

PTA not a puppet for district

Ever since my first child entered school nine years ago, I have been involved in the PTA at each of my children's schools. All right, I've been a little lax at Odyssey this year but the last eight years I was involved at the elementary and grade school levels.

I have been a treasurer, a president, a committee chair, a volunteer coordinator and a secretary. Some of the things I have participated in and volunteered at over the years were Christmas caroling, Easter egg hunts, Valentine's parties, Secret Santa Days, book fairs, ice cream socials, game nights, pizza bingo, Harvest Night, Red Ribbon Days, reading days, fund-raisers, and scads of other social events that are too many to name. All these events were 100 percent for the kids. They were organized and run by teachers, parents and grandparents.

In those eight years of volunteering, I never once met an administrator higher than the principal. The first time I ever met an administrator higher than my school principal was when I decided to run for the board last year. It had nothing to do with my PTA involvement.

So, what's my point?

I don't know how the perception got around that the PTA is just a puppet for the administration. It's hard enough to seek volunteers for events without "labeling" PTA volunteers. PTA volunteers have many different views on many issues but they all come together to work with the kids.

I am asking that the school board support and help the PTA in our local schools. Encourage all parents to volunteer and be an active part of their children's education. Volunteering for a book fair or a game night has nothing to do with your politics or with your opinion of how the district is run. It's just the right thing to do.

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