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BILL & MELINDA GATES & PEARSON'S MONOPOLY

Good evening, Superintendent _____ and honored school board members.

My name is _____. I am here tonight to share my concerns regarding The Common Core State Standards Initiative, the new federal mandated education program that is known to few parents and the public. Parents need to be informed on how this program will affect their children's education.

You have heard the concerns of my colleagues, and I want to focus on who is funding this over-reaching education program.

Ed Week, announced in May, 2011 that Bill and

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Melinda Gates, founders of Microsoft products have cornered the market in The Common Core State Standards. Gates' billionaire foundation joined Pearson, another billionaire foundation, to produce on-line curriculum for The Common Core State Standards. These two big foundations with the federal government assisting, are not only preparing e-books for the curriculum but also a 24 course training sequence to teach the teachers how to teach the new Common Core material.

Chris Tebben, the Executive Director for Grantmakers for Education, a group of education funders, expressed concerns about "advantaging" one large education company. It is as if they are becoming a

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“monopoly.” (http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2011/05/cornering_the_market_in_common.html)

Pearson has also taken over several other book publishing companies. Operating under their pseudo name of Penguin, they have bought out smaller, self-publishing companies such as Xlibris, Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Allyn & Bacon and others, keeping their names so that people will not know that Pearson owns these companies.

With this much power, prestige, wealth and book holdings, Pearson and Gates will be very successful in selling The Common Core State Standards curriculum, on-line assessments, teacher

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professional development and technological resources nationwide and throughout the world. *This is a monopoly!*

It was reported and widely known that **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has mobilized the National PTA to become a “key player at the front line of education reform” by **giving the National PTA a \$1 million grant** to speak positively and encourage parents to embrace The Common Core State Standard Curriculum.**

Exercise your power as board members to have an open hearing regarding The Common Core State Standards so that parents can know what is in this

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education program.

Please review this important information while you still can exercise your power as a member that is part of the local school board, *for which you were voted into by those who pay school taxes here in*

_____'

Thank you.