

Response to PR Letter Sent by ESD to Families of Evergreen

Spring has sprung
Summer is very close at hand
And our District seems intent once again
On informational sleight of hand

You tell only one side of the story
Through district channels reserved only for you
If you had any confidence your story was right
You'd let teachers use these channels, too

But we know that you won't allow that
Because you know your story is full of holes
And the PR that's being put out now
Is totally out of control

Especially when the district is given credit
That is truly not theirs to receive
Telling families the district is committed to keeping health cost affordable
Is nothing but pretend and pure make believe

The facts are that the district
Was going to cut our pay
In the form of a health benefits retrogression
Saying they could not possibly find another way

Point of fact, 'twas a teacher that did all the hard leg work
That the board and district could and should have done
And a teacher who found and researched this new health package
It was a teacher, as usual, who helped everyone

A teacher who helped this district and board
Whose only solution had been to take
From the parents, children, and teachers
Those who have so much at stake

Another statement that needs redress
Concerns FAQ clarification on the district's website
Again this amounts to district dirty pool
Allowing only what you call the truth out into the light

Why does this letter not explain
Why the district has not closed two schools
The community knows that this should have been done
Yet you continue to treat us like fools

And when the letter talks about the raises
That we earned and had to fight you for
These raises were not provided graciously
From Evergreen's deep financial reservoir

For the story really goes
That the district fought to give much less
Using the backs of students and teachers
To clean up their financial mess

In not so many words
The letter basically called teachers liars
Is this how PR is used
To put out Evergreen's many fires

Just because we tell the side that you don't
Does not make it a misstatement or untruth
And to even suggest this as a fact
Is not only libelous, but terribly uncouth

Once again Evergreen is bargaining in public
No wonder Interest Based Bargaining did not work
For it to do so you actually have to care
About the people you underpay and overwork

The letter to Evergreen's families
Was a low blow to all teachers who strive
To provide the families and children of Evergreen
An excellent education to help them all thrive

And even lower still is for this district
To consider stopping funding the trust
A promise was made to the workers here
And keeping your promise is a must

Especially when you are paying into it
With money that should be in our pay
We gave you back the money in 2004
That you pay our trust with today

So if you decide to stop the funding
Of that which was promised to us
You should then expect there to be repercussions
A possibility of a large legal fuss

But all of this could be avoided
Nobody has to be nonplussed
All you have to do is quit bargaining in public
Because you should only be bargaining with us

By Jeff Beckley
Proud O. B. Whaley Teacher