

Dear Automotive Partners,

I'm writing to you regarding a decision of the Mukwonago School District administration which may concern you.

Today I was informed that the district has chosen to reduce staff according to low enrollment numbers. As a result, they are asking the school board to non-renew my position as Automotive Instructor with the district. As of yet, I have not seen the actual enrollment numbers. I can say that over the last five years, we have been turning away students. In fact, until the new district administration came in, I was consistently teaching an overload of classes.

As you may know, I am teacher that spent 20 years as an auto technician. I am ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) master certified and teach an ASE credentialed program. I have a Bachelor's degree in Career and Tech Ed and Training from UW Stout. My students participate and do well in ADAMM, WCTC, and Skills USA competitions. We qualify for ACT 59 and Perkins grant money. Our program receives donations which benefit our students, such as vehicles, equipment, parts, curriculum. (Thank you to all of our benefactors) My students graduate with student-level ASE certifications. I have students that enter your post-secondary programs, and work for your businesses.

My concern is for the students. I do not want to see the district diminish the value of a much-needed program. I would hate to see the program turn into a hobby shop and just ramble along. I would rather see the program grow and improve for the students, and to serve the needs of your programs and businesses.

This program should continue to be an ASE accredited program, with a fully credentialed teacher. The students deserve it. Tech colleges deserve it. Industry deserves it. You are all taxpayers and you have a stake in this. Please consider voicing your opinion.

What can you do?

The Mukwonago School Board will meet on Monday, April 14. I was told that the school board would be voting in private session to decide whether or not to renew my position. Chances are that WATDA (Wisconsin Auto and Truck Dealers Association) will be present along with ADAMM (Auto Dealers Association of Metro Milwaukee),

The best thing you can do is attend the meeting. If you have a student in the district, bring your student with you. (Trust me, they will love it)

Ask the hard questions.

- Are we going to diminish the value of the program in order to save money?
- Have you considered the fact that the automotive industry is one of the largest industries in the U.S. (1.6 Trillion dollars), and you want to cut the only qualified teacher we have?
- Do we want a high value program or a hobby shop?
- What, exactly are you trying to accomplish?
- What are the actual enrollment numbers?

I'm sure you can think of many more questions to ask. The bottom line is that you are in charge. You make the decisions about where your money is spent and how it is spent.

I sincerely appreciate all of you,
Kenneth Reed

(414) 651-7859