

From: [Tomas McFie](#)
To: [Denis, Moises Senator](#); [Bilbray-Axelrod, Shannon Assemblywoman](#); [Buck, Carrie Senator](#); [Dondero Loop, Marilyn Senator](#); [Hansen, Alexis Assemblywoman](#); [Hardy, Melissa Assemblywoman](#); [Miller, Brittney Assemblywoman](#); [Thomas, Claire Assemblywoman](#); [Interim Education](#)
Subject: August 9th, Education Committee Meeting
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Greetings Fellow Nevadans and elected representatives,

There is a lot of antagonism, anger, and angst in America today. Some use these emotions for their own political gain and should be ashamed of themselves. Nevertheless, these emotions are real and wise leadership will do well to appreciate that these emotions when expressed are most likely disassociated from the real reason(s) these emotions are so prevalent. For the most part, these emotions are due to people no longer believing or trusting their elected representative(s). There has been a disconnect and most people no longer believe their elected representatives listen or care about the same things they elected them for.

In light of this, I want to thank Chairman Denis for his civility and strong leadership during last evening's meeting. I believe you prevented emotions from creating havoc. Furthermore, if others who are in leadership positions would demonstrate the kind of leadership I witness in Chairman Denis last evening, the damage being perpetrated by emotional outbursts would be dampened and not so disrupting or damaging, to our self-governance.

That being said, I was initially pleased to see that both the teacher's union and the think tank presenters were in agreement with the public concerning electing school board trustees. Obviously, the reason(s) for their agreement are entirely different than those of the public. Still, it was good to know the public isn't going to have to fight this union or this particular think tank on this issue.

As far as school board trustees' training, accountability, and governance are concerned, there is no confounding the original intent that established our ability to self-govern.

1. Training must be constrained to educating trustees on their fiduciary responsibilities, and how to conduct orderly, efficient, and constructive meetings. Any further training will be used for political gain by whichever party is in power at the time.
2. Accountability of each trustee must remain first to the public, and secondarily to the legislature. If this order is reversed the limited form of government we all hold dear and respect will be compromised.
3. Governance of the board, and for all elected representatives of the people, must be by the people, for the people, not by edict. This is perhaps the strongest reason why school board trustees must remain elected representatives by the people and not appointed. Appointees have no accountability to the people but rather their loyalty is

towards whoever appointed them.

The public knows best how to educate their children and this varies from community to community. The legislature, schools, and school board trustees must remain cognizant of this fact. A fact that *Pink Floyd* keenly sang about in "Just Another Brick in the Wall." The state of Nevada shouldn't be bent on just making another brick in the wall out of our children. This isn't the purpose of education. State-run educational systems tend to involve "thought control and dark sarcasm in the classroom" by their nature and this is the reason for a school board that remains accountable to the people, not just the legislature.

Supertramp sang even more pointedly about when bureaucrats, legislatures, unions, teachers, and special interest groups displace parents of their God-given duty to oversee their child(s) education. You might remember their famous lyrics,

"Then they sent me away to teach me how to be sensible, logical, oh, responsible, practical.

And they showed me a world where I could be dependable, oh, clinical, oh, intellectual, cynical.

So, watch what you say or they'll be calling you a radical, a liberal, oh, fanatical, criminal.

Oh, won't you sign up your name? We'd like to feel you're acceptable, respectable, oh, presentable, a vegetable."

These lyrics describe exactly the type of schooling system the think tank, which presented last evening, would love to create in Nevada. A school system where everybody comes out, thinking, looking, acting, and behaving exactly as they have been molded. Bricks, vegetables, unable to reason, be creative, imaginative, or self-sufficient. This ideology must be resisted, rejected, and defeated in Nevada.

Finally, as I left the meeting I spoke with one of the union representatives in the parking lot. The derogatory and racial inferences which were used to justify the unions' position on why teachers should be allowed on the school board, why the number of trustees should be increased on the board, and why Clark County School District should NOT be broken up to give more representation to minorities and different communities was appalling. To allow the union to have any input on how the children of Nevada are educated would be giving credibility to the rancor this union representative voiced to me.

Again thank you for hosting this meeting and allowing the public to attend and present. I trust you will be wise in voting in favor of the people of Nevada as you consider your duties to uphold and faithfully defend the Constitution of the United States as well as the great state of Nevada.

Dr. Tomas P McFie

Life Benefits, LLC

p. 702-660-7000

f. 702-960-4434

www.life-benefits.com

Send Mail to:

35 E Horizon Ridge Pkwy, #110-53

Henderson, NV 89002



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