

April 23, 2014

Hello Superintendent Enfield and the Highline Board of Directors. I am Don Bunker and I taught for 32 years at Evergreen and Highline High School. As a hobby, I enjoy researching educational trends on the Internet.

How many of you have heard of Alec Baldwin? What about just plain A.L.E.C.? A.L.E.C. stands for the American Legislative Executive Council created by the Koch brothers who wish to privatize as much of America as possible.

Let's take a look at some facts from the book, **Reign of Error**, by Diane Ravitch:

"Teach for America is not just a beneficiary of the privatization movement but one of the central drivers of the movement. They staff the growing number of privately managed charter schools across the nation."

"Teach for America received \$100 million from The Broad Foundation in 2011 and... \$49.5 million from the Walton Family Foundation, one of the nation's most conservative foundations. This was the largest single education grant made that year by a foundation committed to privatization."

What does this mean to students and future students of Highline district?

Instead of spending years and thousands of dollars gaining a teaching degree, Teach for America teachers can begin teaching after 35 days of training and testing. You are known by the company you keep. Teach for America veterans are leading privatizing efforts nationwide. Could they be wondering what District 401 would look like as a private charter school system?

Consider No Child Left Behind as perhaps an elaborate bi-partisan Trojan Horse housing a cadre of 32,000+ TFA graduates, many of whom are eager to assist in the privatization of Public Education in America.

Morna McDermott, a 20 year veteran teacher, has created perhaps the first online example of the E.I.C., the K-12 **Education Industrial Complex** chart! Teach For America, as portrayed on her chart, are the change agents for privatization, foot soldiers who gain entry to classrooms, then leave, and in many cases, help start charter schools.

Let's talk about the elephant in the room of education – "For Profit"

When a regular teacher applies to teach in District 401 they do not have corporate backing and training and coaching. Did you know there is more than a trillion dollars to be made by privatizing **all** of Public Education in the U.S? The Hoover Institution predicts this by 2030. For starters, they propose vouchers, virtual cyber schooling and inviting in venture capital funding.

Here are two simple research assignments:

1. Explore www.alecexposed.org
Hosted by The Center for Media and Democracy.
2. Find Morna McDermott's [hand-drawn chart](#) in the article ***Flow Chart Exposes Common Core's Myriad Corporate Connections*** on www.truth-out.org.

Now, ask yourself:

1. How many times does A.L.E.C. show up in this web of boxes linked by colored lines? (Click the chart to view larger.)
2. Why do taxpayers fund Teach for America teachers' resumes when they leave after two years with so few intending to stay longer than that in the first place?
3. Why must the two-year service model of the Peace Corps apply to public education?

Please do your homework and convey your responses to District 401 leadership.

I salute the certified teachers of the Highline District who are in teaching for a long term career, not just a short term job.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak.