



Seldovia Gazette

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Opinions

“What is the most important political issue facing Alaskan politicians?”



“A politician *for* the people. As a person who used to get a small part, and I just qualified for the very last year for the longevity, when it was taken away, it made me pay attention to what was going on. Then I saw so many public programs and things that aided people that were taken off, and things that aided businesses were put on, or big sums of money spent, that were not in the interest of the general public.

Walter McInnes



“The training of our children to start in elementary for the gas and pipeline. They should be vocational tech., taught from Kindergarten all the way up, so they have a job in the state of Alaska; in-state hire only.

Rita Brown



“The most pressing issue for me, personally, is how to make children the top priority when establishing our budget perimeters. For the politicians, the most pressing issue is how to serve the constituents of the state without being embroiled in the politics of it.”

Laurel Hilts



“Well, I think the gas line would be the most important; getting the right governor in. Knowles has already been in for eight years and I didn’t think he did that great.”

Tom Bowdon

Letters to the Editor

Character Development Curriculum . . .

Dear Editor:

In light of recent juvenile events, SVT wants to purchase a “character development” curriculum to be taught at SBE School. While I will say, “Thank you,” for your generosity, I must emphatically refuse it. I *would* support a program for parental instruction of accountability and action ownership. These valuable lessons can be taught to the parents first and *they* can pass it on to the *their* children; a win-win for all.

“Character” is developed in the home, by example. If your kids are doing the wrong thing, look in the mirror to see what they see. Are you trying to “bail” them out of trouble? Turning your cheek when you see something wrong, because you don’t want confrontation? You’re trying to be their friend, **not** their parent.

SVT is not being “slammed” here. They have done and I hope will continue **to do** many, wonderful things for this community. I just feel they are misguided in where the emphasis of character should be. I would whole-heartedly support a parent-based program emphasizing integrity, accountability and “ownership” of your actions. Maybe all that attend could bring their kids? That would be a **great** benefit to *all* ages in the community. SVT, my whole family will support you all the way, if the instruction begins at the “top”, where the problems began.

Dan Blodgett
Seldovian Resident and father of four
Coach for 13 years

Character Development Curriculum . . .

I feel compelled to write a response to the letter by Dan Blodgett. I thank him for all the kind words about the Tribe, but feel he is short sighted about the Character education curriculum introduced by SVT. Mr. Blodgett has not attended the introduction meeting nor was he in attendance at the presentation by the developer of the program, to my knowledge he has not even read the curriculum. Thank you to the 14 adults who did attend the presentation.

Seldovia has recognized children as their top priority. Not all children have “parents” at home to develop this “character”. A large percentage of Seldovia’s children are raised in a Non-traditional home. Children learn in every environment they are placed in, good or bad. It just so happens that the school is where they spend 6-7 hours of their day. So all this time should be negated? When is teaching rights and responsibilities, just a parental duty? These characteristics are best absorbed through modeling by any number of people the children are in contact with on a day to day basis.

Conflict resolution is necessary in most days of a student’s life. Should they not be taught how to respect another’s worth? Use fairness and justice when dealing with others? We all bear the responsibility of children. After all, they are our future, the next group of adults. Are gangs and violence the resolution that we want for these precious little ones?

These concepts in the curriculum are not “new” they are actually going back to what was formerly taught in public schools in the 40-50’s. Do any of these concepts resonate with you:

- Worth and Potential
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Fairness and Justice
- Effort and Excellence
- Care and Consideration
- Personal integrity
- Social Responsibility

Would any of us not want our children to be able to learn and live these values?

I commend Mr. Blodgett on how he delivers his own form of justice to his children. Every child should have the opportunity, to have two loving parents at home; to guide and direct them through difficult stages in life. In a perfect world this would happen, but then reality is more true to life.

Let’s not forsake any, for the elect of a few. Let’s give all the children the same opportunities and education that will benefit us all as they grow up and become productive adults in this community.

The country’s jails are full, drugs and alcohol are a very big problem for society. Should we not try to affect change? If we like the current status and wish it to continue, by all means – “stick your head in the sand”. Is no solution the best solution? The parents of this community need to come up with the answers to the question. Please do not let one person speak for us all.

The Tribe solicits your comments on this program. What Mr.

Blodgett suggested is actually part of the plan. Having a parental/community steering committee that would develop these directives. We had sent out a letter and invited parents to the meeting and to participate. We only ask that you take the time to get involved and find out what this program is about before you pass judgment.

Children are a community's biggest asset and we all share in the problems that arise. It is those that seek and desire solutions that can make the most beneficial change.

I always tell those that care to listen that "Seldovia is passionate about our children". There are a great many adults in the community that care about the kids. We want the very best for them. (has that now changed?) We really need those people to stand up and be counted. If you are one of those, contact the Tribe about the "Character Education curriculum". It is about the core values that we all share and how to best use them in the school environment and throughout life. A successful program will require parental and community member involvement in setting direction and focus.

Thank you for taking the time to affect a positive change.

Crystal Collier



Special Interest Forum: From time to time, topics of discussion will come up that are not a good fit for the Letters to the Editor section . . . usually due to things like the length of the letters or the need to post responses sooner than once a week on Thursday. Click the "Forum" button to enter this section. If you have a topic that you would like started, please let us know.

[Last topic: Creation vs. Evolution](#)

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