

Interview with Ted Zehr
Interviewer is Heather McCambly
Took place at CHS at 12:00 on 5/14/03

HM: What is your position here and how long have you been at Century?

TZ: I have been here since it opened in 1997, and for six years I have been an assistant principal, minus six months in the beginning when I was a math teacher.

HM: How as this year differed from others you have experienced here at CHS?

TZ: This different has been different in that there have been more students, more crowding, every nook and cranny of this school is used for something. Also the unknowns this year as far as cuts and scheduling have caused more tension.

Unfortunately because of this tension a lot of the excitement of working with kids has become lost in dealing with the stress, it has really been a tough year for morale.

HM: How do you think the tension this year has affected student-teacher relationships?

TZ: Well, I think the most important thing is that once doors are closed the teachers are just as dedicated, just as passionate about teaching. Students are not learning less and are still pushing to achieve more and excel in what they do. It's outside in the hallways, and the meetings, that the atmosphere is different.

HM: How do you feel about the various student movements this year?

TZ: Well as far as the attempted walkout I kind of have to chuckle, it wasn't really to stand up and say they supported the teachers, it was more of something to do, skip class and hang out in the cafeteria. Maybe if it had been better organized, more posters, a clearer goal I would have understood their message. The SAFFE program though is better organized, it's just that it is a little late in the year, but it is definitely good to put pressure on the legislature as they still have decisions to make that will affect education.

HM: What have you seen as far as local reaction outside of school?

TZ: Frustration, they just do not understand why this is happening, especially with Beaverton School District next door with zero cut days. They want to support teachers and kids but they are confused.

HM: What are your personal opinions on possible causes and solutions to the budget crisis.

TZ: The district made some decisions early on not to cut some programs that in hindsight maybe they should have cut, now they are cutting programs, days and teachers. But as far as solutions I don't know, it will take the economy's recovery to fully achieve that

The interview continued beyond this but due to some equipment difficulty the recording was not successful.