



Speech to the Board

April 2016

By Amanda Fanning

Good evening, Dr. Lovely, Members of the Board,

With every year I teach in Carlsbad, I'm reminded that we aren't just a community, we are a family. For generations, we've seen our community members attending our public schools and then returning later in life to send their children to our schools.

After a tumultuous few years, CUTA and CUSD have worked diligently to rebuild that sense of "family," to create a collaborative relationship in which all voices are heard, and respected.

As Dr. Lovely's tenure here ends, it is imperative that we continue down the path she set us on, in order to see an even more improved relationship. Just like any "family," Carlsbad has its own quirks. Until recently, we've been an underfunded Basic Aid District. As a K-12 district, we have a different funding model than elementary districts, and unlike many of our neighboring districts, we don't qualify for supplemental grants which would add to our revenue. All of these things lead to the need for someone who can work with us, who can relate to us, who will take the time to understand who we are.

I appreciate the work this board has done to include all stakeholder groups in the Superintendent search. I know that overwhelmingly all groups said the same thing: we don't want to go backward—we don't want the contentious relationship we had before. Every group has asked for a candidate who will respect our diverse needs and desires, a candidate who will not only understand our unique needs but will respect the challenges we have faced and dedicate him or herself to helping us grow in a positive and collaborative direction.

Just last week, CHS had their final WASC visit which was an opportunity to demonstrate the amazing things they do while still acknowledging areas of growth. Sitting in on those meetings, it was so great to hear teacher after teacher talk about the improvement they have seen over the past several years. When the WASC committee asked about Professional Development and the working relationship with the District Office, so many teachers commented on how supported they feel. Now, as someone who has seen the hard work that has gone on, often behind the scenes, to make this happen, I was ecstatic.

We have worked too hard to re-build our relationships to lose that now. I sincerely hope that as you continue to hone your search, you will remember these requests.

Finally, while CUSD is currently solvent financially, we all remember—a bit too well—the lean years. RIF hearings, furlough days, and increased class sizes were all too common. The thing that saved us was Prop 30. In nearly every board meeting, I have heard you all discuss and worry about what will happen when this proposition expires and we stop receiving the necessary funds it provides to CUSD.

But the fact is, there's a way to avoid that problem. If we are able to extend Prop 30, currently called the Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act, we won't face those drastic cuts. Extending Prop 30 is expected to raise an additional 8-11 BILLION dollars per year, with almost all of it going to public schools. I am asking every person in this room to *please* sign the petition to extend Prop 30 and fund our schools so we can provide the education Carlsbad is known for. I have extra petitions and informational flyers for anyone who wants to sign or has more questions. If we work together, we can ensure that public education is fully funded and our students get the education they deserve.

Thank you so much for your support!