



OCTOBER 31, 2011

Roundtables will continue; Office hours will be held

In the past month I hosted two roundtable discussions on distinct and immensely important components of the Attleboro School District, one on special education programs, and the other on the Career and Technical Education program at Attleboro High School. Those assembled spoke about the complexity involved in ensuring these respective facets of the school system are run effectively.

At Morin's Diner, participants agreed that the compassionate and efficient administration of special education programs is a moral imperative due to the acute vulnerabilities of many of the students enrolled. Later, at Fresh Catch, panelists agreed that the CTE program must be innovative, reflect the rapidly evolving job market, and maximize the chance for students to participate regardless of whether they are seeking to continue their formal education or choosing to pursue professional opportunities.

Both of these conversations gave me the opportunity to learn more about vital elements of the Attleboro schools. But one thought in particular transcended these roundtables and the others I have hosted. There is an enormous benefit for someone wishing to serve in elected office soliciting information from various stakeholders. For that reason, if I am elected, I will continue to host these roundtable discussions focusing on specific topics implicated by the school system. In addition, upon taking office, I will also begin hosting regular general office hours. I do not intend to form opinions and policy positions based solely on informal polling and anecdotal evidence. But opening the lines of communication is one way to improve the perception of the Attleboro schools and the School Committee, which can have a significant impact on the morale of school system employees as well as community members.

By instituting a respectful and responsive approach to governing the school system, it is my hope to help restore the professionalism that is expected by the community, and warranted under the statutorily defined duties of the School Committee.

David Murphy, Attleboro THE WRITER is a candidate for Attleboro School Committee. A schedule of his roundtable discussions is available at www.murphy2011.com.