

Parents, Teachers, School Boards, Unions

Back in the 1970's I was sued by the AFL/CIO's teacher's union at a private college I was teaching at. Fortunately a young lawyer wanted to take on the union for free and won the case.

According to the suit I was an "agent provocateur" for the administration. I wasn't but what I saw in the handwriting on the wall was that if the administration gave into the 400 frivolous complaints (and they were frivolous and stupid), the union would turn around and file a second set of complaints. I told the faculty that this would happen if the administration capitulated and that the second round would close the college. The reason being that as a private college they relied on donations (especially industry donations) and that those donations would dry up. Long story, short, this is exactly what happened and 200 instructors were immediately out of a job and there was no union funding to help them cope. They asked, why did this happen to them?

The simple answer is that they did not look beyond their greed. Today the teacher unions are playing the same game with our parents and children. As many of you know, long story, short, the children are the ones to suffer, and if they don't get the education they need, our country adversely suffers, not in the short term but long term.

So what can be done?

There are two relatively simple answers to this situation. However, while simple, many parents will not implement the answers because they probably are not that dedicated to their children. That is a harsh statement, but today, in our current society, it is very true. For most people, including parents, altruism does not rank high on their list of concerns. The Bible tells us to "love thy neighbor." What this means is that we should show selfless concern for the well-being of others. We are a selfish people who generally do not work with our neighbors to better our communities.

If we are truly concerned for our children, parents and others need to step up to the plate and stop making excuses. Excuses are nothing more than a means for not getting involved. Thus, we have to oppose the teacher unions because their interest is not our children, nor that of our teachers. We need to educate our teachers and help them realize that the unions do not really help them. In fact, the mentality of union leadership, in my opinion, is nothing more than that of gang leaders. Think about it. If a union member decides to go back into the classroom without permission of the union, what happens to that member? The retaliatory reactions vary from membership cancellation (sound familiar – culture cancel) to outright physical and societal attacks on the teachers. So the first answer is to educate the teachers and get them out of the unions and back into the classroom.

The second answer is equally simple. Every school district in the country, has policies using substitutes when a teacher out of the school. It is time for parents to go into the

schools and become substitute teachers. The funny thing is, most union contracts have clauses for not using “scabs” to replace worker. However, public school teachers are essentially government employees. School boards need to use the law to the benefit of our children. For example, consider the simple act of closing an elementary school, renaming it, and opening it up as middle or high school. This puts the elementary teachers out of a job (oh, where’s the union) but they can be hired back as non-union members. Or parents can substitute. If a school board does not act, the public can call for their “impeachment” and replace them with people who will act. Essentially the people, parents and voting age students need to step up to the plate and make the changes.

There are many other solutions such as parents suing the unions in their district. There is no reason why parents and the public cannot use the same tactics that unions use to force their agenda onto the public. If people are so concerned about the present and future well being of our children and America, they need to get off their hind ends and start standing up for what is right. Education should not be a political issue, but it is. Education should be an apolitical issue, controlled by local government and not national unions with their agendas for power and wealth.