

Greece gets schools report

• Forum will detail findings of study of school district problems.

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GREECE — Educational consultant Kathleen Fitz-

patrick, who last year completed a six-month review of the Greece Central School District, will return

Wednesday to give residents another chance to hear her findings.

She will speak at a Getting from Good to Great forum sponsored by the Greece Education Coalition, a partnership of com-

munity groups that includes the Greece Rotary club and the school district's PTA.

Parent Elaine Turner is a member of the Greece PTA Council.

"We want to give more

members of the community the opportunity to see the report and give them a chance to have a dialogue with the people who created it," she said. "We hope this will be another way to bring everybody to the ta-

ble, share information about the positive things that are happening in Greece and examine the areas where we can improve."

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Fitzpatrick's audit concluded that Greece students have made significant recent academic achievements despite negative perceptions of the district held by some community members, staff members and others; adversarial relations among various stakeholder groups within the district; a strong community reliance on hearsay over fact; and "a lack of pride held by staff and the community."

She concluded that Greece students have missed significant "opportunities for greatness" because of the district's entrenched negative culture.

Another section of the audit, completed by former Gates Chili Central School District Superintendent William Dadey, concluded that the district's school board is "dysfunctional" and is "creating a negative impact on the education of students."

In June, Dadey interviewed the nine-member school board as well as three newly elected board members who did not take office until July.

However, Fitzpatrick said she remains hopeful that the community can resolve its differences concerning the schools and ultimately work together to advance the mission of educating children.



Dadey

She recommended a districtwide summit to bring together stakeholder groups to discuss unity. The school board, following her advice, is planning for such a summit, which is expected to begin later this month.

Fitzpatrick said she hopes anyone who attends Wednesday's forum leaves with a clear understanding and appreciation for the district's gains in student learning and a willingness to work with others to bring the district continuous improvement.

"There are spectacular gains in Greece's achievement data," she said. "And just think what those gains could be if there wasn't such a diversion, without

If you go

What: Getting from Good to Great, a Greece Education Coalition forum, to discuss an educational audit of Greece schools completed last year.

When: 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Where: Apollo Middle School, 750 Maiden Lane.

Details: www.GreeceEducationCoalition.org.

The forum will be moderated and will feature a question-and-answer session with educational audit authors.

Background

The educational audit of the district was requested by the Board of Education in March, before former Superintendent Steve Walts left for a new job in Virginia. The idea was to better understand the pervasive negativity in the district and community. The educational audit is separate from an ongoing investigation of teacher claims of age discrimination.

all the strife and issues facing the district."

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