

I think it would be best if I just read my statement. I'd like it added to the minutes please.

*First, I appreciate the presentation and having the 3 of you (two high school principals and director of the Academy) up here to give your feedback and information, especially you too Michelle, (Director of Secondary Education) about the conversations and information you were able to collect and have for yourselves over this fall break.*

Now I'll read the rest of the statement.

As a Board Member, I did push for a delay to this vote. But, I want it clear, unequivocally, that I am a supporter of Career & Technical Education. I commend our county and their efforts to support CTE for ALL county students. HSE Students deserve a variety of opportunities to support their needs and desires for pursuing their path after high school.

I have received criticism from our Board Members and Administration for this two-week delay in voting for the Pursuit Institute. My concerns were that this major decision was being rushed by Administration because I learned that boots on the ground CTE staff and Administrators had strong reservations about this transition, if it was best for HSE and because parents & the community knew nothing about it.

We are the last District to consider joining the Pursuit Institute. I want to also make it clear; this was the first that we received information was on August 16 of this year. It is also my understanding that the teacher's union also only found out about this information in August.

As a Board of Trustee, our own board policy B02.07 requires that I will consider ALL students whether it's 300 or 20,000, that I will be well informed, with full understanding, before making any decisions. This is our job and our responsibility.

The decision to leave a decades long relationship with JEL to join a start up like the Pursuit Institute weighed on my heart, it weighed on my heart because I felt it was a major decision for HSE schools. This is a District Directional Change. And while I voiced concerns for our staff and students to fellow Board Members and our Administration, it was disheartening to me that 75% of the information that I needed for today's meeting, I located myself.

As a Board Member, I was concerned with the...

- Funding Qualifications to receive full Perkins Funding
- A side-by-side readiness comparison of JEL versus Pursuit Institute along with data, regarding the question, *should HSE have its own CET program?* And ...
- The impact to HSE CTE staff and students.

There has been NO HSE Feasibility Study. And a quick review on Board Docs shows that is customary for a decision like this.

But, here is what I DID learn.

- I did find out that there is a 5-year Pursuit Institute plan, but I'm unaware if the board was aware or not, I know I hadn't seen it before, but I did hear there's a 5 year Pursuit Institute plan.
- I also found out Monday, after asking for a few weeks about a course catalogue, that there is in fact a curriculum catalogue that has been started ... yet I'm unaware if our board knew or seen this information.
- On Monday, I found out that the Pursuit Institute is set up to qualify and receive full Perkins Funding though currently there is not a certified CTE Director. There is an Administrator with career experience currently in CTE classes for certification and there is a newly hired CTE Certified Assistant Director.

I am very pleased that our Admin has had thorough discussions over the last week to iron out any concerns that the Administration staff may possibly have had.

I'm not going to apologize for a two-week delay in a vote when our Board lacked a Feasibility Study. It is our duty for our students, teachers, and community to have confidence that data has been collected without assumptions, with clear vision of what comes next. Most importantly HSE's CTE staff and students' input does matter, Teachers input matters and they should have been made aware of this major change 6 months ago.

I give credit to Dr Stokes who unfortunately felt that we had already been alerted of this proposal and worked diligently to get things accomplished.

I do continue to have concerns regarding transportation, teacher/staff supports and students schedules. But, I thank you for your hard work.