

Sign of Things to Come

December 12, 2018

Students Presenting to the Board of Education

During the December 10, 2018, Board of Education meeting, we had the full swell of topics on the agenda – paying the bills, talking about various facets of the inner workings of the district, and listening to me wax on and on about the adventures of Morris the Frog... While all of that was fine and necessary, the highlight of the night was when we had three different groups of students provide presentations to the Board.

The first group of students to present before the Board was a group of fourth graders. They came to deliver to the Board members a copy of their most recent edition of the fourth grade newspaper, Longhorn Life. This twelve page newspaper is the second of the year, and it really is quite impressive. (I am sure if you contact the Holcomb Elementary School office, they would be able to get you a copy for you to enjoy.) Along with the sheer quality of the newspaper the class presented, equally impressive, the students did a VERY nice job of providing the presentation to the Board members. They did this with a certain polish and confidence not usually seen with fourth graders.

Next up before the Board was a contingency of students from the high school. These three young ladies provided their impressions of the trip the local FFA chapter took to Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention. They clearly explained the benefits of the trip to their growth as leaders and provided highlights of the event. Once again, though, the magic of their time before the Board wasn't so much the information about the event in Indianapolis (even though the information was interesting). Rather, it was the composure they displayed as they made their presentation.

The last group of young people to come before the Board was a group of eighth graders who were there to discuss the advantages of the flexible seating options that have been implemented in the majority of the middle school ELA classrooms. The students were able to articulate clearly why this form of physical arrangement in the classroom is beneficial to their learning opportunities. Bottom dollar, the flexible seating helps them focus and stay better engaged with the learning taking place. It was wonderful having them diagnose their own learning needs and then be able to share their insights with others in such a cogent manner.

Students have been involved with making presentations to the School Board for many years, but I thought this month's BoE meeting was special in that we had students representing the three separate levels of the district, and they all did an excellent job before

the BoE. Whether you know this or not, public speaking is one of the greatest fears of ADULTS, so it is wonderful to see our students be as comfortable as they were while doing their presentations. They are truly to be commended for how they did. J

As time passes and we continue striving to prepare our students for life beyond our school walls, I fully expect to have more and more students in the position to stand before a grouping and deliver information in a calm, cool and confident manner. This life skill doesn't come naturally to many people, so it is only through intentional efforts and opportunities created by the teachers that the students will be able to hone their public speaking skills. In all honesty, I KNOW this will benefit the students as they transition into their next stages of life, and I will be excited to witness it all. Longhorns Leading the Way.