

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th

IF WE SET FOR OURSELVES THE TASK OF CONTINUING PDS AS AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING AN UNDERTAKING OF ENORMOUS PROPORTIONS, ONE REQUIRING THE SUBSTANTIAL AND SUSTAINED EFFORTS OF EVERY PERSON IN THIS AUDITORIUM.

SO I ASKED MYSELF THIS AFTERNOON, WHY IN THE WORLD I'D BE WILLING TO COMMIT THE KIND OF TIME AND THE KIND OF ENERGY REQUIRED FOR SUCH A PROJECT.

ONLY ONE ANSWER CAME TO ME, AND IT IS THAT THE EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THIS COMMUNITY ARE, IN MY MIND AT LEAST, SIMPLY NOT COMPARABLE TO WHAT WE HAVE AT THE DEM SCHOOL.

I BELIEVE IN VERY FEW "OUGHTS", VERY FEW "SHOULD'S" IN THIS LIFE, BUT I DO WHOLEHEARTEDLY BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION OUGHT TO BE NOT ONLY ACADEMICALLY STIMULATING AND CHALLENGING BUT THAT IT SHOULD ALSO BE ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING ASPECTS OF A PERSON'S LIFE.

THOUGH I AM NOT DENYING THE COMPLEXITY OF THE JOB AHEAD, I AM SUGGESTING THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A SCHOOL WHICH WILL CONTINUE AND BUILD UPON THE SPIRIT AND THE STRENGTHS OF THE DEM SCHOOL, AS IT IS NOW ORGANIZED, BUT WHICH CAN ALSO EMBRACE IDEAS, METHODS, PHILOSOPHIES THAT ARE EVEN MORE CREATIVE AND FULFILLING FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS THAN CURRENTLY EXIST.

I AM SURE EACH PERSON HERE HAS IDEAS ABOUT THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF SUCH A SCHOOL AND I WOULD HOPE THAT EVERY FACULTY MEMBER, EVERY PARENT, EVERY STUDENT BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THESE OPINIONS AND THAT A TRANSITION COMMITTEE WOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THEM, IN FORMULATING FURTHER PLANS.

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID TONIGHT SOUNDS EXTREMELY HOPEFUL TO
ME, AND FAR FROM SEEING THIS AS A HANDWRINGING, TEAR
EVOKING OCCASION, I AM TREMENDOUSLY ENCOURAGED THAT
THE SCHOOL WE NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO BUILD WILL BE EVEN
MORE EXCITING, MORE SATISFYING, MORE SIGNIFICANT,
FOR EACH ONE OF US.

by *Laura Kenox.*