

Student Government Day provided me with a once in a lifetime opportunity; I was able to take a day and see how my town is run. I saw the ins and outs of everything, how everybody contributes for the greater good of Acushnet.

I was chosen to be a member of the School Committee, which was absolutely great. What really shocked me was the fact that these people, most of them who have no children in the Acushnet School System, use their spare time to help us, the kids and students of Acushnet. I never realized that people actually cared about what happens in their town, and it makes me feel proud to live in Acushnet knowing that there are so many people in this community who care.

Being on the School Committee for a day, I realized that there is something to be said for people who take on non-profit jobs. It baffles me that these people would do something just for the good of our small town. The School Committee is above the Superintendent; they tell him what to do. They hire and fire the Superintendent. They have such an important job, and they do it without a dime going in to their pocket.

Mr. Kuthan, the Chairman of the School Committee, said that he took the job to give back to the town. He and his whole family had grown up and gone through the school system, and he felt that joining the School Committee was his way of saying thank you in the town of Acushnet. He didn't take the job to help out his kid or to make more money for his family, he ran for School Committee to help other children be successful in life.

Mr. Deterra, the Vice Chairman of the School Committee, said that the best part about being on the committee was seeing us kids be successful. It shocks me that other people care what I do

with my life, and it's nice to know that there are people out there who are cheering me on the whole way.

As kids, all we see is the end result of things, like new paved roads, construction being done, and new buildings built. Of course, when it's done, everything looks a lot better. But, being in the town hall for a day, I realized that it isn't just the selectman saying, "This road needs to be fixed," and the next day they're out on the streets. So much thought goes into every decision; everybody has to approve of something being done. They weigh out the pros and the cons, the effect it will have, and it just shocked me how every one has a say.

There was a few things that Selectman Wonart said speaking to us that really made me feel good about my town. He told us a story from when he was running for office. He told us how we went around and really listened to what people what people throughout the town thought about Acushnet. And he really listened. He took into consideration everything that people told him. Wonart told us that one person told him that they would love to see a Town Calendar letting people know about important events and dates in the town. When he got elected, the first thing he did was put up the Town Calendar. He said how he really felt good that he could get something done, that he could make somebody happy. And it's really great to know that if we want something in our town, it can, and probably will, get done.

Another thing that the Selectman told us was that he helps out everybody in the town, whether they are a School Committee Member, on the Board of Health, or just a secretary. He said work needs to be done, and even though he was the boss, he couldn't walk around showing it. He wanted to help the town by actually doing something, not just telling others what to do. When the Town Hall's basement flooded, he was right down there checking it out. If the Board of

Health ever needed an extra hand, he would be right there doing whatever was needed. I expected the Selectman to be one to just boss people around, not somebody who chips in wherever it's needed. It gave me a good feeling knowing that everybody is in this together to make our town a better place. It isn't one person who has less say or less importance, because in Acushnet everybody is important, and Selectman Wonart really evidenced that.

Student Government Day has provided me with an amazing experience. I saw that everybody in our town has something that they need to do to help Acushnet run smoothly. After talking with my friends who also had the chance to be a part of this day, they said that every single person said they really enjoyed their job. You always hear how people hate their job, and I've always said I never want that to be me, so this day has showed me that maybe town government is for me.

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Brock Parent