

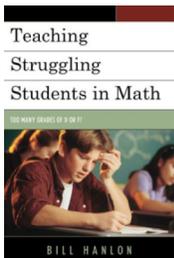
# Nevada Public Education



## *Achievement School District – Another Bad Joke*

*Bill Hanlon*

Opportunity 180, just founded by former vice president of Nevada’s State Board of Education, Allison Serafin, is one of a number of intertwined non-profits serving on each other’s boards to make sure they grab taxpayers dollars.



The headline in the Nevada section of the RJ last week was “**Applicant’s office raided**”. The applicant, Celerity Educational Group, based in LA was poised to take over five schools and place them in a politically created charter Achievement School District (ASD).

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Steve Canavero, said the state was made aware of issues last Wednesday through a Los Angeles Times article that was posted online. WHAT??? This story has been ongoing, Celerity has been criticized over fraud and fiscal mismanagement issues for months in the media. The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security finally raided it last Wednesday.

In a presentations last fall, Dr. Jeff Geihs, the Associate Superintendent who supervises and runs the **CCSD’s Turnaround Zone**, publicly pointed out the financial concerns of Celerity. This should be no surprise to NDE. Yet, CCSD is accused of giving misinformation. NDE was the one lying, the one attempting to sweep the concerns of Celerity under the rug. CCSD provided accurate information.

What we can see is the district’s **Turnaround Zone** works because they collectively group the schools for support under one central supervisor and operate with a strong sense of urgency with an unrelenting focus on increasing student achievement.

The state’s creation of the Achievement School District is just another example of a juice position by this Governor and the Conflicted Nevada State Board of Education to reward one of their own.

People like Allison Serafin come to Nevada saying they want to help students, yet their organizations keep subtracting resources from the education budget. And while they say they are non-profit, groups like Communities in Schools, Teach for America, and The New Teacher Project, all seem able to be able to pay their directors salaries of approximately \$400,000.00 – and want the taxpayers to subsidize their programs. Non-profit, my foot. Allison Serafin’s Opportunity 180 and some of these other profiteering non-profits should be run out of town. It appears their aim seems more to enrich and reward individuals/friends than to help students.

I’ll keep reminding the public, before many of these groups came to town taking away resources, CCSD was nationally recognized as the fastest improving district in the nation. Look at us with their help and this Governor now, ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation.

A simple question should be answered about the Achievement School District, that is; “**Why?**” Supposedly, the reorganization of the Clark County School District is supposed to cure all the problems that plague southern Nevada. Why do the taxpayers have to pay for the newly created Achievement School District? Is the state saying the reorganization is not going to work? Why wouldn’t that be given a chance to succeed?

Clark County already has a “**Turnaround Zone**” for schools that are not reaching achievement levels that by all accounts is working, so why duplicate that? The parents have made it clear, they want no part of the Achievement School District, and judging by the state’s poor vetting process, these parents had a right to be concerned.

And then we have the issue with student data, FERPA requires confidentiality of student information, the Conflicted Nevada State Board of Education proposed regulations to not only expand the state’s Achievement School District, they also proposed to the Legislative Commission on Education to allow them to give student data to operators who were just raided by the feds. So, it’s clear we cannot trust the ASD to protect your child’s data and, by extension, you can’t trust the Conflicted NV State Board of Education or the State Superintendent of Public Instruction either.

These intertwining of memberships on boards of non-profits sends a message of unity, it’s about time we exposed the “civic” leaders serving on multiple boards as the “**takers**” they have become. These people are so confident and arrogant in their networking, they feel their incompetence and arrogance will be overlooked by the rest of the community.

Allison Serafin doesn’t care about your kids or their education; she cares about making money even if that puts your children’s data in hands of unscrupulous people. She

started this money making venture while on NV's Conflicted State Board of Education, was at the Legislature supporting legislation to enhance her pocketbook.

The school district's "**Turnaround Zone**" is a solution already in place that is working.

The state's Achievement School District is not the answer. Legislators need to kill the state's Achievement School District this year for three reasons; apparent disregard of student data issues, the additional cost to the state, and it is a duplication of services already in place and working.

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