

Frank Farry - HB1369 Testimony

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To: <ffarry@pahousegop.com>
Date: 8/25/2011 9:02 AM
Subject: HB1369 Testimony
CC: <calfonso97@aol.com>

PA Education Committee
Re: HB 1369 Hearing
ffarry@pahousegop.com

Dear Committee members:

We are Charles and Susanne Alfonso and we have a First Hand horror story to tell about the effect the Teachers Union's extension of last year's NFT Work To Contract (STRIKE) directive had on our 14 y.o. son, Zane. It is directly related to the discussion about Teachers' Strikes since, according to the PA State Code Act 88 (1992), a work slowdown (Work To Contract directive) is considered a STRIKE: http://www.facebook.com/l/uAQDg3bG1AQA2T3ve2IbHCl-uzHs7vnDmvIfVoWPdC_3C-w/
www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=552940&mode=2

"Strike" shall mean concerted action in failing to report for duty, and willful absence from one's position, the stoppage of work, slowdown or the abstinence, in whole or part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment for the purpose of inducing, influencing or coercing a change in the conditions or compensation or the rights, privileges or obligations of employment."

Our son's mind is geared toward Math & Science. He understands Math Logic, which is essential to succeed in Math. He's always had good grades, including achieving Honor Roll status.

Last year, once the NFT's cruel Work To Contract was called off by the Teachers Union, his Math teacher (Mrs. Linda Curley, also Chair of the Math Dept. at his Neshaminy Male Point Middle School), undertook an intentional work slowdown intended to continue the WTC through the end of the school year. How did she do it?...

1. Being a key Core subject, Math requires 5 days per week of instruction plus enough homework for students to understand the day's instruction.
2. Mrs. Curley would hold instruction only alternating 2 and 3 days a week. Then, to catch up with the curriculum she had no time for student questions.
3. She would not stay after school to help students out. Instead, she grandiosely offered to hold review sessions during some infrequent lunch times. What happened during those lunch sessions? She would have the students (my son included) sit doing their homework, while she ate her leisurely lunch, telling students if they had any questions on the homework to ask her. After 4 of those time-wasting Review Session I told my son to stop attending them.
4. Seeing that Mrs. Curley's work slowdown strategy was resulting in my Math-oriented son failing her course, I contacted Mrs. Debbie Diamond, my neighbor and Math Chair at Pennsbury District, and she immediately offered to help my son with tutoring lessons as often as needed. She would not accept any money, but I insisted.
5. The very FIRST Math test Mrs. Curley gave after my son's First lesson with Mrs. Diamond, my son A'ced, even though he was failing the class! Thanks to Mrs. Diamond's kindness and dedication to her profession we were able to overcome Mrs. Curley's CRUELTY in extending the Work To Contract slowdown until the end of the school year. My Honor Roll and Math-oriented 14 y.o. son ended up with a "D" in Mrs. Curley's Math class, which PREVENTED him from achieving another Honor Roll status.

Mrs. Curley's despicable and CRUEL actions and Union militancy are typical of what is happening all over the Neshaminy School District with a large number of "teachers" who have abdicated their educational responsibilities and pride for the sakes of uncontrolled Union GREED and CRUELTY toward our defenseless and impressionable children. Our children are NOT pawns to be held for RANSOM by heartless adults!

This Work-to-Contract action, by definition in the PA School Code Page 268, is in effect an ILLEGAL STRIKE under the cloak of a Work Slowdown. It is immensely more damaging to students than an actual absence from work.

PLEASE, STOP THIS CHILD BULLYING BY ADULTS MADNESS!!!

Charles & Susanne Alfonso
on behalf of Zac & Zane Alfonso

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