

I want to be clear about the **purpose** and **intended outcome** of the *Schools Cannot Do It Alone* book study as well as **what is expected of YOU**. Here's a summary after receiving requests for a little more clarity...

The opt-out movement matters at the Texas Legislature...not on test day. Parents need to band together and air their issues with their representatives in Austin...*not with school districts on test day*. With that in mind, they need to understand why, what, how, etc.



The book, *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*, is an easy read. It pulls together the complex issues facing schools and walks all parties through the WHY schools MUST change and then lays out the HOW it must happen.



**You can't get from A** [industrial model "factory" schools as we've known them] **to B** [schools that meet the demands of the 21st Century] **without going through C** [community].)

I'm going to lead separate book studies with three (or more) key groups (including the Educational Improvement Council (EIC), United Way of Denton County, and Denton Community Council of PTAs) in early Fall (starting in early August/September) to get the ball rolling. Like a snowball rolling downhill, my hope is to build steam to the point where those who've attended the study in one of my three large groups (all of whom live in a campus attendance area) will get on board and excited and talk to their neighbors and colleagues (who also live in a campus attendance area) who wished they'd been part of one of the three [United Way, PTA, EIC] book studies. Then, in late Fall (dates to be determined), campus(es) and/or vertical zones, will host their own book study. For example...

- Newton Rayzor may offer a series of book study sessions on its own, or
- Newton Rayzor + Borman may offer a series of book study dates together, or
- Newton Rayzor + Borman + Calhoun may offer a series together, or
- Newton Rayzor + Borman + Calhoun + Denton HS may offer the series together, or
- ANY variety of combinations thereof so long as everyone from every campus attendance zone has an opportunity to attend somewhere

Essentially, PRINCIPALS don't have to go at it alone (unless s/he feels its best for his/her campus).

In the late Fall (with FLEXIBLE dates (to be determined), campuses will organize (as will be discussed during Administrator Meetings in the Fall after school gets underway) a series of book study conversations (i.e. one time per month for four months at a location somewhere OTHER than the school) to discuss the book (i.e. Session 1 covers Chapters 1 - 4; Session 2 covers Chapters 5 - 8; Session 3 covers Chapters 5 - 14, etc.). Using my Chris's Notes (such as the Gallup Poll activity, Twitter activity, the Blueberry Story video, etc.) and the activities YOU ALL developed during the Summer Leadership Academy, principals, with the support of their colleagues will facilitate discussion for 30-45 minute sessions OFFSITE (i.e. the local rec center, local country club, etc., etc., etc. (i.e. anywhere in the school attendance zone and/or vertical zone other than the school itself)).

My hope is that not only will the principal(s) be there, but campus teachers, the EIC rep and/or the PTA rep and/or the United Way rep and/or district leaders who've attended the Summer Leadership Academy days, etc. (all of whom would be several steps ahead having already studied the book) will want to join the campus (or multi-campus) book study to support the conversation.

Eventually, this will open the door to sharing the new vision for Denton ISD and discussing topics such as...

- a new graduate profile,
- a new employee profile,

- a new community-based accountability system (based on things other than STAAR scores and includes things such as
  - the number of student mentees or apprentices engaged,
  - the number of community service hours/projects completed by students,
  - the number of collaborative cross-campus or worldwide projects done
  - etc., etc., etc. (whatever is important to OUR community beyond STAAR scores)