

*Dear Mr. Hemenway,*

*I understand that at your next meeting you will be making a decision regarding the late start school day for the children enrolled in the public school system for Coeur d Alene. ... I would like to express my disappointment that public and teacher input was not allowed on this issue.*

*I agree that it is important for teachers to collaborate. I believe with the learning and behavioral issue that the teachers have to deal with, it is important for the teachers to get together and come up with common goals. I do however; strongly disagree with a late start for the elementary age children. Children in elementary school learn and retain the most information in the first part of their day. Why is it that the schools decided to do a late start versus an early release? Having a late start on Monday instead of later in the week just encourages families to take three day weekend.*

*Why is it that when we started school a week later in September of this last year, local business had a say in that? i.e.. Silverwood and Triple Play said they would lose thousands of dollars of income if they had to let their summer time workers (high school kids) go before Labor Day. The school district listened and started a week later than normal in September. Have any of the local businesses been asked if having a later school day would affect them? Now kids will not get home until 4:00 pm. Any activities that started at 4:00 they will no longer be able to attend. Everything will have to go later, which for families means later dinners, later homework and later bedtimes.*

*There seems to be confusing information circulating. I received a letter stating that Hazel Bauman had already implemented the late start, but the Coeur d Alene Press states that the Board still needs to approve and vote on this. After the school districts mishandling of tax payers money in the past do you not think this would be a very important time to keep your voters trust? I understand that there is going to be the need for future levies because the district does not have enough money. (Plus they want a K tech school!) Why would I, as a tax payer vote to give any money to the district when poor decisions seem to be being made? Why do you think parents move their kids out of the public system or choose to go to charter? Because there is a major lack of trust with the management of the schools and how money gets used within the district. It also seems that there is a major problem with communication between district management and the taxpayers.*

*If you would like to talk to me in person feel free to call me. Thank you.*