

NIC Christie Wood reacts to letter to Coeur d'Alene Press editor in support of fellow Trustee Todd Banducci:

I saw a letter to the editor in the CDA Press today claiming Todd has toed the line and kept the budget under control with students and taxpayers in mind. In the words of his candidate Trump "Wrong". Todd has had no part in preparing the college budget for the past 4 years. That has been the role of retired President Joe Dunlap and his administrators. They trimmed in every possible way they could and then came before the board 4 years in a row with no proposed increase in taxes. All Todd had to do was vote yes. Kind of a no brainier. The entire board adopted the budget not just Todd.

The letter writer went on to say " This has caused great angst with three of the board members" Again- "Wrong". The entire board has been in favor of the proposed budgets. The only angst I have with Todd is his uncivilized behavior.

The letter continued with " Three members of the board drew up the trustee zones. This is half right. Two board members drew their own maps. Neither I nor Todd drew up a map. But the trustees did not utilize those maps. We voted on the map provided by the GIS specialist because we were directed to by the legislators.

And finally the statement in the letter of " The remaining trustees are trying to get rid of him" - Wrong. That is up to the voters.

I did not support the trustee zone legislation because I think it limits citizen participation. Todd was in favor of it. I told him he would end up in the same district as Ron and one of them would have to go. He said he did not get on the board to be a career politician and let the chips fall where they may.

Funny thing though that when the chips started falling he completely changed his tune. His behavior was threatening and appalling.

I do not blame the letter writer for the falsehoods. Clearly Todd is communicating these erroneous statements to who ever will listen. For the first 3 years I tried very hard to work with Todd. As chair I set up communication meetings in a effort to make him feel included. Time after time he went on the attack of his fellow trustees. I was constantly blindsided and baffled by his behavior. I remember asking him one time why he behaves like that and if he has any desire to get along with the rest of the board. He said politics are bloodsport and that is the bottom line. Hmmm...in my 12 years on the board I never realized striving for student success, growing program opportunities, retaining quality faculty and staff, and managing our sound budget was bloodsport.