



Sandbox Party Convention transcript: Rick Snyder
Jack Breslin Student Events Center
East Lansing, MI
August 26, 2010

Thank you very much I like those sticks.
Everybody having fun?
Excellent.

That's great to be with you today

I appreciate you taking the time to let me come up on stage

I'm proud to say I'm a parent. I have three kids. I have one 14 going into high school, one a sophomore at UM and I have another son that just graduated from Albion College. He's out looking for a job right now and that's a challenge. One of the reasons I'm here to talk for a few minutes is that its really important that we build a future for all the wonderful kids here. We want you to stay in Michigan.

What do we need to do to make that happen?

One of the things we've been missing is a vision for the future of Michigan.

Where are we going? I believe it's time for a new vision, a new era....the era of innovation...a diverse economy...a great quality of life... a place where Detroit is on the path to being a great city again, a place where young people want to stay, can stay, and have a family and career.

Keep all these wonderful kids here.

But to do that we need a plan besides a vision, we need a plan.

We've got a ten point plan at rickformichigan.com.

One of those points is education.

We want you to have a great education

If you look at the world today, our state today, we're spending billions of dollars and our system is not delivering all the results we deserve

We spend way too much time in Lansing talking about spending money. We need to get back to the point of our system, which is to educate our children. Back up a couple of steps what do we need to do to get our kids an education, each and every day?

We need to measure and monitor. Need a portfolio of work that travels with our kids. Can you read? Can you add? Do you have the tools you need for the future?

Then we look at the front lines. How do we reward teachers? How do we help those who are struggling? I have a plan for that.

That's the system we need. That's the system I want to see happen.

Early childhood is near and dear to my heart.

It's great to be here at this inaugural event. I was fortunate. I spent a few years out of the state back in the 90s. I was in South Dakota and worked on an effort that we still have here today in Michigan called Success by Six.

I heard the founders, out of Minneapolis, back in the early 90s. It's great to see it here. So now how do we do it even better? How do we become a role model for the rest of the country?

I prefer to call our whole system P-20....preschool through lifelong learning. I want to end with one thing. We talked about the plan, the last thing to talk about is action. We have to take action. Too often in this state we simply talk about doing things.

We have a broken culture in our state. We've been beaten up for too many years, gotten too negative. We've got our head down. We need to bring back fire and passion. We need to stop being divisive. Stop talking about someone's won and someone's lost. We need to reduce partisanship, geographic issues, racial and ethnic issues. We need to work and win together, rebuild Michigan. That's the direction we need to have.

And just to close, what I would tell you is that it's time for Michiganders to stand up not as Republicans, not as Democrats, not East side or West side....as Michiganders.

Stand up and say we deserve a better government. Stop looking in the rearview mirror, look to the future, stop being negative. Be positive, talk about fixes. Let's fundamentally reinvent our state. And become a great state again.