Going Postal

Is PDI necessary?
I don’t think PDI should stand for “Pretty Dumb Idea,” but is it necessary? There are some good points, some that are arguable and some that are just plain bad. While I don’t think everyone should drop their opinions about PDI and adopt mine, I would like to raise some issues on it.

No other professional association that I’m aware of tells its members they must complete a self-assessment. While self-assessment is a good idea — it might be the best thing one could do to be a better superintendent and a better person — a professional group should never require such a subjective test.

Testing members to assure competent knowledge is a great idea. Other professional groups, such as lawyers and electricians, have ways of certifying their membership. A class that teaches us how to do that or improve how we evaluate our own weaknesses is a great idea. But a professional association, which is what the GCSAA is, should not assume that responsibility. A superintendent’s evaluation should be between himself or herself and that person’s supervisor.

Another argument for PDI is that our association needs to raise our average salary. That was a good argument 20 years ago. We should be thankful to the professional group that I’m aware of tells its membership what the GCSAA is, should not assume that responsibility. A superintendent’s evaluation should be between himself or herself and that person’s supervisor.

While some members dream of being a top club and being elected to the GCSAA Board of Directors, others want no more than to earn a good wage, keep their courses in better shape than the ones next door and to coach their kids’ little league teams. Our association needs both types. Steve Rebhan, CGCS

Battle Creek CC
Battle Creek, Mich.

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at patrick.jones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.