

When our schools become the community center

Why are school districts adding so many ancillary and competing services to your district? It certainly appears that your district wishes to become the community center. BUT WHY?

What they will claim:

“We can do it better.”

“We can do it cheaper.”

“It is a service that is not offered in this community.”

“It makes this service more convenient.”

What is possible:

The school becomes the center of the community.

The school cannot be shut down even if it is academically failing.

What is fact:

Adding more community services in the district will add employees to the district.

More unionized workers, and more money will be needed to keep it open.

The district gains a monopoly on that service and then becomes the employer for a vast variety of services that no one else will offer.

The price of the service will continuously increase as competition declines.

Current private businesses offering these “services” will close due to not being able to compete with the district deep pockets.

The free market in your area will discontinue and far more people will be employed by yet again another government job.

It appears that many Superintendents enjoy the thought of “their” district growing into a mecca of community services however, several decades have proven that this ideology is significantly flawed and reduces students’ academic outcomes.

In Ohio's Springboro School District, the Superintendent relayed that he wanted to expand the preschool program. His rationale was that it could generate revenue, he has done this before, and it would be better than "others". What he did not say is that expanding the state mandated preschool program to include far more students than the state required would essentially shutter the other preschools in the community. If our district property taxpayers were already forced to fund this expansion through their currently taken property taxes, then the district has another reason to go after more money because they have "more students". I don't think the plan was to tell the community that the district was charging parents directly.

So what can be done to stop the expansion of our public education systems nonacademic "services"?

Propose these statements:

1. "Our school district needs to focus on effectively educating the K-12 students we currently have".
2. "We should stop looking for ways to expand that over work our staff."
3. "Government has a track record of waste and corruptions so let's not be in that line."
4. "District campus health clinics have been tried and failed miserably." Springboro opened a medical facility in 2008 and within a few years closed due to many doctors did not want to be there. Now Springboro has a 22,000 sq. ft. building on their campus they don't need. They might claim they are not paying for it but then, who is? Can this be verified?
5. "Why would we want to duplicate services that are offered by our community free market private businesses?"
6. "As a district we should support our local businesses and stop trying to shut them down because we think we can."
7. "This district needs to stay laser focused on the basic academic goals."
8. "Let's lure businesses to open these services and centers with our academic record not with taking on that type of business."

Why or why not build a natatorium inside your district campus. Does your local YMCA or Gym offer swimming? If yes than the answer is most likely NO.