

11 October 2011

Dear EMID Board Member:

I am the mother of a 9th grader at Crosswinds East Metro Arts and Science School in Woodbury. Yesterday I was waiting in the school parking lot, talking with two other mothers about how great the EMID schools have been for our kids. One of the mothers said something that I thought you should hear.

As best as I can remember her words were: "I have family in states all over the country and I have learned that from an African-American perspective, the only schools in the Midwest (except for Chicago) that have a real integrated culture are THESE schools. There are many places elsewhere in America that have figured out how to make real integration happen, but Minnesota and the Midwest really lag behind. I'm so grateful that our kids have attended EMID schools."

I felt flushed with pride yet again to be associated with such organizations, but I also felt a whole new urgency. While I realize that an observation made by one mother does not add up to scientific proof, there is plenty of data spelling out Minnesota's failures to properly address integration in its schools. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that we not only preserve the EMID schools because they get it right, but we must dedicate ourselves to the mission of sharing what we know with the rest of Minnesota!!

Please give the EMID schools at least through 2013 so they have time to show you what they know, so they have time to share what they know with member schools, with schools all across the state, and perhaps even with school systems in the surrounding states!

It's time for Minnesota to be a national leader in education again! Please, please know that Crosswinds and Harambee can play a crucial role in such leadership. Please support and sustain EMID. It is something you can be very proud of too.

Thank you very much!

Shannon Hannigan