

Timeless Transformations *The Gig is Up*

This weekend was an exciting time for me. Having the opportunity to participate at the international level in the Association for School Business Officials (ASBO) conference as the Information Technology content leader was a highlight of my career. It was a culmination of everything coming together at the perfect moment. Also, having a chunk of time to formulate my resignation letter for CyFair ISD and strategize my next steps was exactly what I needed as I prepare to make a formal announcement tomorrow about my career transition.

I am inspired to share my thoughts about how I'm approaching retirement by aligning my core values with the next phase of my life. My intention is to give you some insight about how to use core values as the foundation for every decision we make. I'm using my experience as an example to emphasize how important values are. To illuminate this inspiration, I went back to a few pictures from July 2013 when I turned in my resignation at Goose Creek CISD. The pictures are from our Austin trip when we visited Pop and Barbara and stayed in Spicewood and visited several wineries. You girls are beautiful in these pictures.

I titled this inspiration **the gig is up** because it is reflective of a significant turning point in time. There is a book titled The Gig is Up. I listened to the author speak about it this weekend. It was uncanny how her message was in direct alignment with what I'm planning to do which is to serve as an independent, freelance Chief Technology Officer (CTO). She addresses freelancing from the perspective of the "gig economy," which is driven by technology such as airbnb, uber and care.com. People that make money from these types of jobs are independent, freelance workers.

I decided to share my plans during this transitional phase between now and December 21, 2018 while leaving CyFair ISD and starting the CETL Group, under the website of www.frankiejackson.net. I didn't want to divulge my full plan during this transition period. This is the draft home page.



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A trusted, independent, freelance
Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
serving as a Catalyst for
Performance Excellence in
K-12 Education Technology
Leadership

- TASBO Information Technology Committee Chair
- ASBO Information Technology Content Leader
- Texas K-12 CTO Council Board Member and Leadership Advisory Chair
- CoSN Policy Committee Appointee and Smart Education Network by Design (SEND) Advisor

I also included a webpage that shows the types of work I will be pursuing. What is hidden is all the training, organizational assessments and mentoring services that I will be offering which is designed as part of the Texas K-12 CTO Council under the mentoring program. I am the Leadership Advisory chair and we have spent the past year designing this program. I didn't want it to appear there was a conflict of interest on my part. If the mentoring program takes off under the Texas K-12 CTO Council, I will run my services through that entity. If not, I'll pursue it on my own under the CETL Group, LLC.

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Coming in 2019

- Authoring a book: *Emergent Technology Leadership*
- Developing education technology leadership **content** for CTO professional development
- Serving as a National **Instructor** for CoSN's Certified Education Technology Leadership (CETL) CTO program
- Finalizing a K-12 CTO Process Classification Framework for sharing of **best practices**



Catalyst

an agent that provokes
significant change and action

This isn't a great picture, but I wanted to capture the time that I prepared my resignation and career transition. It was taken on Friday at the Orlando Gaylord Palms hotel, where the conference was held this weekend. It's also the time that I formally realigned my values with my retirement even though I had been contemplating it for months.



Do you remember how gorgeous Pop and Barbara's pool was at their home in Steiner Ranch in Austin? You girls were looking carefree and gorgeous! I know they were proud of it but for some reason the dynamics at their home wasn't optimal. I think at the time it was because Pop decided to move away, and he was living beyond his means. For whatever reason we made the most of it. There's never a shortage of free-flowing drinks at Pop's house and it was fun.



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You may remember that the next day we toured wineries in the hill country. This picture was taken at the Perissos winery. That's where we found the Sweet Lucy red wine. I treasure this picture of us five.



The following are examples of how I realigned my values with my retirement. You can see how I created the main points of “my why” in each core value. As I was going through the process of aligning my values with my whys, this is the main point. My life has reached a milestone at age of 58. **The gig is not up!** Retirement will provide more opportunities for me to live by my values.

In the value area of inspiration, I will continue what I'm doing now. I will be up early every morning. I will still send daily and Sunday inspirations. I will have more time to read and be more insightful. I also will have more time to meditate and be part of a spiritual center. I have a desire to belong to a Unity or Center for Spiritual Living small group. I will offer even greater support to you three!



In the value area of wellness, I will have more time to exercise. I run every other day now. On the alternating days I will lift weights and tone key areas. I want to be healthy, so I can keep up with you three and my grandchildren. I want to be the best I can be! I also want to slow time down. I want open up space in my schedule with less stress and more flexibility. I also want more control over my diet. I can do that more effectively while working from home.



In the value area of relationships, I want more free time with you and Dahl and future grandchildren. I want to be there when I'm needed. I want to be a support system! I also want deeper more meaningful social relationships. Most of all I want to build a retirement lifestyle with your Dad! I love him so much and want to make every day count.



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I also need to take care of Mom. She needs me now more than ever as her eye sight continues to fade. I can see her emotional state dwindling. I expect she only has 4-5 years left in good health. I believe this picture was taken right before we left for Spicewood, probably on my birthday in Galveston.

I don't want to look back and wish I would have spent more time with her. I want to take her on some mini-vacations before she gets too feeble. Plus, she longs to see Dahl. I hope to let her visit and love Dahl more, as I will hopefully be spending more time with Dahl during the weekdays when there is more free time during the day.

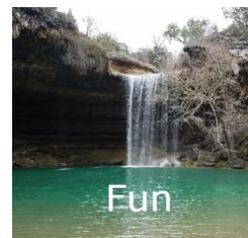
I want more time that is spontaneous. There are wineries in our local areas. I want to visit them and find ways to build our relationships even more than what they are today! The point is there is more to life than career success and work. Living a balanced life offers a more meaningful and enriching life.



In the value area of career success, I want to make even more money, working less time and whenever I want. I want to continue to do what I love to do that keeps my mind sharp. I want to continue to add value, learn and grow. Further, I want high impact work with more flexibility. I want to work nation-wide so I can use our career success to fund our fun and travels.



In the value area of fun, I want to have more time for travelling with adventure and excitement. There're so many places to go and see. I want to experience them all. I want to breathe fresh air and experience other cultures. I want to be fascinating! More fun will bring about a more balanced lifestyle with a lot of enjoyment.



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In the value area of future generations, I want to be a greater contributor in helping to raise Dahl and other future grandchildren. I want to create a better world and be part of making change – not just reading about it. I want to be politically and socially involved. I want to be a leader in making future generations secure.



May we always know when **the gig is up** and have the courage to move from one gig to the next with love, balance and ease. If we use our core values as the foundation for deciding when **the gig is up**, we will stay in the flow of life and live it to the fullest!



I love you more than all the giggles I will have in laughter as I move from one gig to the next – Love Mom