



A letter from Better PENNCREST

Something is happening in Crawford County, and in the small towns within the PENNCREST boundary. Communities are coming together in a common fight against radical, divisive politics.

In general, a school board election may not garner many headlines. Perhaps some areas even have to beg folks to serve in an unpaid school board position. But this election season is different. Through national and social media outlets, people have become more and more concerned regarding their town's public schools. The loudest voices from the left and right have spread fear and distress. Both extremes use terms like CRT, indoctrination, book bans, pornography, grooming, Nationalism, woke agendas, and zealotry to propagate their message.

One community has said "enough is enough." The PENNCREST School District is no stranger to controversy. Recent remarks by current board members regarding their indifference for the law, budget deficits, the fear of a school closure, a broad book banning policy, and board infighting, which includes a defamation case between board members, have all snagged headlines across the Commonwealth.

The **Community Coalition for a Better PENNCREST** was developed as a grassroots group to take their community and school district back. They are supporting a group of candidates who, like themselves, are tired of an overly political school board. The candidates may not agree politically and they vary in age, background, and professions, but they share a common goal. Along with the community, they want to bring the focus back on the schools and the students within those walls. Members from all walks of life and from every corner of the district have offered their expertise to organize the coalition. Young designers and marketers, those with experience on local boards, those with small-town business connections, teachers, lawyers, and finance pundits have all come out and offered their services. The results have been astounding. The Facebook page has close to 1,000 followers, and thousands of cards, signs and flyers have been distributed. People have come out in droves offering to spread the word and take a sign. Coalition leaders and candidates have been at numerous gatherings, PTO meetings, and community events talking and conversing with concerned citizens. They even conducted a successful school supply drive because budgets are tight for district educators.

The **Community Coalition for a Better PENNCREST** appears to be writing the book on how to reclaim their community and avoid national politics and broad culture battles from infiltrating their communities. The response across PENNCREST has been contagious. Republicans and Democrats have come together with the common theme that national politics has no place being debated on a school board. Focus should be the students and their education. Students are losing as the board discusses national policies beyond its control, instills fear, and engages in unending litigation. Stories of bipartisanship and collaboration have been few recently, but this new partnership is bringing light to a very dark political landscape.

It's good to see something positive is happening, and it's happening in PENNCREST. **To continue this positive momentum, we need you to show up and vote for the Better PENNCREST candidates on May 16th.**



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