

# Leaders of this Learning Adventure

Two weeks ago Gov. Jennifer Granholm pointed out the various qualities of a good school principal. In her annual proclamation of School Principals Week, the governor noted the dedication principals have for providing quality educational experiences, for guiding and encouraging students, and for serving as their advocates.

The governor also noted that building principals often are the forces of change, even when it is uncomfortable, as they work to empower their students and ensure they have the right tools they need to succeed.

It sounds like our governor has met Fremont's building principals. If you haven't, I would like to introduce them here.

Fremont High School – Scott Sherman and Deb Wightman  
Fremont Middle School – Carolyn Hummel and Ken Haggart  
Daisy Brook and Pine Street – Nancy Sparks  
Pathfinder – Bob Cassidy  
Quest – Jim Hieftje and Tracey Sanchez

Most often, it seems, a building principal labors behind the scenes. Yet they are always first in line to confront the many issues that happen in our complex school world. To be successful, they must have the attributes our governor lays out: dedication, leadership, innovation, passion.

Even more importantly, I believe, they must have compassion. They must first care about the children under their watch.

We have that here. Our principals are outstanding educators, and caring professionals. I cannot think of any school district with which I have been associated where the principals have been this wide open about how they care about kids.

The demands on principals have increased over time. No longer are they just managers of what takes place in their buildings. They are educational leaders, required to embrace change, motivate staff, incorporate new methods of teaching and learning, and encourage students on their lifelong path of learning.

They are the leaders of this learning adventure, and I am quite proud to say I work with them.

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