On Tuesday January 17 I was taken back to a time when children were acting mature and presenting viable solutions to their community, while adults belittled not just students, but themselves. I can close my eyes and think of the many times I watched grown adults throw away their right to be role models, as they each disgraced their side of the argument (and yes both sides did this, let's not fool ourselves). That was 6 years ago.

Today I look and see adults continue to hurl harmful words and claims at each other like they are still on the battlefields (Which shouldn't have even been battlefields in the first place). I see people, frustrated at whatever they decide, try to blame every action of every person on their behavior 6 years ago. I see people break confidentiality to gain press. I watch as adults choose to act in manners that, if they occurred in my classroom, would be classified as bullying. I see people playing victim cards when they are adults with agency, who can make a difference. I see people using others to climb their own ladder. I see selfish people acting in manners I would be ashamed to see from any of my students. But that is only one side. . .

I acknowledge the frustrations, the emotional responses and the hurt but I will not deal with your negativity. The past has happened, dwell on it and allow bitter emotions to move into you heart. I just won't have any part in it. For I found a different perspective on what happened 6 years ago.

6 years ago I was introduced to politics, I was introduced to rhetoric, I was introduced to people who have poured their lives into mine. 6 years ago I took a step outside of my comfort zone. 6 years ago I gained new friendships and strengthened old ones. 6 years ago was a defining moment in my life. 6 years ago my thinking was challenged and I began developing my own understanding of politics.

I love this quote and it is in part what I believe politics should be:

Genuine politics - even politics worthy of the name - the only politics I am willing to devote myself to - is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community

and serving those who will come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to and for the whole.

Vaclav Havel

Servant leadership, loving justice, finding your strength. 6 years ago I began to desire a political change in Langley. I desired truth, justice, creativity, passion and joy. I hoped for engagement with communities, opportunities for growth and most importantly I hoped that no one would ever have to watch what happened 6 years ago happen again. I desired for this not because I saw it modeled, but because I saw the disfunction of a political system without them.

I know our community is strong in Langley, I see it express itself daily through the connections we share. If we want change we have to do it. Langley had a political change this week and if it matters I think it is a good one but feel free to make you own decision. Howard Dean said that "[a]t every turn when there has been an imbalance of power, the truth questioned, or our beliefs and values distorted, the change required to restore our nation has always come from the bottom up, from our people." So Langley if you feel that there was an imbalance of power, that truth was questioned, or that values and beliefs were distorted, then be a part of the change. Engage in politics, be part of this community, we welcome you. But please stop trying to tell me that I haven't gotten over what happened 6 years ago because I found beauty in it. . . Can you?

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