

I'M JOHN SHEFFIELD AND I'M HERE TONIGHT AS A PARENT & CITIZEN...I'M ALSO AN EDUCATOR of 25 PLUS YEARS. NEVER IN THAT 25 YEARS HAVE I WITNESSED EDUCATORS, BOARDS OF ED, AND DISTRICTS THREATENED TO NOT TELL THE TRUTH TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES....UNTIL NOW.

First I'll address some of the high profile task force members.

Mr. PARSONS:

I FAIL TO SEE HOW BEING IN THE PROVIDENCE EQUITY PARTNERS GROUP, AND BEING THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR CITIGROUP QUALIFIES HIM TO DISCUSS PUBLIC EDUCATION, LET ALONE CHAIR THE TASK FORCE. FURTHERMORE, I BELIEVE THAT THERE'S A DIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

MS. WEINGARTEN:

*SHE HAS STATED THAT COMMON CORE WAS PUSHED OUT TOO FAST, YET IN ALBANY ON JUNE 8, 2013 SHE WAS CLEARLY THE ONE DOING THE PUSHING IN THE PRESENCE OF OVER TEN THOUSAND WITNESSES.

*HER PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE IS MINIMAL.

* LASTLY, SHE LOST CREDIBILITY AS SOON AS SHE TOOK MONEY FROM GATES.

....Too much hypocrisy.

To Ms. Elia:

IN THE JOHN King Forums, on line, in emails, letters, and calls to the Regents, governor, NYSED, and legislators that numbered in the thousands upon thousands The PUBLIC made it CLEAR that it was **NOT** for Private \$\$\$ in Public Education, it was **NOT** for high stakes testing, it was **NOT** for CC....this message was made CLEAR ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS, including the most recent budget process.....and THE PEOPLE, the PEOPLE were totally ignored.

Even the 2 of you (*Addressing task force members Carrie Remis and Tim Kremer*): You've never taught in a public classroom, nor have the background to do so.

So now we are to believe that this group, unlike its predecessors, is going to really listen. The very fact that you were appointed by governor Cuomo detracts from ANY credibility you MAY have had.

Just in case though here's a reminder of **SOME** of the general Common core issues **that I have listened to:**

- * Little or no supportive research
- * Unsupported claims of college and career readiness
- * Using manipulated data that does not compare apples to apples to claim we are falling behind on international tests ...ignoring poverty rates completely
- * A false claim that the standards were internationally bench marked
- * In NYS a growth "formula" has been proven to be invalid and unreliable yet Governor Cuomo in collusion with **BIG MONEY** Donors, along with Many **REGENTS** and legislators have purposely placed our children's education and public education in jeopardy by choosing to use a severely flawed statistic
- * Governmental use of threats and extortion in the form of No Child Left Behind waivers and funding
- * Common Core was thrown together with little or **NO** educator input, by many people with almost **ZERO** background in education and/or childhood development, **NEVER** piloted, **NEVER** scrutinized by accepted practices and procedures, and thrust upon our nation's children as some sort of grand experiment

All that being said perhaps you can at least be honest enough to say it is a parent's right to refuse these NYS Assessments...period, and do so without threatening them or their schools.

LASTLY: If Common Core was as good as its proponents claim, it should have sold itself without threats, without coercion, without private investors, **AND CERTAINLY NOT NEED A TASK FORCE.** This is not about poor implementation. It is a bad product for our nation and for New York...**PERIOD**

Repeal it and everything associated with it.

Thank you.