

From: Michael Soltman

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015

To: sharon.nelson@leg.wa.gov; eileen.cody@leg.wa.gov; Fitzgibbon, Rep. Joe

Subject: What? Please Don't Do This!! - Washington State Democratic Party Committee Votes to Reject Common Core - Living in Dialogue

Dear Sharon, Eileen and Joe,

I am just shocked and disappointed that it appears that our state Democratic Party has passed a resolution that "roundly condemns the Common Core Standards!" See this link:

<http://www.livingindialogue.com/washington-state-democratic-party-committee-vote-rejects-common-core/>

Further, there seems to be misplaced pride in it being the "first time a statewide Democratic Party committee has taken a public position against the Common Core, and it happened in the back yard of the Gates Foundation...."

I urge you to reconsider this position. The Common Core is the most comprehensive and realistic set of standards we have had since ed. reform began in this state in 1993. Our teachers and administrators are fully supportive of these standards and value the clarity, alignment, and quality they provide. Our districts across the state have invested thousands of hours learning the standards, expanding teaching and learning strategies, and aligning our curricula to the Common Core. It is no time to change direction based upon the short sighted, uniformed opinions of a few.

The testing demands of the Department of Education is a whole other story. Certainly NCLB is failed policy and Congress needs to rewrite the law. But, let's not confuse the federal testing requirements with the powerful standards and instructional vision the Common Core standards provide.

At your request I'm happy to discuss this further, or to help coordinate a discussion with my fellow superintendents and teachers to help you develop a deeper understanding of the value of the Common Core.

Sharon and Eileen, I deeply appreciate the time you took to visit our district in November, and Joe, I look forward to seeing you during the session. Please let me know what I can do to help redirect this discussion in support of the Common Core.

Best to you,

Michael

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Michael Soltman

Superintendent

Vashon Island School District