



1903 Bartlett Avenue
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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALTOONA

PRESS RELEASE

90th State Education Convention – Bold Steps: Vision. Passion. Action. Innovation.

Altoona, January 26, 2011. Altoona School Board members, Ed Bohn, Helen Drawbert, Robin Elvig and Red Hanks, along with Superintendent Greg Fahrman, attended the 90th State Education Convention in Milwaukee last week. Between them, they attended more than 25 sessions on topics ranging from school finance, labor negotiations and labor law, to the hot topics of technology, instruction, and student achievement. Keynote speakers included Dr. Yong Zhao, Jeannette Walls, and Sir Ken Robinson.

Dr. Yong Zhao is currently Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education, College of Education at the University of Oregon, where he also serves as the director of the Center for Advanced Technology in Education. In his keynote, *Catching up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization*, he shared many aspects of the American education system that are “right” and that China and other Asian nations are reforming their educational systems to be more like ours.

Best-selling author Jeannette Walls headlined Thursday’s general session. From her compelling memoir, *The Glass Castle*, she shared anecdotes from her childhood and throughout her life. In her message of confronting the past and facing fears, Walls explained that we all have more in common than we think and our flaws are our greatest assets.

Author and leading thinker Sir Ken Robinson, an internationally recognized leader in the development of creativity, innovation, education and human resources, was our keynote speaker at Friday’s general session. He has worked with national governments in Europe and Asia, with international agencies, Fortune 500 companies, not-for-profit corporations and some of the world’s leading cultural organizations. For 10 years, he was Professor of Education at the University of Warwick in England and is now Professor Emeritus.

Governor Scott Walker also spoke on Friday morning concerning his efforts to bring business and jobs to Wisconsin. In doing so, he hopes to create a demand for a better educated work force. Governor Walker also expressed a desire to meet with local school districts to discuss the financial challenges faced by all.

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