



Grant School District No. 3

02/21/2024 – 7:00PM

Board Meeting Minutes | Addendum 2

FFA Presentation | Section: 4.1.2

by: Monel Anderson

Speech delivered by: Monel Anderson | Translated by: Read AI | Reviewed by: Kailee Oliver & Monel Anderson | Final Edit by: Janet Myers:

“What were your thoughts while drinking milk? What about the last time you brushed your teeth or even drove a car? I know that for myself, it was nothing out of the ordinary, just a normal day. In all reality, it was so much more than that. According to Live Kindly, nearly all of American youth don't know where chocolate milk comes from, and still believe it comes from brown cows. But imagine if those youth Americans were educated beforehand. Sorry to tell them. There is constant advocacy all around the world for kids to have healthy diets and learn about their nutrition at a young age.

Michelle Obama had a Let's Move campaign that was all about implementing healthy diets and food bacterias. Although the idea and concept is terrific, I feel it is missing a very large part. Where is the nutrition we are pushing for coming from During the next few minutes, I challenge you to inform yourself on how this problem started, solutions to fixing it, and I hope to acquire your support on applying our cultural-based programs in elementary schools. Let's start by examining the problem.

Young people nowadays are not required to take our cultural-based classes and therefore lack crucial knowledge. This may appear as a non-issue to some, but the young people today are the future of agriculture. Whether you realize it or not, we all play a role in that, both indirectly and directly. You may not want anything to do with that, and your career path may not connect directly to that, and that is perfectly fine. With that being said, there is a saying that goes, if you like to eat, then you have to like agriculture.

And this couldn't be closer to the truth. If I didn't grow up in an agricultural lifestyle, I most likely would not think about where my food comes from either, nor would I think that I played a very large role in our daily lives. But I have seen firsthand the impact of agriculture. Interactive ways all humans play a role in ag, as simple as purchasing items at the grocery store. When you purchase these items, you're helping keep multiple businesses running, including the grocery store, the transportation company, the manufacturer, and the other important agriculturists.

This could be a large scale producer or even a small family operated farm. Either way, it keeps our society running and our economic cycle alive.

Now that we've examined the importance of being involved in agriculture, let's take a look at challenges facing ag education at a young age.

The problem starts with the lack of support slash funding for ag in the classroom. According to Beef Magazine, due to tight budgets, strict requirements, and underpaid and overworked teachers, agricultural education often gets dropped from schools and museums, leaving a

gaping hole in students' education where they can learn important practical lessons that will benefit them throughout their adult lives. However, this problem does not just root from lack of funding.

It also comes from misunderstanding. When you hear the word agriculture, what images go through your head? Farming and livestock are the most common. From supply of food, as we discussed earlier, to providing jobs, Ag is so much more than the stereotypical cows and plows that most know it as. With a lack of prior knowledge, as well as preconceptions, people are unaware of everything else agriculture has to offer, making the Agency non-existent. Many administrators and community leaders who come from big cities, where Ag is no big deal, are probably to blame for not looking at the importance of this new property.

When, or if, they relocate to more rural areas, they don't see a need for it, especially in elementary school. It all comes down to advocating the need for agricultural education at a young age, and it all starts right here with you. To end these misconceptions about the ag industry, we need to start teaching youth about all agricultural software and how it affects us. To do this, we can add agricultural-based programs in elementary schools. University of Florida says we need youth to understand what food security looks like worldwide.

So when their time comes, they can help to feed more than a billion people. How early is too early? After hearing this, you're probably thinking, it's impossible. What can a third grader do to help the American population? Are they really going to learn skills at such a young age that will help them in the long run? The answer is yes. Every skill they learn today, they'll build a better tomorrow. They are the future of our culture, and someone still have to teach them. A simple start in this big project is the Ivy Aggie classroom, otherwise known as AITC programs.

AITC programs can guide teachers and students through field trips, workshops, conferences, farm tours, and so much more. It gives them lessons to follow in math, science, and even arts. This program gets kids excited about our culture and teaches them without them even realizing it. Having a classroom isn't the only way that we can start to introduce our cultural education at a younger age. Another path schools can take is to work with the local education. For example, at my school, we were part of the grant to build a greenhouse and chicken coop.

With this new addition, we plan on working with our elementary school to help teach them more about agriculture with an in-depth, hands-on approach. How early is too early.

This will not only introduce our younger kids to Ag, but also serve as an improvement opportunity and career exploration base for our high school age students. Now a question you may still have is, will this work?

When we add agricultural-based programs to elementary schools, it will work because it will

give our youth a foundation to build on. How early is too early? Beef Magazine says, it's simple. Keep agriculture in schools and it will guide our kids, strengthen them with their learning, and offer experiences outside the classroom. To make teaching core subjects more enjoyable for teachers and students alike. If students learn how society functions and the value of hard work at a young age, then they'll be better prepared for adulthood.

We all know that kids have the best imaginations. As adults, we can help keep those imaginations alive and use for engaged learning. I'm sure you've all heard the _____. For those of you who may have not, there are both large organizations that are involved in agriculture and leadership. However, both these organizations require a large amount of funding. You as a community member can help. You can donate money to those organizations or your time and resources based on what you own and your availability and knowledge.

If you own a local farm or business, you can invite kids to come in and use your place as a resource to learn. When I was in elementary school, we would go and visit local ranches and it was always such a great opportunity for getting hands-on learning experiences.

Finally, you can volunteer your own time. whether it's helping out in the classroom or teaching a lesson. There is no right or wrong way as long as you're putting your best efforts into it. When you wake up in the morning, brush your teeth, take a sip of chocolate milk, or even drive a car. Take a minute to think about where these things are from and how your life would be without them. Think about how you know these things to be true. You don't really want your kids thinking that chocolate milk comes from a brown cow.

It is never too early to start learning about what truly drives our future. Our social education is essential at every age.”

AUDIENCE ACCOLADES FOR MONEL ANDERSON AND MADDIE BAILEY:

“Monel Anderson, I'm really impressed with your ability to stand up and give a public speech and to memorize it to that extent. How much work, how much time does it take to get prepared to the level you are? There has been a lot of preparation. There's a lot of the drive home back and forth. My other question is, you know the agricultural programs are really important to the board and to myself. I just see them as really quality CTE program, as is FBLA. What are you going to do to try to encourage younger elementary or even junior high students to get involved a little bit in the FFA?”

It's not just FFA, right? It's classroom FFA project and then the contest. But what can you do to help us get that word out? Well, we've been trying to open different contests and even our state mentioned we want to open it to our junior high kids so they can go with us, to see what that's like at a younger age. So then once they get into high school, they want to be involved more, and they can be officers and promote it even more. And we have done one game night so far, but we want to do more to get those kids involved, to get them encouraged with the program.

I really appreciate the FBLA and FFA, you know, the opportunities for leadership and just hands-on learning have just been incredible. You knew my brother and I were almost opposites, really. But we both went through a program like that. And we both gained tremendous opportunities because we saw the spectrum of what you're interested in can be covered in that BLM. My pitch is get involved. It's a great program. These are great programs to get involved in.

I have a comment: Miss Anderson and Miss Bailey, bravo. You both well-paced, you both spoke up excellently. The presentations were amazing, as was the information. We really appreciate it. [I have a question for M.T.] How many times has he heard that speech? Not too many. Anybody else? Well, I appreciate what you're doing and what you're talking about. It was exactly what my household was full of in those young kids. So don't be surprised if you don't see a couple of my kids run up and greet you and talk to you, but you're exactly right.

They need, I probably take it for granted because I raised my kids in the same world that you're being raised in and probably don't promote it as much. If anything, it's something they might avoid, that lifestyle or whatever. But seeing people like you in the buildings, that's what my kids are going to So I want you to know that your actions, your time, all that stuff is going to be appreciated by people like me, because my kids will look up to you probably more than they do me. So keep that in mind. Everybody's watching. Very good presentation. Thank you both.”