

Fighting for Manchester's Kids

DAVID SCANNELL FOR SCHOOL BOARD · SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

As I go door to door in my neighborhood, I hear one thing loudly and clearly: the residents of Ward 2 want a school board representative who will speak forcefully (but politely) in defense of public education and Manchester's schools. They want someone who will show up, someone who will advocate strongly for Smyth Road, McDonough, Weston, Hillside, and Central, and someone who will be a force for positive change. They want a school board representative who will not put membership in a faction above the best interests of parents, students, and teachers. They want an independent voice from an individual who is not afraid to stand up to powerful forces in the central office or city hall. I am that independent voice.

Here's a brief summary of the issues I have spoken up about in recent months as I fought to bring fiscal responsibility, educational excellence, and public accountability to the school district.

GIVING CITIZENS A VOICE

When they wanted to prevent Manchester citizens from fully participating in the selection process for a new school superintendent, **I spoke up, and they changed the policy:**

Members of the public will now have multiple opportunities to quiz the two finalists for the superintendent of schools post when both men tour the city this Friday, after school officials acknowledged complaints regarding the

lack of access to the candidates and scheduled new question-and-answer sessions during stops at city schools.

*“(N)o room in the...schedule is devoted to designated meetings with teachers, principals, parents, students, and/or community partners,” said Maple Street resident **David Scannell**. “True public input, it seems, will be possible only at a Friday night public forum to be convened mere hours before the board is set to extend a job offer to one of the finalists.*

-The New Hampshire Union Leader, “Public can question superintendent finalists,” Sept. 20, 2016

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

When they wanted to sweep under the rug calls for accountability in the wake of the rape of a West High School student, **I spoke before the Board of School Committee and demanded answers:**

*“I look forward to an open and honest account of what happened,” said Ward 2 resident **David Scannell**.*

-The New Hampshire Union Leader, June 27, 2017

PREVENTING DRUG ADDICTION

When they wanted to censor a well-regarded scientific survey administered by the state and endorsed by the city’s Health Department to gather information used in combatting student drug use, **I wrote an op-ed piece that called them out:**

One individual's Victorian view of propriety — even if that individual is the mayor — should not be allowed to imperil the pursuit of legitimate and laudable public health goals that can be achieved only if data exist to point policymakers in the right direction.

- The New Hampshire Union Leader, “Manchester parents have nothing to fear from the school’s youth survey,” April 2, 2015

SAVING CENTRAL

When the current Ward 2 school board member remained silent in the face of calls to demolish Central and turn it into a strip mall, I took to social media and the op-ed page of the Union Leader to spread the word and prod the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to **pass a resolution vowing to save Central:**

Mothballing Central would be an affront to not only alums and retired faculty members who long to preserve the good ole days, but especially to those who learn and teach at Central today. In recent months, those students and teachers have been recognized for Advanced Placement exam scores that would be the envy of any school, for a state champion mock trial team, and for artistic and athletic milestones that are not historic artifacts but living, breathing examples of the superiority of Central's current offerings.

-The New Hampshire Union Leader, “Closing Central would solve nothing,” May 4, 2017

I am a proud product of Smyth Road, Hillside, and Central. I am nearly a lifelong resident of Ward 2. I am a teacher who used to be a member of Central’s English department, and *I am a fighter.*

I hope to be able to fight on your behalf as a member of the Board of School Committee.

I ask for your vote on Nov. 7.