

Black Day for Public Education

At a hastily-arranged “*special meeting*” on February 15, the school board voted to release our superintendent, Dr. Parker. The 3-2 vote was taken only 3 days *after* the regular 12 February board meeting that was attended by over 225 citizens. The board could have announced the *special meeting* at their 12 February meeting in front of 250 citizens, but they chose not to!! Why??

The 225-plus citizens who attended the 12 February board meeting rallied in response to *rumors* that the board was planning to release Dr. Parker. The board had never informed the public of the board’s obligation to reconsider the superintendent’s contract, and never sought public input.

During that meeting, 21 persons spoke in vehement support of Dr. Parker and his dedicated team, several saying -- “best superintendent ever”; “highest teacher morale in years”; “great progress in turning around our schools”. Community support for Dr. Parker was truly overwhelming.

Despite this strong show of support, the board failed to listen to the voices of the citizens who elected them. At the end of the meeting, the board simply adjourned leaving the large crowd still in limbo about the rumors that Parker would not be extended.

Three days later, at 4:00 PM on Friday and before the holiday weekend, the board convened a “*special meeting*” without

prior newspaper notice, and voted against continuing Dr. Parker's contract. Only 30 citizens were able to squeeze into the school board office.

This board willfully ignored the testimony of the parents, teachers, and citizens who so strongly support Dr. Parker. It's truly a disgrace, disheartening, and detrimental to our community.

We deserve a school board that will solicit public input and operate openly, honestly, and with transparency -- *arrogance and hubris not needed!!*

They must go!! **#RECALL**

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