

Volunteer “Firefighters” Needed

CAPE is seeking volunteers to help us keep a lookout for potential fires in the state of New Mexico. We are talking about issues, concerns, and complaints that could lead to increased regulation for all homeschoolers. The recent rumblings in Raton and Rio Rancho are perfect examples of how a tiny spark, a little smoke, can turn into a raging fire that burns us all.

Here are a few things you could do to help

TEACH THEM (YOUR CHILDREN) DILIGENTLY

As homeschoolers, we often are told, “WE know YOU are doing a great job, it’s those others we worry about.” Please don’t overthink or overdo your diligence. Don’t turn your homeschool into a super-strict, hyper-scheduled, overworked prep school without any love, joy, or relaxation. But we always want to encourage one another to our best. Don’t be one of those others!

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Personal relationships with school counselors, principals, board members and superintendents make a tremendous difference. First, relationships bring educational professionals into regular contact with homeschoolers. Instead of being thought of as stereotypical irate, critical, aggravated parents with under-educated and truant delinquents; homeschooling families are recognized as friends and neighbors who have great kids. Second, we might get a “heads-up” when home school issues are brewing. Third, it’s easy to decide to regulate someone you don’t know, but it’s harder when you can picture actual people! Be the face and the heart of homeschooling. We don’t need a false image of perfection, either. Just be who you are!

BE A NEWS SNOOPER OR A BILL DETECTIVE

If you see a newspaper article that mentions homeschooling, send us a link. We are looking for fires, sparks, smoke and even weather conditions that will help us be prepared.

The legislature begins pre-filing bills in mid-December, and posts them on their website. Just a few minutes of web-surfing can give us a head start to solve problems before they get out-of-control. Click [HERE](#) for instructions for Bill Detectives.

ATTEND LOCAL MEETINGS

Just showing up reminds the world that we are involved, concerned citizens. We are as invested in the public school system as anyone else, financially via taxes, as well as socially, because we are all part of the same community. There are school board meetings and support group meetings and multiple groups in every locality that need to know someone cares. Neighborhood clean-ups and library book sales are just two ideas that are good for everybody! You don’t have to participate in everything--you shouldn’t--but don’t hunker down at home, either. And there are seasons of infancy, chicken pox, and family responsibilities that will limit any involvement at all. Homeschool GRAD-parents (parents of graduated homeschoolers) can attend on behalf of their younger friends and future grandchildren, too.

ATTEND NOT-SO-LOCAL MEETINGS

The Legislative Education Study Committee is an interim committee composed of members of both the House and Senate Education Committees. It meets monthly, usually in Santa Fe and sometimes in venues around the state. We need eyes and ears, not educational or legislative experts, who will sit through these meetings (in shifts if necessary) and just listen for discussions that will affect home education. We will cheerfully train volunteers and supply key words that we need to alert us.

ASK QUESTIONS

School boards, city councils, and legislators are elected officials. During the campaign is the best possible time to ask important, pointed questions. For example: Should states regulate homeschools and to what degree? Do parents have the right to choose curriculum, instruct, and evaluate their own children without state interference? Would you support daytime curfews? Will you consult homeschool leaders and experts before voting on legislation that affects them? How can I contact you when I have concerns?

PRAY

Pray for CAPE, ask God to raise up volunteers.

Pray for the board and ask for health, safety while traveling, and vision.

Pray for homeschools dedicated to their families.

Pray for all those set in authority over us.

Pray for favor with all those in authority.

Pray for wisdom in all of our relationships.

Ask the Lord to bless us and protect us and keep us faithful.

Please let us know how God has called you to serve, and how we can help. Email info@cape-nm.org. Thank you!