

Members of the Nevada State Board of Education;

June 3, 2021

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the implementation of AB 469.

I believe that CCSD's current administration is doing everything within their power to undermine and lessen the intended impact of AB 469. Their current 'one size fits all' approach is harmful to schools and is the complete opposite of the directives set forth in AB 469. Educators have worked hard for many years to have the autonomy prescribed in this law. I would like to point out four recent examples of how CCSD has chosen to not follow AB 469.

1. Making purchases. There are school throughout CCSD that attempted to purchase a data retrieving service through Data Insights. Despite Data Insights being an approved vendor, and the purchase being approved by the School Organization Team, CCSD would not allow the order to be processed.
2. Staffing. CCSD continues to force principals to take staff members they did not hire.
3. Funding. CCSD has consistently attempted to deny schools rollover money.
4. Zone Variances. Building principals have always had the autonomy to approve or deny zone variance requests. CCSD is currently in the process of changing that policy to make it so zone variance requests are approved at a level higher than the building principal.

I truly believe in the expression 'actions speak louder than words'. CCSD's administration can 'say' all they want about equity, doing what is right for students, and student success, but their 'actions' tell quite a different story.

The decision by CCSD Executive Leadership to ship much needed funds from schools on the east side of town to schools on the west side of town is one huge example of their actions not matching their words. CCSD created the Academic Support Fund to help soften the financial impact to schools that the elimination of SB 178 caused. However, in doing so, they shifted over \$500,000 from Bailey Middle School to much less needy schools on the west side of town. This tells me that when they say they are doing what's right for kids, they mean they are doing what's right for SOME kids. They tell the community that they are doing what's right for all students and creating a more equitable environment. We can see through their actions that's not how it really is.

My attempts to get Jason Goudie to reverse course and not take funds from needy schools in the east to give to schools in affluent areas started in January 2021 and is well documented. We have contacted School Board Trustees, Legislators, a variety of stakeholders, and the media. Unfortunately, no one has been able to assist us as this massive injustice has been allowed to continue.

During my face to face conversation with Mr. Goudie, he straight up told my SOT Chair and me that "in funding there are winners and losers". He doubled down on that statement later in the conversation when I tried to explain to him that research indicated that schools in low socioeconomic parts of town need additional funds to be successful. After he again told me that "there are winners and losers," I asked him to explain why all the "losers" were schools on the east side of town and all the "winners" were schools on the west side of town.

Without question, Mr. Goudie knows finance very well. However, he knows nothing about what it takes to educate children in areas of poverty. Mr. Goudie's actions advise us that he does not care in the slightest about meeting the needs of students in schools that serve 95% children of color. Therefore, for CCSD Executive Leadership to proclaim they, "care about doing what's right for kids," is just plain not true. At least not ALL kids. It does appear they care about doing what's right for a certain segment of our student population.

CCSD talks a great game about making sure there is equity within the district and wanting all children to be successful. However, the actions of Mr. Goudie, who happens to control CCSD's purse strings, tell a very different story. He sits on the state commission to help create equity in education funding throughout Nevada so he should know better.

Thank you

Dr. Darryl Wyatt
Principal
Bailey Middle School