

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17

The Good Stuff Is Not Enough

At the most recent School Board meeting, a community member rebuked his fellow attendees because they were not acknowledging the good things that are happening in schools. Yes, the teaching staff, the administration, the school board *are* doing good things, some good things. But there is more to it than that. There are bad things, too, lots of bad things. Things that overwhelm the good things like a tidal wave, a tsunami, a landslide. None of us want to say this, but it needs to be said. And we should have said it years ago. The failure is ours. We the People were complacent.

We the People liked being able to have our kids taken care of by experts. We liked being able to have our kids educated by experts. We neglected to make sure that the experts shared our values for family-first, parent-oriented, national-pride, fundamentals-focused learning and environment. We assumed that the experts did share our values. It was convenient because it was easier to say nothing out of “general kindness and decency in recognizing that we can disagree but [they] still do a lot of good stuff” as was said at the meeting by this member of the public.

We think of the school not as The School, an institution controlled by a worldview, but as the people we know who work in the physical buildings as teachers and administrators and elected officials. They are our family, our friends, our neighbors, our fellow worshippers, our religious leaders, our coaches, our coworkers, the parents of our kids’ friends, especially as we live in small town America. We can, and do, put aside our political views to work together harmoniously in our communities. We sign our neighbor’s absentee vote envelope even though we know that he has just canceled out our own vote. We steer away from political comments and jokes in mixed company. We ignore our child telling us that his teacher affirmed a student who tore down the “vote no to referendum” signs on a lakefront property in front of the visibly upset elderly owner. When do we stop ignoring?

Do we ignore the teacher that brings her class of CNA students tromping into the female restroom knowing it was occupied, then saying, “Someone is doing something heavy in here!” and then waiting outside the door where the student has to walk the plank between the parting sea of students? Do we ignore a program that excludes parents as a resource for their sons and the people that coaches should

turn to when their players have difficult questions? Do we ignore the program that normalizes “hooking up” and that defines respect as accepting women’s or girls’ feelings, opinions and experiences as true in the spirit of the “believe all women” movement? Do we ignore activities, lessons and curriculum that soft pedal a worldview that is contrary to our own? Do we ignore teachers telling their students in science class that they need to get vaccinated or strong-arm our kids by showing videos of young children on ventilators with the comment that this will be them if they don’t get vaccinated? Do we ignore a student teacher making it clear that he is on the side of an open southern border during a class debate? Do we ignore a teacher acting on the word of a 4th grade girl that she is a boy despite her traditional girl’s clothing and no word from the parents? Do



we ignore the tidbits dropped by our elementary school children that they were all on “hallway pause” (lockdown) again? Do we ignore the content of the almost infinite number of books to which our kids have access through the schools - even when many of them promote values harmful to their emotional, social and physical wellbeing? Do we ignore the subtle, but ceaseless messaging the school district promotes through its “Family” tab? Do we ignore the teaching of

intersectionality and privilege instead of meritocracy and personal responsibility? Do we ignore the fact that our test scores hover at or just below the state’s 50% mark? We have ignored the shift in emphasis from academic performance to social construct issues. What else have we ignored and where does it stop?

Well, a growing number of parents and community members have stopped ignoring. We thought that “experts” knew better than we and that they did a better job raising and teaching our kids. We see the error of our trusting ways. We put the outward signs of being Christians - projecting general kindness, decency and respect - ahead of the foundational principles of Christianity and Absolute Truth. No amount of innuendo, lecturing and pressure will cause us to accept the autocratic and singular design to engineer our children’s values right out from under our noses. We the People must speak up; our children and our children’s children depend on it.

Want to contribute?

Have you uncovered an informative article that you would like to share with the Take Back Team? All you need to do is summarize the article in your opinion and email it to us to get it published.

takebackteam@gmail.com - www.takebackteam.com