

**Newspaper Coverage Lacking Content**

Our Rhinelander area newspaper generally appears to be quite biased when reporting on school board meeting issues. In an article covering the annual meeting held in October, nearly every comment was attributed to one person; although, if you were in attendance, you would know that this was clearly not the case. Apparently, the reporter covering the meeting, Jamie Taylor, didn't feel the necessity to find out the actual names of the others who spoke. Nor did he take the time to investigate the why of particular subjects resulting in lengthy discussion. A printed correction was requested but never produced.

Below is an email to Northwoods River News reporters after their November 23rd front-page article about the November school board meeting. (Printed by permission of the author.)

*Jamie and Heather,*

*I have been a subscriber and advertiser in your Northwoods River News for over 20 years. I feel a strong, "factual" newspaper is an important asset in our Northwoods community.*

*I want to comment on your November 23, 2021, front page article entitled "Former SDR teacher speaks out at school board meeting, urges focus on 'common ground'".*

*Your headline and article focused on Gary Zarda's comments, the least consequential words spoken that night. Least consequential because we were not at the school board meeting to debate good teacher/bad teacher...we were there to discuss absurd school policy related to Covid.*

*You should have described that the room was filled, standing room only with over 100 parents and residents who applauded loud support for several of us who spoke passionately to the school board about "absurd" covid protocol in our schools.*

*"Absurd" protocol like one parent's complaint about the school masking and sending home for quarantine her small child who had been contact traced to another kid who tested positive for Covid. This was "absurd" because the child was traumatized when removed from the classroom and masked by teachers. Also "absurd" because that parent had another older child in the same school who was not required to quarantine !! These kids live together and yet one of them is sent home for quarantine and the other is allowed back in school every day !! Your article ignored any detail of this mother's plea for common sense Covid protocol.*

*Your article quoted a person who stated "the pandemic that never was is over" but no mention of that person's explanation that CDC reports 99.5% of people who contract Covid survive it and that Covid is not very dangerous to kids under 19. He also said that although even one death is one too many, CDC reports that about 500 kids have died from Covid in the past 21 months and during the same time about 1,200 kids died from the common flu. Again, absurd Covid protocols because we don't contact trace and quarantine for the flu which is much more dangerous to kids than Covid. Not a word of this in your article.*



*Your report should have quoted a person who complained to the school board about teachers outrageously advocating in the classroom that kids get vaccinated, citing one case of a teacher showing to students' pictures of young kids on ventilators. This person complained that the decision to vaccinate our kids is a*

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*parental decision. not the school's decision. But again, not a word about this parent complaint in your article.*

*In the last paragraph you write about one person who spoke after Zarda and was concerned that "not all of the board members are listening to parents and taxpayers". That person described pornographic books he has uncovered in our middle school library, pornography that, in his own words, he would be too embarrassed to read to the school board. Again, not one word of this in your report. You did mention in the beginning of your article that there was a complaint about "the content of books available in school libraries"....ARE YOU KIDDING ME?? The person was complaining about PORNOGRAPHY available to our kids in school libraries and you describe it as "complaint about content" !! Do you really call that objective reporting??*

*Your article gave all the air in the room to Zarda, whose words fell on deaf ears in the room. I say his words fell on deaf ears based upon sighs, eye rolling and lack of applause in the room as people listened and couldn't believe their ears. NOBODY IN THE ROOM WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT TEACHERS...THEY WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT COVID PROTOCOLS FORCED ON TEACHERS OR BEING PRACTICED BY TEACHERS.*

*To be factual, your front-page headline should have been entitled:  
"Standing room only crowd of residents attend SDR board meeting to speak against Covid quarantine protocols, complain about teachers advocating in the classroom for Covid vaccines and complain about pornographic books in school libraries". That would have factually described the school board meeting.*

*As you've seen at recent school board meetings, we've grown to be a very large group of concerned SDR parents and residents. After reading your recent school board newspaper articles, most in our group feel you are in the pocket of the liberal school administration.*

*I believe you do nothing to increase the circulation of your local newspaper with liberal biased reporting.*

*We aren't asking you to write articles favoring our conservative views. We ask you to report accurately. Zarda's comments were a "nothing burger" in relation to other important matters covered by residents at the school board meeting. Your front-page article was more of an Editorial than a news report of what transpired at the school board meeting.*

*To write a front-page report that gives most of your print to a former teacher nobody was listening to...and ignores the real complaints from SDR parents and residents is the kind of biased news reporting we'd expect from CNN.*

*I don't watch CNN for the same reason I don't drink toilet water!!*

*Thank you,  
SDR Student's Parent*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**THE NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING IS MONDAY, DEC 20<sup>TH</sup> AT THE RHINELANDER HIGH SCHOOL (JOHN & DORI BROWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER). CHECK THE [SDR WEBSITE](#) FOR A COPY OF THE AGENDA AND MEETING TIME/LOCATION SPECIFICS.**

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