



August 23, 2010

VIA EMAIL cedwards@interact.ccsd.net

Carolyn Edwards
Clark County School Board of Trustees
Administrative Center
5100 West Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

Dear Carolyn:

I have never written a letter to protest the conduct of any public official. However, I believe that your recent conduct in carrying out your duties as a member of the Clark County School Board of Trustees is so egregious that the conduct requires more than a verbal comment from me.

As you know I am a lifelong resident of Nevada having graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1956 and having returned here to practice law in 1964. You also know that my partner Louis Wiener and I for many years financially supported the University system in this state.

In my five years as the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education it was always my belief that public meetings were not designed to simply permit the public to concur in recommendations of the Chancellor. My experience confirmed that the Board of Regents shared this belief. Such is not the impression you conveyed to me during the course of a conversation I had with you in my office some time ago about who supports whom and who is "the boss" in the Clark County School District. Your handling of the April 22, 2010 School Board meeting validated my earlier feeling that you view yourself as having been anointed "empress". At the end of our discussion, I concluded that even though you acknowledged there were seven members of the Board of Trustees of the Clark County School District, you felt that only two of you, that is you and Terri Janison, carry out the duties of the Trustees, and that by reason of your election in your respective districts, you and Terri Janison had been anointed to be the sole leaders of the Clark County School District. That opinion was verified by your statement to me that inasmuch as Terri Janison could not serve another term as President of the Board of Trustees, that you and she had decided that you would become the next President of the Board of Trustees. Incredibly at no time during the discussion was the welfare of the students discussed by you nor was there any discussion between the two of us that did not relate to the power that you and Terri Janison had gathered to yourselves and how you proposed to use that power. I thought I was talking to Queen Elizabeth I.

The significance of the attitude you exhibited in my office was not fully understood by me until I viewed the School Board Meeting of April 22, 2010 wherein your actions were so outrageous, were so demeaning to the speakers and showed such arrogance that I have concluded that you believe you were elected to rule rather than to serve. The meeting of April 22, 2010, which was called to my attention, primarily because a person who attended noted that when remarks were made about me by members of the public, you exhibited such contempt, inflexibility and lack of willingness to listen that my mouth literally fell open. In the meeting the following is part of what transpired.

"4-22-10 School Board Meeting

Kevin Donovan - I'm a candidate for AD 22... As a parent of two children ...

Carolyn Edwards – MR. DONOVAN I'LL REMIND YOU YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

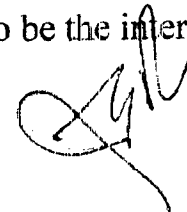
KD - fair enough. Is that the type of attitude we want as a leader of our children. So I propose the following. First, I propose that you appoint Jim Rogers to superintendent effective immediately. He is a proven leader who is not only qualified to do the job, he's willing to do the job in the short term and willing to do it for frickin' free. (CLAPPING FROM AUDIENCE) It would be absurd not to take him up on this offer. If there is concern of potential conflict of interest between Mr. Rogers and trustee president Janison then I would recommend that trustee Janison recuses herself from the decision as 300,000 kids' futures are at stake with this decision. (CLAPPING FROM AUDIENCE)

CE – CAN YOU PLEASE WRAP UP?

KD - I propose that you redefine the start date of the next superintendent. The RFP clearly defines the start date of 12-1-10 ... likely to have to break a contract to do it. ... Candidate interviews should start after the election and the start date should become after the summer of 2011 ...

CE – MR. DONOVAN, CAN YOU WRAP IT UP PLEASE?

KD - Yes ma'am. My understanding is that Jim Rogers is willing to be the interim superintendent until 2011. Third I propose that you kill the RFP. ...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JD', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Page 3

CE – MR. DONOVAN, YOUR TIME IS UP.

CE - SINCE YOU PROVIDED THESE REMARKS ...

CE - I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO SIT DOWN.

CE - EXCUSE ME, THIS IS OUR BOARD MEETING ... MR. DONOVAN I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO SIT DOWN. MR. DONOVAN WOULD YOU PLEASE SIT DOWN? YOU ARE DISRUPTING OUR MEETING AT THIS POINT IN TIME ... MR. DONOVAN WILL YOU PLEASE SIT DOWN? ... MR. DONOVAN PLEASE SIT DOWN.”

The above text demonstrates your insensitivity and total disregard for the opinions of the public. Your continued demand that speakers cut their remarks short, even the threat that you made to Mr. Donovan and your suggestion that “... THIS IS OUR BOARD MEETING ...” is in total conflict with what your understanding should be about your role as a Trustee. The meeting is not your meeting. It is the public’s meeting. The public is not there to cheer you to victory. The public is not there to watch you perform. The public is not there to make sure that you have a promising future in other political positions. To the contrary, you are there to support the needs and wants of the public.

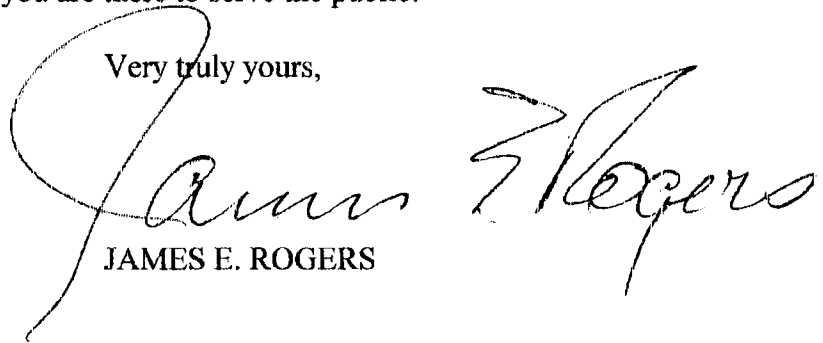
There are 300,000 students in K-12 in Clark County. That would mean that there are between 300,000 to 600,000 parents in Clark County who are involved every day with the education of the County’s children. The lack of participation and apparent apathy and/or frustration of the parents seems obvious when one looks at the attendance at your board meetings. When one looks at the public’s failure to react to proposed budget cuts, which may cause permanent damage to the entire population of Southern Nevada, it is apparent the public’s concern is far less than it should be. While it is not the responsibility of the Clark County School District to raise the children of this County, it is the responsibility of the School District to do everything possible to encourage the parents of our 300,000 children to participate in the education system of Clark County. I have a feeling that one of the reasons the public does not get more involved in the formal education process of K-12 is that it does not trust the Board. First the public believes the Board is not qualified by education, training and experience to solve the problems of the K-12 institutions in Southern Nevada. I believe that much of the public has concluded that the system tends to circle the wagons every time questions are raised about how the system operates and why it has become the total failure it appears to be. The minorities have been very vocal about their lack of trust. Their children make up a majority of K-12 students and you seem to ignore them entirely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JGH', located in the bottom right corner of the page.

It seems to me that until the Clark County School District provides the public any and all information about any and all subjects rather than continuing to circle the wagons and until the Trustees openly welcome full public participation inquiries by the public and openly welcome participation in the education system by parents and actually make affirmative efforts to engage parents, business leaders and all other community members to engage in the process, that the system cannot rise above its low and shameful status.

I hope my words will cause you to begin to understand that the public is not there to support your political career but that you are there to serve the public.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Rogers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

JAMES E. ROGERS