

Poetic Justice

A poetry teacher defending ALL students and their families



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*#2015Year of the Student
#DoNoHarm*



“Today I resigned from the school board.” From Teacher Wendy Bradshaw PhD

Posted on [October 23, 2015](#) by [Poetic Justice](#)

Teacher Wendy Bradshaw PhD from Florida handed in her resignation letter today. Her letter speaks the unspoken words of thousands of

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About Poetic Justice aka Jo Lieb

I am an English teacher, writer and poet, animal lover, happily married wife and grandmother, and recently, education activist.

I am updating this blog to be more about my work in education and less about my poetry. But it is very hard to

professional educators across the country. Her letter is the cry of what is in the hearts of teachers who, also, can no longer harm the children.

Please share her words so just maybe, we can once again have schools that love and tenderly care for the well-being of our most precious gifts – our children and grandchildren. #DoNoHarm

"Today I resigned from the school board. I would like to share with you what I gave them. Feel free to share it if it strikes you as important.

To: The School Board of Polk County, Florida

I love teaching. I love seeing my students' eyes light up when they grasp a new concept and their bodies straighten with pride and satisfaction when they persevere and accomplish a personal goal. I love watching them practice being good citizens by working with their peers to puzzle out problems, negotiate roles, and share their experiences and understandings of the world. I wanted nothing more than to serve the students of this county, my home, by teaching students



Here's My
Lesson Plan



Let's Call it
What it IS –
Educational
Apartheid



The Genius of
Luis Torres:
How PS 55
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Challenge by
Mark Naison



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please, bear	doctoral degrees in the field of	March 2018
with my verses	education. I spent countless hours	February 2018
and images	after school and on weekends poring	January 2018
and my playing	over research so that I would know	December
with sounds	and be able to implement the most	2017
and words.	appropriate and effective methods with	November
Helping me	my students and encourage their	2017
with Poetic	learning and positive attitudes towards	October 2017
Justice is my	learning. I spent countless hours in my	July 2017
wonderful	classroom conferencing with families	June 2017
graphic artist,	and other teachers, reviewing data I	April 2017
creative	collected, and reflecting on my practice	March 2017
producer	so that I could design and differentiate	January 2017
husband. He is	instruction that would best meet the	December
the final say for	needs of my students each year. I not	2016
anything that is	only love teaching, I am excellent at it,	November
posted here.	even by the flawed metrics used up	2016
He is my soul	until this point. Every evaluation I	October 2016
and my	received rated me as highly effective.	September
conscience and		2016
will always get	Like many other teachers across the	July 2016
the final say.	nation, I have become more and more	June 2016
I am also so	disturbed by the misguided reforms	May 2016
honored to	taking place which are robbing my	April 2016
have my friend	students of a developmentally	March 2016
and fellow	appropriate education.	February 2016
English teacher	Developmentally appropriate practice	January 2016
activist,	is the bedrock upon which early	December
Lucianna M.	childhood education best practices are	2015
Sanson, joining	based, and has decades of empirical	November
Poetic Justice	support behind it. However, the new	2015
as an	reforms not only disregard this	October 2015
editor/writer/co	research, they are actively forcing	September
ntributor and	teachers to engage in practices which	2015
co-worker	are not only ineffective but actively	August 2015
fighting and	harmful to child development and the	July 2015
	learning process. I am absolutely	June 2015

defending our public school students.

"I must write it all out, at any cost. Writing is thinking. It is more than living, for it is being conscious of living."

~ Anne Morrow Lindburgh

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willing to back up these statements with literature from the research base, but I doubt it will be asked for. However, I must be honest. This letter is also deeply personal. I just cannot justify making students cry anymore. They cry with frustration as they are asked to attempt tasks well out of their zone of proximal development. They cry as their hands shake trying to use an antiquated computer mouse on a ten year old desktop computer which they have little experience with, as the computer lab is always closed for testing. Their shoulders slump with defeat as they are put in front of poorly written tests that they cannot read, but must attempt. Their eyes fill with tears as they hunt for letters they have only recently learned so that they can type in responses with little hands which are too small to span the keyboard.

The children don't only cry. Some misbehave so that they will be the 'bad kid' not the 'stupid kid', or because their little bodies just can't sit quietly anymore, or because they don't know the social rules of school and there is no time to teach them. My master's degree work focused on behavior disorders, so I can say with confidence that it is not the children who are disordered. The disorder is in the system which requires them to attempt curriculum and demonstrate behaviors far beyond what is appropriate for their

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Jo Lieb Retweeted



Nancy E. Bailey
@NancyEBailey1

"...the Gates Foundation gave \$44 million to states to help prepare their ESSA applications." Let that sink in when you're told ESSA is about community schools and local control. Great read! Thank you @NTampio

age. The disorder is in the system which bars teachers from differentiating instruction meaningfully, which threatens disciplinary action if they decide their students need a five minute break from a difficult concept, or to extend a lesson which is exceptionally engaging. The disorder is in a system which has decided that students and teachers must be regimented to the minute and punished if they deviate. The disorder is in the system which values the scores on wildly inappropriate assessments more than teaching students in a meaningful and research based manner.

Jo Lieb Retweeted



ACLU
@ACLU

A 5 year old boy named José was sobbing on the floor, asking for his mother and father.

This isn't the America we want to live in.
nytimes.com/2018/06/07/us/
...

On June 8, 2015 my life changed when I gave birth to my daughter. I remember cradling her in the hospital bed on our first night together and thinking, "In five years you will be in kindergarten and will go to school with me." That thought should have brought me joy, but instead it brought dread. I will not subject my child to this disordered system, and I can no longer in good conscience be a part of it myself. Please accept my resignation from Polk County Public Schools.

'It's Horrendous': Th...
José, a 5-year-old fro...
nytimes.com

Jun 7, 2018

Best,
Wendy Bradshaw, Ph.D."

Jo Lieb Retweeted



Mark Naison
@McFiredogg

@craigswilder @ginavergel7
@BxEU4J @JoLiebling

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Areas Where President
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Trends
withabrooklynaccent.blogspot



Why Do I Teach?

How can I say
"no" to them
and walk
away?

Last week, the
dark child
brightened up.
Yesterday, the
angry child
smiled.
Just today, the
sad child
laughed.
And tomorrow,
the child
beyond hope,
will graduate.

Each child a
new challenge.
Each challenge
a routine and a
painful burden.
Each burden,
mine to bear for
a brief period of
time -
my special

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Jesse Turner
Letters to
Cuomo Mark
Naison
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parents
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prose Social
Justice
Student
Heroes

chance to help
God perform
His miracle in
each child.

We teach
because we are
called to teach.

We teach
because the
children need
us now.

We teach
because we
need to love
them.

We teach
because it is
life to us.

How can we
say "no" to
them and walk
away? -

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34 thoughts on ““Today I resigned from the school board.” From Teacher Wendy Bradshaw PhD”

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EduBloggers



thenextlevel2000 says:
October 23, 2015 at 8:31 pm

#timetosuebillgates
#classactionlawsuit
#irreparabledamage

★ Liked by [2 people](#)

Reply



Lloyd Lofthouse says:
October 23, 2015 at 8:58 pm

The more I learn about the corporate education reform movement and their legalized crimes against children, teachers and parents, the more I think it is time for the second American Revolution and instead of dumping tea in Boston Harbor to protest, Americans across the country must burn the Common Core and all the high stakes tests linked to that autocratic monster.

I don't see any difference between King George in the 18th century and Bill Gates, Eli Broad, the Walton family, the Koch brothers, and all the other autocratic billionaires who are funding the autocratic corporate education reform agenda to destroy the people's community

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based, democratic, non-profit public schools.

If the autocrats do not stop and stop soon, then We the People must act like the Founding Fathers of the United States did.

★ Liked by [3 people](#)

Reply



PW Withering says:
October 23, 2015 at 9:18 pm

Such an event may well be unavoidable at this point. Trying to reason with the corporatizers is an exercise in futility.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Reply



patriotmongoose says:
October 23, 2015 at 9:49 pm

You should check out my blog. I have a list of Common Core backers, and even, on other pages, backers of Amnesty, Planned Parenthood, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the gay agenda, the Iran Deal,

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 outsourcing, Net Neutrality,
 the bad stuff on TV, etc.

love
 Luca Valentino
 Lucianna
 Sanson
 Malloy
 Mark Naison
 Michael Elliot
 Michigan

After my huge research, I
 really feel that, not only can i
 not (not that they are hiring
 anyway with all of them Visas
 out there) go into the IT
 industry with a clean
 conscience, I cannot go work
 for MANY large companies
 anymore and have decided to
 be a children's author and a
 political blogger/writer
 instead. Indeed, I actually
 enjoy my new field and don't
 regret the change. (Plus, now
 I can use my IT skills for OUR
 side rather than the enemy.)

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The evil network behind Big
 Environmentalism, Big
 Abortion, Big Gay, Big
 Business, Big Labor, Big
 Media, Big Academia, and
 Big Government is just so
 sickening. Not even George
 Orwell could come up with
 something so diabolical.

rant
 reconciliation
 Revolution of
 the
 Disposables
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 Sanise Lebron
 SBAC
 Shoot4Educatio
 n
 SJS

(Though, by going into writing, I certainly do have plenty of subject matter to base villains off of.)

Also, if you want to look at the list, be forewarned, if you happen to be working at one of those companies, you may feel so disgusted that you would no longer feel right working there. Knowledge is power but it can also be a curse.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

[Reply](#)



Lloyd Lofthouse says:
October 23, 2015 at 10:04 pm

being an avid, curious reader who is highly literate and can write might be a curse—at least to the oligarchs funding all this crap. Authoritarians tend to want to keep their people ignorant.

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Jiff says:
October 25, 2015 at 7:19 am

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You're blog must be a list of great Americans that deserve a medal.

★ Like

THC BBS (@thc_bbs) says:
October 25, 2015 at 7:59 pm

I am so sorry to see that the educational system has so completely failed you.

★ Like

Michael Corliss says:
October 24, 2015 at 11:16 pm

You are conflating Common Core and over-testing. Small wonder, when many educators do the same. They are two separate things.

Dr. Bradshaw was criticizing over-testing (which is abusive and counter-productive), not C.C., which is not perfect, but has a lot of positives.

★ Like

Reply

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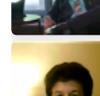
Lloyd Lofthouse says:
October 25, 2015 at 11:48 am

I am not CONFUSING anything. The Common Core Crap and the High Stakes Tests linked to the CCC that deliberately sets an artificial line in the sand that fails children, ranks teachers, fires teachers and closes public schools are all part of the same agenda.

The Common Core Crap was not created by teachers.

The Common Core Crap was created by the testing industry and the tests were part of a tool that was designed to destroy the public schools.

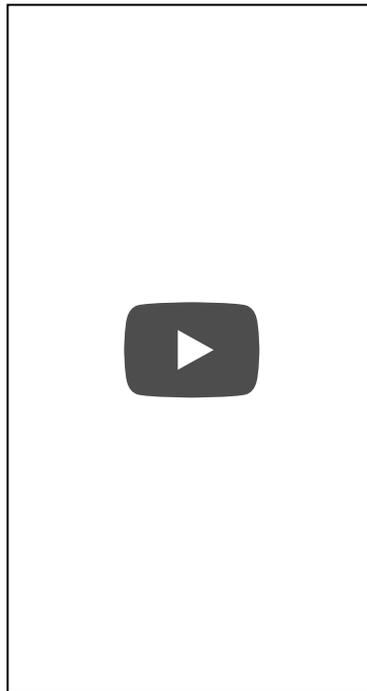
If the CCC national standards had been legitimate they would have NEVER been created in secret where the few people involved had to sign confidentiality agreements to be part of the process.



If the CCC had been legitimate, Bill Gates would not have had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars greasing the skids to get most of the states to sign on before the CCC was even written, because to be legitimated this CCC would have been part of an open, transparent process where representatives from all the stakeholders were involved.

Instead, CCC was wrapped in secrecy and were copyrighted with dire warnings if any of the material was released before they were written and even after the first few years after being written, most of the population in the United States had never even heard of them or the rank and yank and close rules that this duel tool was created for—to destroy the community based, democratic public schools.





The Common Core Crap was funded by Bill Gates and created in secret without input and without testing this hastily tossed together crap in the schools first to see if they worked and iron out any kinks.

For instance, California's legislature through an open democratic process passed its own state standards in 1999 and then spent more than a decade developing them, testing them, and that process included all the stakeholders—parents, teachers, children, etc—in an open, transparent process without any

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money from Bill Gates directing it. I know because I was still in the classroom until 2005 and I attended meetings where we talked about the state's standards. Eventually, the state printed the standards for English and math but the teachers decided what standards they would focus on. We met by departments and used the results from the previous year to discover where we were weak and then focused on curriculum in a cooperative process that would plug those gaps the test results revealed.

The Common Core Crap and its partner in crime the high stakes tests do not even attempt to do that. The test results are locked in a vault and kept secret. Teachers, parents and children have no idea what their strengths or weaknesses are.

In California, teachers were not ranked and fired although schools that did

not improve could be
taken over by the state
and Compton Unified was
taken over eventually, but
the state could do no
better than the original
elected school board and
its administrators and
Compton is a tough
community with a high
level of poverty and street
gang violence and the
state appointed
superintend resigned after
one or two attempts on
his life after he played the
role of a ruthless dictator
riding roughs over
teachers, children and
parents. The next state
appointment dictator
resigned too because he
also ended up fearing for
his life. The people of
Compton resented the
fact that the state took
over their community
based, democratic
schools.

I'm still waiting for Newark
in New Jersey to follow in
the shoes of Compton
and react in open
rebellion as some of the
people in Compton did

back in the early part of
the 21st century.

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



stacey says:

October 25, 2015 at 11:49 am

Common core requirements are **INSANELY** developmentally inappropriate for early childhood (through age 8). The early reading expectations can actually cause brain damage in children whose brains have not developed enough to read yet. Reading, like walking and talking, is a developmental skill that can't happen until a child's brain and body are ready. Kids won't learn to read sooner just because you have "high expectations" and "highly qualified teachers."

The saddest thing about our educational system right now is that it looks at normal children and calls them failures, and calls

good teachers failures,
because someone
somewhere decided that
all kids have to enter
kindergarten knowing all
their letters and numbers,
colors and shapes. That
they have to leave
kindergarten reading at a
certain level. That they
have to attain these
reading benchmarks on
an arbitrary timeline with
no regard for normal brain
development that doesn't
match curriculum-
mandated deadlines.

Kindergarteners should
not be expected to
"reason abstractly" (a
common core
benchmark). They should
not be expected to enter
kindergarten knowing the
difference between
opinion and informative
writing (another CC
expectation). Children's
brains are not developed
enough at those ages to
perform those skills, and
all the "expectations" and
"qualifications" in the
world won't change that.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)



camoorby@aol.com says:

October 25, 2015 at 1:19 pm

Michael Corliss..There are ..NO positives in any of CC. dr. James Milgram , Michelle Malkin, Peg Luk, Charlotte Iserbyt and Dr. Duke Pesta are just a handful of many professionals EXPOSING CC.confuse our children with a math that makes no sense at all and then tell our children holders that their parents aren' t smart enough to help them and then say only teachers know so trust only in teachers is turning our kids against us. COMMON CORE has NOTHING positive in any of it!

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



patriotmongoose says:

October 23, 2015 at 9:28 pm

Reblogged this on [patriotmongoose](#) and commented:

This is just so sad.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Reply



Poetic Justice says:

October 23, 2015 at 9:36 pm

I am still sobbing....

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Reply



Poetic Justice says:

October 24, 2015 at 12:28 pm

Thank you.

★ Like

Reply

Laura Oosse McCrary says:

October 23, 2015 at 10:06 pm

I am hurting for this teacher, but I hurt even more for the children who lose. Not by the teacher leaving as much as by the very reason this teacher left. Ed Reform is robbing our kids of the kind of future we want our children to have.

<http://unitedforflchildren.com/research/>

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Reply



revels1 says:

October 24, 2015 at 12:16 am

Whoa

But the thing is the system is going crap everywhere. It's like everything has a problem. What do we do?

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Reply



Poetic Justice says:

October 24, 2015 at 10:51 am

Say No – Opt Out –
RESISTANCE MATTERS –
even if it is only in little ways.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Reply



revels1 says:

October 24, 2015 at 11:05 am

Valid point

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

Michael Corliss says:

October 24, 2015 at 11:21 pm

The good news is, the system is not failing. This is a myth that has been debunked many times.

The problem arises when scores from other nations (who wisely do not test kids who are ill, not native speakers, mentally challenged, etc.) with scores from the U.S., where, by law, we test everybody.

When the properly selected scores are compared, America does just fine. You can Google it-the facts are readily available.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

[Reply](#)

Brian Popovich says:

October 24, 2015 at 11:05 am

I'm confused by the headline. She resigned her position as a teacher, right? She was not a member of the Board, was she? It kind of makes a big difference, doesn't it?

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

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Poetic Justice says:

October 24, 2015 at 12:30 pm

I think she considered herself working for the BOE as a teacher. I just repeated her words.

★ Like

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Mike Twarog says:

October 24, 2015 at 3:16 pm

Bill ,your reply is not entirely true. States took TARP bail out money (Race To The Top) and would keep getting it if they signed up for the testing that goes with Common Core. Now, states are black-mailed into keeping Common Core or they lose Washington DC money. With Common Core has come the goofy curriculum designed to prepare for the Pearson tests. The grades K – 3 standards and curriculum are clearly age inappropriate. The Common Core math is complete trash. They waste students' time memorizing

Common Core terminology that does not exist in real world math. The only entities that benefit from Common Core are the testing companies, IT companies because they have to install WiFi access points in all the schools to connect the Google Chromebooks for all the test prep.... and on and on.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

[Reply](#)



Mindi Shelow says:

[October 24, 2015 at 3:44 pm](#)

Mr. Lockhart, I have no idea where you get your information. Teachers now have almost no say over what is taught or how it is taught or when it is taught anymore. No one I know has taught by rote memorization in years. Every year we are given new, untested programs and are expected to teach them instantly regardless of how poorly they are constructed, how complex they are, how much background is lacking. I teach first. The math program expects me to have my 5/6 years doing algebra and 2 step word problems when they have not yet mastered either addition, subtraction or

READING the word problems.

When we questioned how we are expected to teach this

inappropriate material, we were told "It's the STANDARDS!"

Almost half my class failed the first test because there were so many concepts introduced in a single unit without a single skill being mastered. How can you say, "We finally have a way to at least determine if our schools are performing properly in the teaching of the most basic of skills" when 3rd graders are being tested with 5th grade reading passages? We are no longer testing or teaching basic skills, and they are not being given the developmental time to master them. It's push, push, push till they shut down completely. They didn't get to learn in developmentally appropriate ways like learning through play because of the academic demands that all K should be able to exit reading and should sit still for 45 minutes, and we are seeing more and more behavior problems because we have robbed them of the joys of learning. Would you consider your child a failure if he/she didn't walk by 11 months, talk by 15 months, lose teeth by 5?

Children learn skills and develop

at different times and rates from birth on. Stop labeling teachers AND students as failures for biological differences. Let teachers have input. Let teachers teach with creativity, and bring joy back to the classroom.

★ Liked by [2 people](#)

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Lloyd Lofthouse says:

October 24, 2015 at 6:28 pm

rote memorization was gone before I started teaching in 1975. Instead, the focus was problem solving, critical thinking and writing across the curriculum because writing also improves literary skills.

Bill Lockhart doesn't know what he is taking about when he says, "The problem they're trying to solve is the large number of students who graduate with 12 years of free public education, but who can't read, write, or do basic math."

Back in the 1980s, California instituted competency tests where students in high school

could not graduate unless they passed all those tests to prove that they read at a minimum competency level of at least 9th grade in math and reading.

That is one of the reasons why the national on-time high school graduation rate in the United States was stuck in the 70% range for decades and only reaches 90% by age 25 for those students who did not graduate from high school on time but refused to give up. It just took them longer to meet the requirements of high school graduation and high school graduation was never meant to reach college ready but a minimum competency of at least 9th grade in California. But in Texas under Governor G. W. Bush, that competency level was set by his administration at 4th grade level so Bush could brag about the jump in high school graduation rates during his first run for president.

Each state sets its own minimum competencies or doesn't. The teachers and the school are powerless when it

comes to what state
legislatures and governors
mandate as education
legislation.

★ Like

Reply



stacey says:

October 25, 2015 at 11:54 am

Amen!! Hear hear!! From a
fellow struggling teacher.

★ Liked by [1 person](#)

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Pingback: [Today I resigned from being a
teacher. | stopcommoncorenys](#)



Debbie Baxter says:

October 25, 2015 at 11:53 am

This is in conference with the
House when it passes and is
signed ... the total Federal take-
over of our local public schools
will be codified into Federal Law.
I bet you thought this was
unConstitutional — both US and
States' Constitutions — right?

~~~~~  
~~~~~[\[https://poeticjusticect.com/2015/10/23/today-i-resigned-from-the-school-board-from-teacher-wendy-bradshaw-phd/?blogsub=confirming#blog\\\_subscription-2\]\(https://poeticjusticect.com/2015/10/23/today-i-resigned-from-the-school-board-from-teacher-wendy-bradshaw-phd/?blogsub=confirming#blog\_subscription-2\)](http://edlibertywatc<br/>h.org/2015/10/for-immediate-</a></p></div>
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release-national-coalition-
opposes-no-child-left-behind-
rewrite-conference-bill/

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Ross Blankert says:

October 25, 2015 at 7:04 pm

I quit teaching because the principal and superintendent were morons but acted like bullies. I was getting paid so little that when I quit teaching high school math I doubled my income by selling ice cream and frozen foods with Schwan's Sales enterprises. Everyone who has been to college knows that the least academic folks end up as teachers. I ended with degrees in math, statistics and vocational education training and development. I am a licensed engineer on ships now retired. Education department in colleges is the easiest curriculum you can get. There is no comparison in difficulty to engineering school. Engineering is impossible for education students.

★ Like

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drect727 says:

October 26, 2015 at 8:38 am

Reblogged this on [David R. Taylor-Thoughts on Education.](#)

★ Like

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Howard Solomon says:

October 26, 2015 at 9:51 am

The sad thing is that Ms Bradshaw will no longer be on the board. I agree with everything that she says, but do not agree that abandoning the board of education is the thing to do. That's why I ran for, and won, a seat on my local board of education. Mumbling curses to myself every time I hear of another abuse of learning committed in the name of corporate profitability does nothing to slow the growth of the education industry. And in the face of this growth, we need people who are going to stand up to the corporations and tell them that we will NOT recommend their endless flow of tests in lieu of real education. Running from the board is much less of an

answer than running for the board. Explaining a "no" vote on a new curriculum item to other board members results in a loss by a vote of 5-2. But it used to be 6-1. And if the explanation against the industry is spoken to other board members by each of the two, the next vote will be 3-4. We need to keep educators on the boards. We need to run and get elected, taking the decision making authority back from the business interests that believe they know better.

★ Like

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Pingback: [Abusive Testing: Why One Teacher Resigned | Spears Strategy](#)

Pingback: [2015 Medley #34 | Live Long and Prosper](#)



Crystal says:

[November 2, 2015 at 8:12 pm](#)

Coming from a parent with the same observations of the public school system, I hope and pray that there are people like this teaching my children and fighting the fight that needs to happen to make our school systems better.

If all the sane people quit, who
will lead the revolution?

★ Like

Reply



grandmashirley77 says:

November 6, 2015 at 1:08 am

Close the Department of
Education! Save a whopping
71.9 Billion Dollars per year!
Return regulation, planning and
supervision to our States where
they closely reflect the desires
and priorities of the community!
Institute a Voucher system so
that parents can choose where
their children are educated
and/or choose to home school!
Church and Private Schools will
flourish! The costs will be greatly
reduced when we educate
instead of Indoctrinate! By and
large, our "dumbed down"
educational system have NO
COMPETITION! Their primary
focus is INDOCTRINATION, NOT
EDUCATION..

In 1782, the United States
Congress voted this resolution:
"The Congress of the United
States recommends and
approves the Holy Bible for use
in all schools." Schools in

America originally were established with the focus of Reading Writing And Arithmetic! Originally "Church Based" with the desire that Everyone could read the BIBLE! If the current educational FAILURE of the government were discontinued, a comprehensive voucher system giving parents the "choice" of where their children were educated and/or "homeschooled" and the cost per student were paid to the parent via a voucher, per child, we would see Homeschooling, Private and Church Schools flourish and our children's educational training Excel!

http://citizeninitiatives.org/School_Voucher_Amendment.htm

★ Like

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