



Jamie Waggoner
Staff Liaison
Hesperia Campus
4 December 2020

Re: Monthly Board Report

I have had no conversations with any staff concerning staff Liaison business since the last board meeting.

If I can be given a few minutes to speak during the Board meeting, I would like to take a few minutes and talk about the Jeff Wise memorial that took place in November. I have written down a few words if this opportunity is afforded me. I will also attach pictures of the flyer that I received at the memorial:

On Saturday, November 21, a memorial was held for Encore teacher Jeff Wise. It was held at Day Creek Park in Rancho Cucamonga. Julia Dolf, myself, John Parker, Christie Scott, Brian Forbes and his family were all there. There were also several students.

We were given the opportunity to speak. Jeff's mother mentioned that she was interested in hearing from his co-workers from Encore, and we were happy to oblige. I personally felt that saying a few words about Jeff, was something that I could proudly do. We wanted to make sure that his family and friends knew how much of a success he had been at Encore, and how he was so very much loved and respected. Not only by the Students, but by the teachers and administration as well.

I have always been in awe of John Parker's ability to express what he wants to convey with words. Brian Forbes spoke (as did I) and I thought we did well. John Parker however, was the one that really made me feel that all of Jeff's friends, and family could walk away from the memorial, knowing about the true impact that Jeff had at Encore.

When we arrived, we had the opportunity to speak with Jeff's mom. I could not help

but chuckle under my breath when Jeff's mom referred to him lovingly as a "bit odd". I chuckled because I knew, something similar to that would come out of my mouth when I spoke. I was happy to know that I would not be revealing anything that they did not already know.

Jeff was a bit strange. I say that with all the respect in the world, as that is one of the characteristics that I found so likable about him. I must also mention something I have noticed throughout my life, and that is that "a bit strange" seems to be a common thread amongst English teachers. I have never met one that was not at least a wee bit out of center. That being said, I must confess, that by me saying this; the fact is that I am indeed the pot calling the kettle black!

I am not sure when Jeff and I became friends. A few years back, he started coming by my class during lunch to interrupt my nap. It soon became a habit and we spent many a lunch period talking about old cars, old movies, songs, and life in general. I learned that if he could own a classic car to drive, he thought that the perfect car for him would have been an American Motors Pacer. I agree. Perfect!

He told me about the Super hero that he had created for himself when he was younger. Lamp Man! He Told me how he even wrote his own theme song. At the Memorial, his friends talked about the time he came to school one day at Citrus College dressed in his Lamp Man outfit and walked around campus all day singing his theme song.

He talked to me about The Dungeon and Dragon games he would play online with his friends that were in different places in the US.

There were times that I would start to think that he was pretty normal, and then suddenly, while being in a conversation with him and Parker, they would start passionately conversing about Video games, Science fiction books and Science fiction movies. They would talk intensely about J.R. Tolkien stuff, and stories about other obscure/ Eccentric Authors. Next thing I knew, I would be walking away from the both of them shaking my head and muttering "what a bunch of geeks" under my breath.

I loved that fact that the students would call John Parker, Jeff, and myself "The Language Boys" whenever they saw us together. And so did he.

I loved how much he loved Encore. How much he loved being an English teacher, and how much he loved his students.

As a Spanish teacher, I get to ask my students some pretty interesting questions in the name of learning Spanish. ¿Quién es tú professor favorito? Who is your favorite teacher, I ask? The students are required to answer the question in Spanish. "Mi professor favorito es Sr. Wise", I would hear more and more over the last few years.

Hearing that touched my soul and I made sure he knew about it.

Jeff would have stayed at Encore as long as Encore wanted him to be here. He loved it here. In my previous career, he was what I would have referred to as a "great hire". I know he influenced my life. I know that he influenced John Parker's life. I know that he influenced the lives of his students. Who knows how many lives he touched? He was indeed an incredible man.

Sincerely,

Jamie Waggoner
Staff Liaison