

Citizens File Grievance against CDA School District 271 Board of Trustees

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Thursday, March 14, 2013- A group of Hayden and Coeur d'Alene citizens files a grievance against Coeur d'Alene School District 271 Board of Trustees for violations of policy and procedure, discrimination, and violation of Idaho Open Meeting Law.

When two elected members and three appointed members of the Coeur d'Alene School Board of Trustees suddenly decided to pull the Primary Years Program from Hayden Meadows, a large group of citizens organized to take action against a decision they viewed as unethical, unfair, and an abuse of power. They claim the school board has acted in direct violation of several binding district and state policies and/or laws:

- They demonstrated discrimination against religions and creeds.
- They demonstrated fiscal irresponsibility by removing a program that is fully funded for at least the next two years.
- They violated their own Code of Ethics in the following ways:
 1. They refused to consider critical available facts and surrendered their judgment to personal bias instead of adhering to the prescribed Code of Ethics.
 2. They failed to be open, fair, and honest in their decision-making process.
 3. They abused their decision-making power by neglecting to refer problems and complaints to proper administrative offices prior to Board action being taken.
- They violated the Open Meeting Law by communicating with each other electronically about subjects pertaining to upcoming agenda items.

“This is not just about PYP. People who are involved in this grievance are not just from Hayden Meadows. This is about a school board who chose to remove a successful, highly supported program without exercising due diligence or following procedures and policies set forth by this district and the state of Idaho. We are concerned that they will continue in this manner of unethical decision-making on other matters, and we simply cannot let that happen. We are filing this grievance in an effort to prevent this type of thing from ever happening again,” says Ashlie Unruh, a parent of 4 children who currently attend Hayden Meadows.