port Orchard