

To Tina Alvey, Reporter, Register-Herald August 31, 2014
RE: **Chamber panel discusses state's educational issues**, August 30, 2014

In your article, the WV State BOE members and the new WV Superintendent have once again avoided real issues and gotten by with the same old tired rhetoric about Common Core: "politicized", "was a mile long and inch deep", "not a curriculum."

Politicize – To render political in tone, interest, or awareness

This is meant to be a criticism as it has been repeated in the Common Core talking points across the nation, but let us remember the WV State BOE adopted Common Core Standards in May, 2010, one month before the final standards were released in June, 2010, without the awareness or input of our legislature, parents, or the public.

Isn't it time we raised statewide awareness and involved our elected representatives in this Republic we inherited from our Founding Fathers? With over 50% of West Virginia's budget allotted to education, shouldn't we all be looking to the politicians for accountability?

Not a Curriculum – This is very tired and over used rhetoric. It is ludicrous to think the standards and the assessments do not dictate curriculum. From a recent Breitbart Report:

The federally funded Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a Common Core assessment consortium, issued a press release Friday that confirmed the Common Core standards and their associated tests are intended to drive curriculum.

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/08/25/Common-Core-PARCC-CEO-Acknowledges-Goal-of-Assessments-To-Drive-Curriculum>

Was a mile long and inch deep – Did anyone on the WV State BOE consult with our distinguished higher education professors and get their opinions on the standards?

When Jason Zimba, lead writer of the mathematics standards, was asked in open forum about the meaning of "college readiness", he admits that the math standards will not prepare out students for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) majors. He states:

"Not only not for STEM, it's also not for selective colleges. For example, for UC Berkeley, whether you are going to be an engineer or not, you'd better have precalculus to get into UC Berkeley." <http://www.uaedreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2000/01/ZimbaMilgramStotskyFinal.pdf>

In fact, James Milgram, professor of mathematics emeritus at Standard University states: **"With the exception of a few standards in trigonometry, the math standards end after Algebra II. They include no precalculus or calculus."**

<http://www.uaedreform.org/wpcontent/uploads/2000/01/ZimbaMilgramStotskyFinal.pdf>

And an added note: The WV State Board does not speak of the statewide assessments, the massive expansion of student data collection, or the cost to taxpayers that comes along with their adoption of Common Core.

The WV State Board of Education President and all members were repeatedly invited to the Common Core Forum in Bridgeport August 24, 2014 to hear from content expert, Dr. Sandra Stotsky, on these issues. They refused to come.

Can we ever have an honest discussion?

Angela Summers

WV Against Common Core