

Prior to the arrival of Dwight Jones and Pedro Martinez, CCSD was the fastest improving district in the United States. But their interest was on themselves building resumes and networking. This attitude continues today, while the news media and business community have been hoodwinked into believing the Governor's educational reforms are helping students; school administrators, teachers, parents and students know differently – they know firsthand. During the last 6 years, students in southern Nevada have consistently been shortchanged. In essence – set up to fail.

I am disheartened to see the very people responsible for these inequities are still in educational leadership positions – the Governor, Dale Erquiaga and Mike Robison. These people have been and are more concerned with their networking, resumes and political futures than students experience in a classroom. I'm concerned these architects of NV's dive to 50th position nationwide with respect to education are still influencing public education policy.

When I speak of public education, let's be clear, my thoughts, just like the thoughts of parents, revolve around their kids' experiences in a classroom learning to read, write learn math and science. These architects of doom are clearly not addressing classroom education.

Fully six years of students have lost opportunities and had their education jeopardized and diminished, these 6 years experiences cannot be made up.

In Governor Sandoval's first budget, he transferred funding designated for professional development in the new common core standards in math and ELA to the employer of a senator's wife so he could implement one of his educational reforms. Then he had the audacity to complain when test scores were low – blaming school principals and teachers for not teaching to standards when he was responsible for taking away needed training.

Listening to the Governor and his former state sup, whose only qualification was he was a boyhood friend of the Governor, NV has placed great emphasis on STEM. But the reality is different. His budgets again contradict his words. With the rollout of the new science standards nationwide, The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the southern Nevada school districts of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral and Nye counties got zero funding to roll out those standards. That funding went to another non-profit

again demonstrating the importance of cronyism in this administration. Will the Governor again complain of student performance in math, ELA and now science?

Session after session, I have testified that the state should have science trainers with expertise. That is, a chemistry trainer for chemistry, a physics trainer for physics, a biology trainer for biology, get the idea?? The Governor, Dale and Mike haven't got it figured out yet.

So, the state endures \$1/2 Billion dollar tax increase, what's the end result? We've got programs; Zoom, Victory Schools, ESAs, TLCs, NEPF, Achievement Districts, accountability programs, etc often pitting student needs against each other. That has left the state with

1. Classrooms without teachers
2. Classrooms with inexperienced teachers
3. Increased class sizes
4. Few, if any resources
5. Program cuts
6. Insufficient or non-existent training in new math and ELA common core standards.
7. No science training for the new Next Generation Science Standards for so. NV (Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral & Nye counties) which represents 80% of the state.

These people are responsible for public education's demise – not local school districts. These problems start in Carson City.

Yet there are millions going to his "buddies". The funding given to TNTF for example could have paid for 5 science trainers for 2 years. But, these leaders' choices speak loudly about their lack of support for classroom education.

Too many students don't have teachers or have first or second year teachers who don't have the content knowledge, instructional or assessment strategies to help students learn and clearly don't have the resources to support those nonexistent strategies. I only hope they are satisfied with their legacy.

This Governor was embarrassed, as he should have been, when he didn't acknowledge a teacher shortage until 8 days were left in the session. Then

his solution was to pay first year teachers more than second and third year teachers by offering a bonus – a real morale booster.

Then, when he was getting questioned on how there was an increase of \$1/2 billion dollars in taxes why wasn't there money for teacher raises? Rather than just admit he didn't have it in the budget – not a priority, he met secretly with the teachers' association and school district and pressured them to increase teacher pay that had to be accomplished by cutting programs, sweeping budgets and increasing class sizes so he would not be criticized.

These three architects of public education failure; the Governor, former childhood buddy Erquiaga and Mike Robison should be wearing badges that read *Me & My Friends First – Students Last*.

I can only hope this new group doesn't end up like other business groups that formed with catchy names but led astray by people with their own agendas – not improving the classroom experiences of our children.

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