

Barbour, Robin

From: Shirley Paro [sdparo@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 9:47 AM
To: Riverviewgardencomments
Subject: Riverview Gardens School District

I attended the DESE meeting at the Riverview Gardens School District on November 20, 2013, and witnessed interest and enthusiasm that I have not seen for a long time. Although there were a couple of negative remarks, the meeting in whole gave me the sense that something was being done.

One of the things that bothers me is the contract that superintendents have that guarantee pay checks even if they are not doing their jobs. We have been through two superintendents that should have been fired, but with their contracts, we would have still had to pay them. I think contracts should be null and void when school districts in provisional and unaccredited districts lack leadership.

I was also dumb enough to suggest that, with 500 kids transferring out, we move kids around and empty an entire school. Ask a accredited School District to come in and staff the school and operate through the accredited district. Riverview then, could be responsible for paying teachers salaries and expenses. Wouldn't it be better to transport the staff than a whole school? As the school improved, staff would be replaced by RGSD personnel gradually. It sounded like a good idea to me.

Alderman Shirley Paro
City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO
9934 Calumet Drive
St. Louis, MO 63137

Barbour, Robin

From: DESE Communications
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 12:01 PM
To: NormandyComments; Riverviewgardencomments
Subject: FW: Normandy and Riverview Gardens

FYI:

From: Evelyn Rehg [<mailto:erehg@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 11:27 AM
To: mogov@mail.mo.gov
Cc: DESE Communications
Subject: Normandy and Riverview Gardens

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband grew up in the Normandy School District and I was in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. We are very familiar with some of the problems.

1. The teachers can not teach when they have to deal with non stop discipline problems.

2. The kids grow up in environments that have nothing to do with education. Many young children are going home to care for younger siblings when they are not even old enough to care for themselves. Dinner might be a bag of chips. Bedtime may be whenever they pass out on the floor, a recliner, or a couch.

Possible solutions:

Look at some of the most successful schools and take out the money factor. Although \$15 million (current expense for one transferring one school) a year should cover anything!!!

Ideally:

1. Create boarding schools Monday- Friday.

2. Or...All students and teachers stay until 5pm. At 3:00pm give students a healthy snack and start homework. If the student has a question they can go directly to the teacher and work one on one. At 5pm everyone gets a healthy balanced dinner. Ask area restaurants to donate a dinner once a week to help with costs. After dinner everyone goes home.

3. Mandatory parenting classes talking about the importance of basic things such as the impact of getting to bed on time and speaking to your child in positive manner. (GET THEM A BED IF NEEDED) St. Louis has enough businesses and wealth that could make donations that this should not be a problem. How is a child going to behave to any adult when they have been hit on the back of the head and told how stupid they are from the time they could walk. I saw this regularly growing up in these areas!! There are many wonderful families in these districts that would probably love to volunteer to teach such classes.

I know these solutions are not easily done but the problems these districts face will not change if you do not address the lack of a positive home environments.

Thank you for your time,
Evelyn Rehg