



PARTNERSHIPS

Q. As a public education advocate, share a little about yourself.

A. *I am driven by the belief that the greatest endeavor is the prospect of education. We are so fortunate to live in a society in which a value was placed on establishing a system of free public schools. Of course, through history, access to those schools has expanded to actually include all of our children.*

When appropriately supported, high-functioning public schools give every single student the chance to reach their potential and pursue their dreams. This is especially true for those with challenges outside of school.

I am motivated every day by the opportunities I have to advocate for a large group of children and to have a positive impact on the quality of the experiences they have at school.

Q. There is a common belief that the system of public education and our society are in partnership. How important is this belief and what does this mean to you?

A. *It is impossible to describe a society without discussing its public schools, and vice-versa. The two are engaged in more than a simple partnership. This partnership relies on a symbiotic relationship. One cannot exist without the other. The relationship is so critically important, that a society cannot grow and prosper without a system of public schools educating its population en masse, without exception, at its foundation. Public schools cannot be successful without being made a priority investment by their society.*

Q. What does a partnership between local schools and local communities look like?

A. *At the community level, the system of public schools is the foundation for all else. Because public schools influence, in some way, virtually every human being in a community, the character of a local school or district*

becomes the character of a community. The level of dependence between a system of public schools and its community cannot be overstated.

Children are raised by an entire community and I believe our local schools play an enormous role in that endeavor. It is my experience that it is a natural tendency for members of a community to be drawn to and connect with the schools that have meaning to them. This interest can be for the obvious reasons; they have family members enrolled in or employed by the district. But, I also believe there is an innate human interest in being involved in the work of raising the next generation of people who will lead and care for our society.

There is no greater undertaking than the education of our children. The payoff, on a personal level, as a community and society, is immense.

Q. If the concept of partnerships is a cornerstone to successful schools, how does this translate to student achievement?

A. *When the partnerships between local public schools and parents, community members, civic groups, businesses and governmental entities are strong, we find educators and students surrounded by a webbed support system.*

Partnerships validate the value of education and provide tangible reinforcements that definitely impact student achievement. A few examples include endeavors such as learning opportunities for all students, financial support for instructional programming, and recognition of both students and staff. Partnerships are necessary for our children to become lifelong learners. These partnerships have an impact on children and how they achieve.

Q. History provides us with inspiring quotes about public education. What is your legacy quote that we might find inspiring future generations?

A. *“Cherish the passion that motivates to advocate for every student in every way.” - Susan K. Bohn*