

iSOS Meeting March 18 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Robert Hubble, substack writing, wrote that he went to his local Indivisible meeting, 7 years later, well organized. Grass roots movement is the secret weapon after 2016. We have endured and Dems have continued to work hard.
- BCD2 Postcards need to be sent. The third group group go out next month April 18.
- District 4 announcement about Public Forums
- Discussion about Santa Fe County having no preparedness plans. This was LTE in Sunday's paper. Scary.
- Lina wanted to know who her ward leader is because she wants a Candidate Forum for District 2
- If Trump is elected we should keep the senate. So the Presidential race is important but so local.
- Reboot organizing meeting this past Saturday. The survey garnered 94 yes's. 16 people came to the meeting on Saturday

GUEST SPEAKERS

School Board

Dr. Carmen Gonzales - District 1, retired educator Sarah Bose - District 2, nurse by trade. Advocacy, volunteering when she was a nurse.

About EJ Martinez

- Not closing this school. Many schools are under utilized. Housing costs, teacher pay. Enrollment is declining because people can't afford to move here.
- They are not renovating Martinez, re-building. Doesn't feel good to close schools.
 - 1) replace the roof \$12M Roof and HVAC. Does it make sense to rebuild for 200 people. It wasn't one of the options. They don't have a clear picture of the entire situation.
- It's not unusual for population change - are the southside schools oversubscribed? Yes. This is a discussion as part of the 'reimagining process'.
- Lots of possibilities on the table. Every four years they go through a facility master plan. All of Carmen's schools are on the East Side. Only kids that can come in have to be bused in. But this may change.
- There is a serious bus driver shortage. Heinrich helped get a waiver so that drivers can take the test in Spanish. things are starting to shift.
- Rachel - last summer thing about the Fiesta Council making presentations in the Schools. Native people seeking legal advice to rescind the decision. Native American families were threatened after. Are they aware of the issue here?
- Issue: real history has to be taught in schools. Separation church state and imposing mythology on children. Native Am Families are upset.
- Where is the school board on this. What do you think?
- Both voted to keep it. There is a committee to discuss issues. They need to have more people on the committee. That resolution was put in front of them two weeks before the meeting. There was pushback. Sara voted against not the substance but to take care of the community taking care of stuff at the last minute. Need to continue to find solutions to find ways that both sides of the communities.
- 180 days of school. Currently 174. Teachers will be compensated for additional days. From Gov to PED and then to the school board. Communities that have 4 days at school made exceptions. Those rural districts have good scores. They have a longer day. Two snow days built into the schedules.
- Regarding getting VRA into schools - Go through the teachers of civics and govt.

- Overview of how the school board functions -
 - Budget, Policy, Oversee the Superintendent, Agenda is set 72 hours before meetings.
 - Sarah co chairs facility and budgets just for maintenance and repair.
 - Best practice to add to the agenda at the end of the meetings. The Fiesta thing wasn't mentioned to the board. If that didn't happen, it might have been discussed differently.
 - Elected school board and not paid, volunteers, no staff.
 - Lina - 180 days. Always been in statue but it has been in hours and minutes. Have the hours minutes taken out?
 - Reimagine committee former superintendents and others helping with a lot of cross sections of communities.
 - Think NM study that came out two years ago. Recommendation for state-wide training for School Board members. This just passed. There will be a website that holds people accountable.
 - There is one public school that's all online. Meeting the needs of all students is a goal. We were more prepared than most communities.
- Mississippi worked for about 10 years to get off the bottom of the list. The emphasis on early childhood should make a difference.
- Teachers have been vilified for so long that it's a problem, it's hard to get people to go into education. Maybe it's a cultural issue here.
- Mississippi changed their methods and NM has implemented raising the bar so it's hard to show progress.
- How do you weigh the control you want on a local school vs. a centralized one?
 - There is a lot of conflict from the State. Bill: to create a state super instead of secy' of education. We get a lot of whiplash when things change. This Gov has had 4 secy of education.
 - Hawaii - parental buy in. Parents didn't want them to leave the Island because there is not state school.
- Undocumented kids - this is a huge issue.
- Top priorities - health for Sara, significant mental health crisis. Big problem.