

Communication from Dir. Daily 8/8/2020

Darragh, Peter

Sat 4/24/2021 11:11 AM

To: Gattenby, Eric <gattenbye@skschools.org>; Berg, John <berg@skschools.org>;

Cc: Daily, Jeff <daily@skschools.org>;

Dear Directors Gattenby and Berg,

As you move forward with the committees to investigate censure of Director Daily, I thought his communication to me last August might be relevant. Please use as you see fit.

Thank you,

Pete Darragh

From: Daily, Jeff

Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2020 10:27 AM

To: Darragh, Peter

Subject: RE: Questions to answer

Mr Darragh-

Since your intent is to incite versus understand, I will answer you as you appear to be an expert on all matters.

1. It will never be safe for your kids to go anywhere, much less the schools. You as others, seem to want a guarantee that nothing will happen. Remember, the district built the plans; not the board.
2. Until a vaccine that really works is available and 330M Americans are immunized, no one will feel relatively comfortable. I don't think Port Orchard is high on the priority list. Since this is global, you will never be safe again as different countries have different standards. No one will guarantee that to you, ever.
3. As to the health department and the Gov, they will never say it is safe to open the schools because even they cannot guarantee that no one person will die which seems to be what you and others want. All they can do is recommend for local districts to do what is right for them. So, tell me, if the cases go down to 50, is that safe, how about 25, is that safe, how about 5, is that safe, how about one? Remember, it only takes one to infect the schools. So, be prepared to be online for a long time if that is your logic. Will there be a second wave, a third wave, a fourth wave, probably. When the flu season comes, then what? Every student with a cough will be turned away because we won't want to take the chance that one may be COVID? What about the one kid who transfers to our District in November when you want to open but he has the virus? Was it safe to open then? So tell me, when will it be safe so NO child will be sick from the virus. The noble teachers talk about the virus. However, over 60 of them attended a 3 hour funeral in a church, sadly, for one of our own. So much for adhering to the guidance of no more than 5 in one place. I read about our teachers and families on facebook on vacation, theme parks, family gatherings, etc. Apparently they seem to be not all that concerned about the virus otherwise they would be home. Wouldn't they as the health department, Gov, and CDC have told all of them what is a safe practice.

4. All over the country, including Idaho and many other places, folks are going to school. Have there been some failures, yes, but many have done it that you apparently haven't heard about.
5. My wife is classified and plans to return to work. She is over 65 and has no immune system. I have been in the schools and plan to be on the buses and in the schools. I also have no immune system. I wouldn't ask you to do something I wouldn't do.
6. You and others missed the points from Mr Gattenby and Mr Berg and I. Mr Gattenby told you he is willing to risk his daughter in the HS. You apparently are not so go online. Mr Berg is willing to risk his grand children in the elementary schools. You apparently are not so go on line. I went to Walmart where it was full of kids, old people, handicapped people, all over the place shopping and grabbing food over others. I assume you folks don't shop as it would endanger your kids. Does that sound like people here are worried about the virus to you. Apparently you missed all of these points in your anger and frustration. So , go online.
7. As a combat veteran, I am more familiar with death than you will ever know so unless you have been there, don't lecture me. Everyone of the men that were lost and I lost will always sadden me until I die. As a parent, don't ever tell me and my wife about the death of a child, unless you have lost one.
8. You were given three choices. 1) send your kids to school per the school plan. 2) put your kids on line until YOU feel it is safe to come out. 3) put your kids on line for the entire year. Most people like choices as it gives them control of their lives and to make the best decision for their family.
9. As for pride, I lost that long ago in addition to my arrogance. I just try to do the best I can for everyone. It is apparently not up to your standards. I assume your kids are very high functioning which begs the question of why do you have them in the SKSD?. It is the 2nd lowest academically of the 7 districts in the area. Most of your teachers live outside of PO and several have kids that do not go here. But, 40% of our kids are low income who just try to get by. Many of their parents are furloughed or laid off. They have no childcare option as do the rich district employees, Boeing employees, Shipyard employees. They want the choices we have offered because they want to make the decision, not be told how to live their lives.
10. Obviously, the union has pressured everyone for a meeting as all I got was hateful and threatening emails from teachers, other district employees, and some parents. I guess diversity and respect of others points of view is just a joke in Port Orchard as well as what the District is supposed to be teaching your kids. The ones I got from most parents, excluding you, were thankful for a choice that they can make. The March to June on line exercise was a total failure, regardless of what the district tells you. Not for your kids as they can achieve anywhere in any environment. But if you think things will be so much better, good luck convincing most of the kids who really need school. The SPED kids will never be successful in an online environment which I know since I taught SPED at the HS for 12 years. So, it is really about all kids and all needs, not just the high level kids.
11. As for the district being a business, it really is. SKSD has a monopoly on education in PO. There are no other options so they do what they the unions want. But many parents who were forced to home school or go on line or look for pods or private tutors had their world opened up. It is convenient to go to SK schools but folks see options. If the district doesn't offer what parents want, they will now go elsewhere. Many of our kids go to Peninsula and CK. The enrollment is dropping, regardless what folks think. People are finding options to best suit their kids. So, there is more than the SKSD in this world.
12. The rising salaries of teachers and classified along with the recent pay raises and taxpayer paying huge health benefits for district employees, in spite of many in this area who are furloughed and laid off, the businesses that are closed and never coming back, the retirement savings loss of many, and a coming global recession doesn't seem to register with many here, especially the well to do. But it will eventually come to PO.
13. So, my guess is that you will get what you think you want on Monday. But, regardless of if and when the district schools open, your kids will never be safe again as if isn't this crisis, there will be another. Remember, it only takes ONE to infect the entire

system. Stay safe.

Cordially,

J Daily

From: [Sebren, Liz](#)
To: [Kris Cappel](#)
Subject: Fw: Correspondence with Dir. Daily
Date: Sunday, May 30, 2021 3:55:50 PM

From: Darragh, Peter
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Gattenby, Eric; Daily, Jeff; Sebren, Liz; Diehl, Rebecca; Berg, John
Subject: Correspondence with Dir. Daily

Dear SK Board Members,

I am forwarding a correspondence between myself and Director Daily. Although his response to me was weeks ago, it remains entirely inappropriate. Personal attacks, assumptions, and so on... Since this correspondence, Director Daily has also submitted a public records request for my professional emails - No reason given. But, his request made me feel individually targeted, and I can see how another might feel intimidated.

As I stated to Director Daily, I believe he is in violation in SKSD governance policy number 9, standards 1-3.

Thank you for considering this.

Pete Darragh
Parent and Teacher with SKSD

From: Peter Darragh <petedarragh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:51 PM
To: Darragh, Peter
Subject: Fwd: Your letter to the editor

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Daily, Jeff** <daily@skschools.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 1:58 PM
Subject: Re: Your letter to the editor

To: Peter Darragh <petedarragh@gmail.com>

Mr Darragh-

Thank you for your note. I won't address your personal comments since last time your only intent was to show yourself as an aggrieved and hurt individual.

Parents who contact me usually are interested in academic achievement and success for their children. Some are of poor and modest means and others like your family make a quarter of a million dollars off of the taxpayers so they are able to afford the best for their children. I am sure your kids are exceptional so it doesn't matter where they are; they will succeed and do well. But, you will never know how high they could have gone had they been given an alternative.

I have shown several times at board meetings where the SKSD sits in terms of academic achievement and success. The district is reluctant to show statistics because they do not favor the district. While the state of WA shows a decline in many areas, not all district show the same decline. I tell parents to look at the data available to them from OSPI, US News, Education Weekly, other websites who regularly track school achievement, and a variety of state agencies tracking student success and then make a decision for their family. Each data tracking agency rates schools and districts on different criteria so it is up to the parent to decide which criteria they are focused on and find the district or those schools which offer what they consider most important for their family.

The data is clear that the SKSD is not a top performing district, regardless of your views since you and your spouse are employed here and the union tells you what to think. Other districts around us are achieving student success despite the same issues all districts face. The tables and data I presented clearly show which schools and districts in our area are achieving success for their students. No one has been able to provide any contradictory data. Excuses yes, but data; no.

I tell parents to make their decision and send their kids to the best one based on their criteria and circumstances. It is all about choice. With 40% of our district low income, they have few choices in this area. But, the affluent have many choices and it is for them to decide from among the choices available to them.

Several parents have told me they looked around and moved their kids to Peninsula, Vashon, CK, NK, and even as far as Bainbridge. They seem to see what many turn a blind eye to in this community.

As you know, education will never be the same again; regardless of how many here think

that simply opening the schools again will have us going back to the way things were. You have taught your students how to educate themselves, become more independent and self sufficient, and that there are alternatives to sitting in a classroom. Given the loss of almost 800 students, they all won't come back to a school that is not able to provide the academic excellence they seek.

And since you are just a conduit to the union, please keep in mind that the levy was no victory for anyone. A 51 to 49 split shows that many people see through the rhetoric of the district mantra. The district and the board have a lot of work to do to get folks to see the strength of our district. And that will only come when people see academic excellence occurring. People will pay for excellence- but not for mediocre achievement.

What this has shown is that getting money for repairing and replacing schools faces obstacles. We will all need to be out in the community working to help people see that the district can spend money wisely and improve academic excellence. This won't be easy but it is on my list, regardless of your opinion of me.

Sadly, we have also shown charter and private schools that we are ripe for them to come here. When almost half of the people show dissatisfaction with the school district, that tells them that they can come here and gain "market share" because those unhappy with the district will leave the district for a better alternative for their children. Call the charter school in Bremerton and see how long the waiting list is to understand how hungry people are for an alternative focused on academic excellence. This community seems to not understand this concept as all they want is a return to the "good ole days" when life was harmonious and pay and perks flowed on a regular basis. The world is changing; and rapidly.

So, I will be out in the community finding out why folks voted as they did. I already know why one side voted as they did but I need to find out what the other side was thinking. Then, I will know how to find common ground so that we can move this district forward. It is obvious that Port Orchard has little intention of attracting enough businesses to sustain the needs of the populace so everyone will just live here and go elsewhere to eat and shop and to educate their kids. But they won't stay here long unless we get a school system that embraces academic excellence where all kids excel and the results are reflected for everyone to see.

Cordially,

J Daily

PS. One of the folks I work with is an Ivy League recruiter. Because many elite colleges are required to have a "diverse" population, they seek students from all areas and offer them virtually a full ride scholarship because they must meet diversity requirements. Since few here

even know about this and almost never apply, most never get considered. Another sad but incredible waste of an opportunity that is available to our students but almost never used. We continue to never ask what could be possible.

From: Peter Darragh <petedarragh@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 8:04 AM

To: Daily, Jeff

Subject: Fwd: Your letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Daily,

I'm still awaiting your response. Although the replacement levy is concluded, your explanations for your comments are still needed.

Thank you, Pete Darragh

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Peter Darragh** <petedarragh@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021, 7:13 PM

Subject: Your letter to the editor

To: <daily@skschools.org>

Dear Mr. Daily,

I am a parent and teacher with SKSD. My daughters attend an SKSD school.

Your last email response to me was unbecoming of an elected official. Your son also felt he had to send me a message through social media. I sincerely hope your response to me is more professional this time, and does not stoop to personal attacks on my children.

In your recent letter to the editor, you wrote, "Ever increasing salaries and benefits using all state funds takes money away from student needs." I have two questions for you to answer:

- 1.) How does using hyperbole help your argument in this case (all state funds)?
- 2.) Which student needs are not being met because of your perceived misallocation of state funds?

You wrote, "Excess staff doesn't equal better education."

Question:

- 3.) Do you have specific examples of a district which has a lack of staff and has better

educational results?

You wrote, "Other districts seem to afford band, choir, sports, etc., with smaller levy requests and better academic results."

4.) Please provide a few examples of specific districts with these fiscal and educational outcomes.

While your letter frames the discussion about the levy as one side vs another, you have clearly made your stance known with your discussion at recent board meetings. You seem to clearly oppose the replacement levy. Otherwise, why wouldn't you simply have written a letter in support?

You are clearly in violation of SKSD governance policy number 9, standards 1-3.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Pete Darragh

--

Pete Darragh

petedarragh@gmail.com

Port Orchard, WA