
From: Rob Burton <rsburton@enetis.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:39 PM
To: Nordstrom Ritchie
Subject: Proposed Resolution

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Good Morning,

I understand the City Council may consider taking a position opposing the social studies standards proposed by the SD Department of Education. I urge you to support such a resolution should it come before the council.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed standards, for three reasons - the procedure used to develop the standards, the age appropriateness of the content for students, and the potential impact on economic development for Rapid City.

If you have not reviewed the proposed standards I highly recommend you take the time to do so.

Historical methods for determining standards utilizing educators chosen by peer review is a proven and widely accepted practice in many educational settings, and had been successfully used on South Dakota for decades. Burdening some of the lowest paid teacher in the country with an underfunded mandate created by an agenda-driven out-of-state consultant without local input is an insult to everyone involved with our state's education system.

Secondly, the standards require rote memorization of historical facts and dates at a very early age, without concern as to whether students grasp the meaning or interaction of the concepts. Where is the value of a first grader spewing back names of events at an age when they cannot begin to understand how our world was and is shaped by these events? Would not the student's time and public resources be better spent on more age appropriate material and proven learning methods?

And finally, my experience in municipal economic development taught me prospects looking to relocate or expand their operations take a hard look at the educational system provided by the community under consideration. South Dakota's adoption of a flawed set of educational standards will negatively impact our local education system, and in turn, Rapid City's ability to attract and retain needed industry.

I ask you as an elected representative of Rapid City to voice your disapproval with the proposed standards by supporting a resolution of opposition.

Sincerely,

Rob Burton

(South Canyon Elementary, West Junior High School, Steven's High School)

From: Jim and Chris Coleman <jimandchriscoleman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Nordstrom Ritchie
Subject: Support resolution opposing the state social studies standards

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My husband and I are ward 3 constituents. We are both long time residents and retired teachers. Approving these standards will have a negative effect on the growth of our city as well as our state. We know this resolution will not have any “teeth” but will send a powerful message. This will be a show of support. It shows support for the teachers and shows an understanding that the well-being of the city is linked to the well-being of the schools. The standards as written are linked to a political agenda, not the education of students. Please support this resolution and stop the Hillsdale College madness.

Chris and Jim Coleman


Sent from my iPad

From: gopherbroke@reagan.com <gopherbroke@reagan.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 3:19:13 PM

To: Nordstrom Ritchie

Subject: City resolution on SD SS Standards

CAUTION: This email is from an outside source. Use caution before opening attachments, clicking links or providing confidential information.

Dear Alderman Nordstrom:

I have asked Alderman Jones to respect the boundaries of City Government vs. other governing bodies and withdraw his proposed Rapid City Council resolution in opposition to the new South Dakota Social Studies Standards. Municipalities are *state subdivisions*, yet to my knowledge, Governor Noem has never criticized or condemned the work of any *municipal* task force or appointed committee. Frankly, a city council weighing in on this topic looks unflatteringly self-important.

You or any of the Council members expressing **your own opinion** on the matter is completely understandable, but to leverage the weight of your office and of the body itself to oppose the work product of the Governor's duly appointed and qualified panel is, in my opinion, inappropriate.

I have read the draft and agree with the statements recognizing that the performance of our schools in producing **intelligent and civically literate graduates** is directly related to the economic and social wellbeing of our city; that's undeniable. I believe strongly, however, that children educated according to the proposed *new* standards will be *far more likely* to possess those attributes.

A member of the workgroup that developed the standards, South Dakota Professor Jon Schaff from Northern State University, wrote about the experience of developing the new standards in the article linked below. Please read it and follow the links embedded. <https://www.frontporchrepublic.com/2022/09/how-shall-we-train-up-a-child-the-view-from-one-state/>

It is my sincere hope that Alderman Jones will withdraw his resolution, but if he does not, I ask you not to support it.

Respectfully,

Tonchi Weaver

[REDACTED]