

Educating Children – Still Your Choice

I commend the Messenger for publishing two recent Guest Editorials by Brenda Lebsack and Rena Caron. Further, I am proud of these two women for having the courage to express their outrage against the toxic influences invading the learning space occupied by our nation's young people. Each of these educators have parted ways with public education. Ms Lebsack noted that our "public schools are no longer a safe place for families who hold to "traditional values" to send their children. She pointed to several examples that should startle if not panic parents whose children attend the public schools of our nation. Some of these include the National Education Association's assertion that there are many genders. I always thought that God created mankind "male and female created He them" – There were no options - there were no "others". Yet the NEA (the nation's largest teacher association (think union) promotes the use of the pronouns "he, she, they-and hex (whatever that is) and others too many to name. Lebsack reports that the NEA sees its mission as changing societal norms and redefining the primary purpose of public education. **What!!** Some examples of this include an emphasis on social justice, political activism, depicting the police as biased and corrupt, recognition of numerous nonconforming genders, increasing abortion rights, medical mandates, viewing conservatives as extremists (so says VP Kamala Harris), critical race theory, and, oh yes, there may be some amount of time squeezed in for the more traditional three R's.

Rena Caron, former New Hampshire teacher, has more specific concerns about the public schools. She is focused more on the actual erosion of the core values that used to be resident in the classrooms of America. She noted the loss of such values as the "responsibility of doing work on time, studying for tests, and respect" for teachers and adults in general. Getting one's assignments in on time and studying for tests have in too many cases left the building along with Elvis. The grading system that used to be the standard operating procedure is so variable today that it defies reason. Letter grading, or even grading on a scale of 1 – 100 has given way, in many places, to a 1-4 rating scale, whatever that is. I'd hate to be a college admissions officer trying to interpret the various grading systems and what they exactly mean.

However, I am pleased to report that there is real hope. There is a school in Hillsborough where the traditional values of home, school and family are alive and well. Where, right is right and wrong is wrong; where teachers are respected by students and students are respected by teachers; where every class is taught by a master teacher and every class has a mentor teacher; where God, the Constitution, the flag and democracy are honored, respected and taught; where strong academics and traditional social skills are taught and practiced as well; where discipline is fair, defined and administered in an even, fair, and consistent manner; and where real history and civics are taught. Yes, there are schools like that, and not just in Hillsborough. Seek them out, should you desire. I can personally recommend Hillsboro Christian School.

Finally, I applaud both Brenda Lebsack and Rena Caron who both experienced the diminishment of public education, tried to change it, and, frustrated in their attempt left it. Public schools come in all shapes, sizes, and points of view. They are not all uniformly failing to the same degree. Most institutions that train our teachers and the unions and associations which encourage them, however, have all fallen under the influence of the social engineers whose desire is to change society from a set of inviolable principles and values to a society responsive to the instability of human nature and the influence of the social restlessness evident in our society today.

There are clearly alternatives to the public schools if this is your desire. Your Children – Still Your Choice.

Dr. Cliff Easton
Lifelong Educator