

Thoughts on a Recent Tragedy

The majority of the time I do not weigh in on the current topics of the week, and keep AND ONE MORE THING general and lighter in nature suitable for readers here and beyond my specific location.

This particular week is an exception to the rule.

Dansville, New York, where I spent the majority of my teaching career, had a devastating blow as a result of a horrific automobile accident taking the lives of four young teens and injuring a fifth.

It simply hurts.

One thing that I have learned over the years is that pain does not go away for a long time. You have to stay with it and let it work itself out.

I monitored social media like everyone else and watched how a shocked community turned into a bonding one pouring out love and concern. There was an organized candle vigil at the Episcopal Church, a balloon launch, a chalk memory space at the park, along with the school system putting its crisis management plan into action for the coming weeks.

The worst thing about social media is all the second-guessing and judgmental statements made by people, rather than showing a little sensitivity and compassion in a period of need. There is a lot of guilt floating around, and let the comments rest for now.

Could things have been different? Are there lessons to be learned?

Sure. Save them for later.

Right now, absorb it and hug those around you with love.

Like others, I framed my Facebook page with a #DansvilleStrong banner and privately, said my prayers for the family and friends who are mourning. I cannot imagine what they are going through.

I prayed for the area's first responders and their self-less contributions, and for the school counseling staff that would be facing a difficult task. These two groups of professionals are all expertly trained and are ready to be of assistance in the healing process.

People rally together during a crisis.

May the community of Dansville continue to tighten itself in the future and make for a better quality of life for its citizens.