

Chalkboard

By

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Okay. So this is the time for prognosticators, psychics, prophets, fortunetellers, “trend-analysts”, weathermen, and etcetera and all those other far-seers to predict what 2007 will bring in the way of change to your life. Note the list, while obviously not all-inclusive, did not include the author of this article.

That’s too bad too. The nature of my job, or any other school superintendent, is often that of a change agent. It would be a handy talent or gift to be able to know in advance the effects of some decision you made or will soon make. While hindsight is 20-20, future sight is not so clear.

To some degree the Gentry School District stands yet again on another crossroads in time. The community in which the district exists is poised to grow; but will it? Cultural diversity of the district’s citizens offers an opportunity to glimpse a larger world; but will it be seen? The coming four-lane should increase economic activity; but will that pan out? The questions are endless, speculation is vain, but a fool fails to plan.

For weeks I have been talking about the school board having adopted some core beliefs of which the seven of them agreed. That is important because core beliefs of the governing body is what drives an organization.

I have written previously that the board is taking the process of developing a mission statement, which stands on the foundation of core beliefs, a step further than any time in the fifteen years that I have been the district’s superintendent. The board members are not content to just base the district’s future on what they think and believe..

The board is scheduling meetings in each of the five attendance zones in the month of January. At each meeting a representative of the Arkansas Leadership Academy will work those in attendance through a similar process the board undertook to come up with a consensus of what they believe in regards to the function of the school district. The purpose will be to gather first-hand thoughts from the district’s citizens as to what direction the school district needs to be moving.

While the meeting places have not been confirmed, here are the dates and school board representative for each meeting in January of 2007-
Zone 1, **Le’Ann Watanabe**, 5:30 p.m. on January 8th; Zone 2, **Tom Dillard**, 7:00 p.m. on January 8th ; Zone 3, **Brenda Willett**, 5:30 p.m. on January 9th;

Zone 5, **Jim Barnes**, 7:00 p.m. on January 9th; Zone 4, **Ted Dorn**, 5:30 p.m. on January 23rd. A word description, and a map if space permits, of what area each zone comprises, follow below.

Zone 1

1. South of Highway 12 from Miller Road to eastern boundary of the district
2. East of Miller Road from Highway 12 to Edmondson Road
3. East of Edmondson Road from Miller Road to Dawn Hill East Road
4. South of Dawn Hill East Road from Edmondson Road to Highway 59
5. East of Highway 59 from Dawn Hill East Road To Bill Young Road

Zone 2

1. North of Highway 12 from Highway 59 to eastern boundary of the district
2. East of Highway 59 from Highway 12 to Y City Road

Zone 3

1. North of Dawn Hill East Road from Highway 59 to Edmondson Road
2. West of Edmondson Road From Dawn Hill East Road To Miller Road
3. West of Miller from Edmondson Road to Highway 12
4. South of Highway 12 from Miller Road to Betty Baker Road
5. East of Betty Baker from Highway 12 to Jerald Shea Road
6. South of Jerald Shea Road from Betty Baker Road shore line of SWEPCO Lake
7. West of Highway 59 from Dawn Hill East to southern boundary of the district

Zone 4

1. West of Betty Baker Road from Jerald Shea Road to Highway 12
2. North of Highway 12 from Betty Baker Road to WPA Road
3. West of WPA Road from Highway 12 to Gann Road
4. North of Gann Road from WPA Road to Browning Road
5. West of Browning Road from Gann Road to Floyd Moore Road
6. North of Floyd Moore Road from Browning Road to Highway 59
7. North of Jerald Shea from Betty Baker Road to SWEPCP Lake shoreline

Zone 5

1. East of WPA Road from Highway 12 to Gann Road
2. South of Gann Road from WPA Road to Browning Road
3. East of Browning Road from Gann Road to Floyd Moore Road
4. South of Floyd Moore Road from Browning Road to Highway 59
5. West of Highway 59 from Floyd Moore Road to Highway 12
6. North of Highway 12 from Highway 59 to WPA Road

