

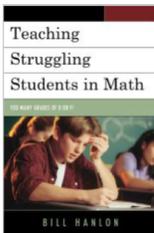
Nevada Public Education



Poorly Performed Superintendent Search

Bill Hanlon

CCSD's trustees just can't seem to get much right. The current superintendent search is another case in point and another slap in the face to Nevadans and employees of the school district. To even suggest that no one locally, currently working with the district, is qualified to fill the position of superintendent is an indictment of them. Using their logic, wouldn't that suggest no one locally should serve on the board?



The community deserves the opportunity to hear from Mike Barton in the interview process and see how the "local" stands up to these other candidates. I am requesting the board add Mike Barton to the list of candidates to be interviewed. I am also asking the other candidates, Deasy; Haddad; Hardman; and Jara to demand fair play and demand Mike be part of this process. By not doing so will say a whole lot about their leadership qualities.

I'll support a superintendent who will place priority on students learning how to read and write, and learn math, science and social studies. I want a superintendent that will lead a board of trustees and have student performance and achievement as a regular discussion item at board meetings. I want a superintendent that can work with elementary and secondary issues and clearly recognizes there is a real difference between the two. I want a superintendent who holds himself accountable, holds other people accountable, and is willing to take responsibility for decisions that are made districtwide. I want a superintendent who knows the issues in Clark County and the state and get right to work on them. For these reasons, I support Mike Barton as Clark County School District's next superintendent.

There has been a lot of community support behind Barton's appointment that include many organizations, the Las Vegas Mayor and North Las Vegas Mayor. The trustees' tendency to ignore what they don't agree with is telling and a reason for the district's poor performance.

Over the last decade, with the arrival of Superintendent Jones, the school district has been more focused on adult networking than the experiences of students learning in the classroom. Prior to the arrival of Jones and the Gibbons/Sandoval administrations, the Clark County School District was identified nationally as the fastest improving district in the nation. That happened because people like Brian Cram did curriculum audits to ensure we were teaching to the standards that were being advertised, Carlos Garcia because he pushed for more students in academic classes, and Walt Rulffes because he actually measured success by requiring common semester exams. None of these were recognized locally because they were not glitzy program, their work was

down and tough - just like classroom teachers. Those three superintendents clearly understood *what works is work* and the work takes place in the classroom.

Since their retirements and the Gibbons/Sandoval educational follies, the state has been ranked dead last and college entrance scores are ranked at the very bottom of the nation – but people love their glitzy programs. So what that classes like algebra have 40 plus students in them, students don't have qualified teachers, that we have a teacher shortage, teachers don't have resources, that the teachers' health insurance sucks. Bottom line, if their work does not help my child learn – it's just BS that builds their personal resumes.

We need Barton because his emphasis is, and always has been, on classroom education; answering the question asked by parents. That is; *what are you doing to help my child learn?*

We need a stay at home superintendent, not another networker, we need a superintendent that already knows the needs, knows the community and ready on day one to ensure our students have a good chance at an education.

Demand that Barton be added to the list of qualified candidates.

Bill Hanlon

Bill Hanlon, is a noted speaker, an author, educator, consultant and coach for schools, former Director of the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, and is a national presenter for organizations such as AASA, ASCD, ALAS, NMSA, NASSP, NSBA, and NCTM. He was the coordinator of Clark County School District's Math/Science Institute and was also responsible for K-12 math audits. He served as vice president of the Nevada State Board of Education, Regional Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and as a member of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) States Partnership Board. He also hosted a television series, "Algebra, *you can do it!*" on PBS Las Vegas.

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