

A Greece summit

- The school board smartly responds to a consultant's report.

The Greece school board is onto something with its idea about calling a summit of "stakeholders" — in a public school system, that means virtually everybody — to work out longstanding problems that have worsened divisiveness and animosity and taken the focus off student success.

The board will try to work out the details of such an enterprise next week. One of the key questions is how to choose, from all those in Greece who have opinions on the schools, a cohort of stakeholders who will represent the community.

This is intended to be much more than a one-day, one-shot event. The summit would be extended over weeks, with numer-

ous meetings. It's important, as this is put together, to call at least one community meeting open to all so that those not perceived as stakeholders have a chance to state their views.

The summit idea, after all, emerges from a consultant's report asserting that Greece schools were riven by discontent and dissension. That won't be entirely dealt with if a summit is limited to chosen representatives and does not allow for open forums.

Greece has a particular reason to call such meetings, given the problems in the district, including the placing of the superintendent on administrative leave. But all districts have a need for a process inviting involvement from all the pieces of the puzzle, from administrators to parents and students.

One could call it a summit. Or one could just call it emphasizing the public in public schools.