



Draper Notes

February 11, 2015

Unusual Comments from a School Board Member

School Board Member Snyder stated at the January 27, 2015, regular school board meeting, *“The grades we get from the State are not fair, and we are losing money over it.”* This quote is taken from the January 29, 2015, edition of *The Arcadian*. In addition, Snyder said at this same meeting, *“DeSoto is losing money every time a student transfers elsewhere. If a family lives in south county (DeSoto) and works in Charlotte, it may make sense for them to want their children in a school close to their work. But when parents ask to transfer because our school grades are low, I take issue with that,”* stated Snyder.

It is a sad commentary when a school board member, such as Snyder, takes a stand on the validity of poor school grades on the basis of lost revenue. Perhaps it is more important for Snyder to have asked why all DeSoto elementary schools received an **F** for 2015 and what steps must be taken to provide the necessary assistance to our students, teachers, and staff to improve academic performance. Poor school grades are reflective on the superintendent and school board members. The school board minutes and school board workshop minutes provide no evidence of deep ongoing discussions by the board members regarding the **F** grades. Actual specific discussions in school board workshops are not reflected in the official minutes. In addition, the *Arcadian*, who covers each school board meeting, has not reported any meaningful discussions regarding school grades. Mr. Rodney Hollingsworth, recently retired school board member, is the only one that outlined the potential problems associated with these **F** grades as reflected in school board meeting minutes.

Parents want what is best for their children. The school board and superintendent should have the same goal; it is more than just money.