



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH...

Dr. Jamie Wilson, Denton ISD Superintendent

7.17.2018

ENGAGEMENT

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

A. *I am passionate about public education. It is the great equalizer. As our economy continues to grow in Texas and around our nation, a well-educated work force is essential. For our state to lead the country and our country to lead the world, a commitment by all to protect the value of an educated populace must be our number one priority.*

In addition to my formal education, I have a strong commitment to the service of others. This is the core of my belief system. When we work together, we can shape the direction of our communities and our world. As a mission driven person, I have a passion to make a difference every day.

Q. There has been conversation about a campaign called, School Priority Month-October 2018. The concept is to have school districts across Texas invite locally elected officials from every level of civic government to walk the halls of a local campus and witness the good work being done by our students. With a broad brush, what do you hope this campaign will accomplish?

A. *Research proves local communities, cities, towns and neighborhoods overwhelmingly support their local public schools. Texans love their local schools and their teachers. When you can see it, feel it, and touch it, you recognize the importance and significance of public education. Our schools belong to our communities who are represented by local officials. It is my hope these elected leaders will trumpet the value of public education for a stronger Texas.*

Q. Expanding your thoughts, is there a message from this campaign that can be relevant to the communities our public schools serve?

A. *These are our schools, our children, and collectively we are responsible for the results of our work. Our communities must engage with us to provide a quality*

workforce for our business partners, create civic minded graduates with a global view of change. We need to work together to decide how we can best prepare our students for future success. Each community is responsible for teaching the next generation. Partnerships and community engagement in our public schools reflect a shared responsibility for the development of our future.

Q. In terms of advocacy and public education, how would you define “engagement” and why do you feel it is important?

A. *Engaging our communities, our families, our parents in the development of our young learners is the single most important facet of a quality local school district. When all involved place a high value on education by talking about it at home, provide encouragement, volunteer at school, or visit a teacher – our students become the priority. In addition, engagement also involves being knowledgeable about bond elections, trustee elections, tax ratification elections, and holding each other accountable for student learning.*

Another level of engagement involves persuading our state and federal elected officials to recognize the value of public education and prioritize legislation that supports public schools and student learning. Far too long, the narrative has been to starve our schools of much needed resources and create accountability systems designed to paint our schools in a negative light. For our communities to thrive, our stakeholders must come together in solidarity and support public education.

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

A. *“The future is not something you enter, it is something we create. Not only are they our future, we are theirs. Only when we unite can we create the future our students AND our communities deserve.” ~ Dr. Jamie Wilson*