

Good evening and Happy Day of the Teacher,

I want to speak with you this evening about what is important to teachers. It's just my opinion, but I've been doing this job, in this community for the past 37 years, so I've had a chance to observe, develop a hypothesis, and I have come to an educated conclusion. Among the many items on my list of "importance" is one topic I would like to focus my comments on this evening. . .

One thing that is important to teachers is being **VALIDATED**. . . is what we are doing each and every day in our classrooms, making a difference in the lives of the students we teach. How can this be measured?

Thanks to the School Board and Superintendent Luna, at each meeting I've attended, I have listened to inspiring accounts of the marvelous things my colleagues are doing their classrooms across this District, for the children of West Sacramento. Whether it be late evenings, weekends, or even during holidays, teachers give of THEIR time. At the last Board meeting you celebrated Kate Forman, Dubarie Fagout, Jennifer McAllister, Sedeika Yusufi, just to name a few.

So I can conclude that educators in this District are going beyond what their "defined day" asks of them.

Your staffs are dedicated people who are passionate and committed to their schools and the children they teach.

Unfortunately as we enter yet another labor dispute this year, although the celebrations of hard work continue, the reality is your employees sit here before you wondering if you are actively listening and truly value what they give every day. **Your employees need to be paid salaries that are comparable to surrounding Districts. Your employees need a contract settlement that is fair. Your employees need to be validated for the tremendous jobs they do.** There is no reasonable explanation why Washington Unified School District cannot commit to a contract proposal that matches the excellence that it receives from its employees every day.