

August 22, 2013

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TO: The honorable Paul L Clymer, Andrew Dinniman, Mike Folmer and James R. Roebuck, Jr.
Mr. Larry Wittig, State Board of Education
Mr. David Sumner, Independent Regulatory Review Commission

On August 20, 2013 my wife and I were at a well attended public meeting in Emmaus, PA on the subject of Common Core implementation in Pennsylvania. This was the third Common Core meeting my wife and I have attended in eastern Pennsylvania in the past 2 months.

There were **no** advocates for the implementation of Common Core at any of these meetings. The attendees covered a wide range of citizens; parents, grandparents, local school board members, teachers, township officials and members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The concerns expressed at these meetings will not be repeated since you have heard them from both your constituents as well as those that have appeared before education committees in Harrisburg.

For the life of me I cannot understand why, with all of the opposition to Common Core, Pennsylvania is moving this train down the tracks at breakneck speed. Local school districts are already in the implementation mode based on directives from PDE. New curriculum and graduation policies are being adopted along with the beginnings of what will be significant un-funded implementation expenses that the local taxpayers will be on the foot to cover.


The basic assumption around Common Core is flawed and professionals in the field will tell anyone that will listen that a system that is predicated on sameness for all is doomed to failure.

Those of you that are elected by the people need to stop passing meaningless political cover resolutions like House 338 and step up to the plate and do the right thing. The right thing is to stop this train right now. The proposed revisions to Chapter 4 that will be in front of the Pennsylvania Board of Education next month should **not** be adopted. You need to make a basic decision and the sooner the better; say **no** to Common Core in its entirety or lay out changes to Chapter 4 that make sense along with a realistic implementation timeline

It is my hope that Common Core implementation has not already gone so far that the local school districts, teachers and students cannot recover from what has already been dictated. As you full well know, there is no real local control over the aspects of Common Core. Yes, the published words say there is but in reality the model curriculums in SAS framework will in fact be the standard.

Please listen to the people and not to the "know-it-all" that consistently put all of us into positions we end up regretting.

Sincerely,


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CC:

Rosemary Brown, State Representative
Lisa Baker, State Senator
William E. Harner, Acting Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Education
Tom Corbett, Governor

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