

From: Linda Moran <[REDACTED]>
Subject: **FW: Interest in your fight**
Date: June 15, 2007 6:32:00 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]

Jeanne, this is Linda Moran. I'm one of the concerned math moms in Ridgewood and a friend of Liz Gnall. I was quoted in the New York Times article yesterday. The timing of your email is great. Our BOE will announce on Monday (and vote on) a focus group to study the math concerns further. It seems they're finally at least trying to give the appearance of listening to us.

They are selecting two parents from each elementary school to be on the focus group—one who signed the petition, and one who did not. I have been selected to represent Travell School (as a petition signer of course). Travell School is the one getting the most attention right now, and which was mentioned in the New York Times article.

The prospect of attending the first meeting this coming Wednesday night seems daunting. I could use all the advice you have for me. They have not told me anything about how the meeting will be run, except that they have hired a facilitator.

Depending upon the exact subject matter, I might be willing to be interviewed by your Newswire editor, but the timing has to be right as well. I'm thinking maybe we should wait until after the Wednesday meeting to revisit this possibility.

Here's my blog:
<http://eclectic-educator.blogspot.com/>

Regards, Linda Moran

201-445-6563

— Purpose of meeting?
(to look like they
are caring all
views?)

-----Original Message-----

From: Concerned with Math Committee - VORMath
[mailto:vor_mathinfo@optonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2007 10:24 PM
To: Jeanne Allen
Subject: RE: Interest in your fight

Hi

Elizabeth Carson and her support/network from NYCHOLD have been

invaluable. I cannot thank her enough.

As for taking on the establishment, I am no Norma Rae. I just want my kids to be taught math - math as we all think of math.

The win of the first battle has not come without casualties on both sides; as is true with any battle.

I am glad to read that you support proven math approaches. I will visit your web site to learn more for sure.

In affluent communities, you see the problem and most affluent people just throw money at the solution. I can do that too (and am doing that) but because I am who I am, it really just bothered me. That viewpoint does not make me a better person it just represents how I grew up.

My neice is near Fort Meade. My nephew goes to GW in Washington. Small world.

Charter school .. I did not know of the one in Teaneck, but during my research of this I learned of the one in Princeton that had started as a result of wanting more "core knowledge".

As for the story... I am not sure how the establishment of Ridgewood will react to "more" publicity. I have experienced some ugliness first hand so I need to give some more thought to your offer. Does it have to be me or could it be someone else from here to speak with the email Newswire editor?

Regards,
Liz Gnall

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeanne Allen [redacted]@h.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2007 4:02 PM

To: vor_mathinfo@optonline.net

Subject: Interest in your fight

Elizabeth -- I was thrilled to read the NY Times article today and resolved to write you. Then I received Elizabeth Carson's email with the same notice, followed by info on how to reach you.

First, let me say WOW -- I am so thrilled someone has taken on the Ridgewood/Bergen County establishment and won at least the first battle.

Professionally, we have been supportive of proven math approaches (not reform/fuzzy math) through my institution, which advocates for reforms that produce freedom, flexibility and accountability in education. (more on that on our website if you're interested)

As a result of our interest, we first helped boost the visibility of the Mathematically Correct group who in the mid-90s struggled with precisely the same issues you face from their perches in California. It led to a complete revision of the state's math standards, which, while not perfect, are much better than once upon a time. We've tried to articulate often to parents how they can better advocate for good math. And I find from coast to coast that in affluent communities in particular, there are people like you and your friends who understand there's a problem but are often not sure what to do about it. I was in Greenwich a couple of years ago and a full-time Mom who was once a mathematician was appalled at what those very Ridgewood-like schools were doing in math.

I live in Bethesda, MD where the schools and community is very similar to where you live. I had to put my kids in private school because of such issues (although there were others). Yet it killed me initially to do because I grew up where you live and went to Allendale public schools (my sisters went through Ridgewood for most of their earlier years). I know the place well, and yet I even many, many moons ago was able to graduate without an American history course! That actually was formative in my eventually starting CER. It was clear to me then -- as it is now -- that even our "best" public school systems can do better.

You know all too well, I'm sure, how our best educated students score below their lower scoring international counterparts. But that's hard to swallow when you're living in million dollar homes, and so most parents would rather assume it's their own child than blame the schools.

Anyway, I digress, and I'm sure you know all this. We've had some recent experience with parent groups near Teaneck who fought hard to get a charter school started because they had a different view of what their children needed. They eventually succeeded, and run a highly successful charter there (Palisades is in the name). But others have tried in Bergen County and gotten squashed. It might be time to think about it again. Sometimes a little competition goes a long way.

What I am really writing to say is good job, and thank you. I would like to help promote your fight and if you're amenable, have our email Newswire editor interview you for a brief story. CER's Newswire goes to about 15,000 people directory, and they are an influential bunch. It is also circulated widely and appears on our website every Tuesday, so the numbers increase dramatically from there.

Liz Carson is also a long time professional friend.

Again, thank you for what you're doing. It is terrific to take the stand. Let me know what we can do and if we can contact you.

Best, Jeanne

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