The Back Story – Part I

CCEA is against the removal of Superintendent Jara. The effort to do so is both careless and reckless. It is being driven by a political agenda. The two most important issues facing our school district at this time are how to continue the education of 320,000 students and protect the safety of 40,000 employees under COVID-19 and how we do it with less funding as a result of over $100 million in cuts the State legislator just did. It is important for folks to hear what this political agenda is.

Before you read this, we have one question for you. Do you believe that the school carryover dollars should be used to pay the support staff unemployment or extend their 9 and 10 month salary contracts to 12 months? Do you believe that is what the school carryover dollars should be used for? Before you answer- read on.

Let’s start with Danielle Ford.

Upon taking office in January 2019, Ford represented to CCEA that she was going to run candidates in the 2020 election, gain majority support on the Board, get elected President and then bring her own people in. Since then, that has been her agenda. Ford has taken every opportunity to criticize Dr. Jara since she took office. She comes off as an ‘education populist’ criticizing everything wrong with CCSD and the Superintendent, and offers up ‘popular ideas’ but never brings anything concrete to finding solutions. The most recent example is when she criticized the initial blended format plan presented to Trustees to reopen the District. Ford criticized it and then said she would come with her own plan. She never did. That’s what she does- spouts off criticism, lobs bombs, engages in sloganeering of popular ideas and in the end produces nothing. To the less informed, she hits nerves. To her ‘peanut gallery following’ she’s the only one taking on ‘the system i.e. Dr. Jara’.

When she made racist remarks referring to our minority students, she was allowed to bring her therapy dog to school board meetings and was given a pass for her racism. When she used disgusting sexual language toward another board member, no one held her accountable and she walked away the ‘victim’. First, we had Kevin Child and now Ford.

The Faction that runs the Administrators Union

Ford has made an alliance with administrators. Not all administrators, just the white male faction that is in control of their association. They represent the old guard that is part of the CCSD ‘culture of comfort corruption’ where they are only interested in hanging on to their influence- of which something Dr. Jara has taken on since he got here. Let’s not forget that they never wanted Dr. Jara hired in the first place and have taken every opportunity, like Ford, to attack Dr. Jara. First, the vote of no confidence and now their capricious chicanery calling for his firing. So when Assembly Bill 2 (AB2) came up regarding using the carryover dollars from school budget to repurpose them for the significant cuts in SB178 and Read by Grade 3 that affected 195,000 at risk students- this faction saw another opportunity to go after Jara. Governor Sisolak made it easy when he used Dr. Jara as a punching bag to deflect attention to his budget cuts and while a back door discussion was taking place on how to use those carryover dollars.
But there is an important note about the carryover fund issue and AB2. Trustees were aware of this issue from the 2019 Legislative Session to the days leading up to the Special Session AND the day of the AB2 hearing. The evidence clearly shows they were all aware of possible legislation to modify AB469 as it applies to carryover dollars for this year of budget cuts. Maybe some of them were too busy finding ways to attack Dr. Jara then taking their jobs seriously and read the reports they were given.

So Ford and this ‘old guard of administrators’ team up and call for the firing of Dr.Jara. Collusion at its best. Nothing to do about opening up our schools under COVID-19 nor about the tens of millions of dollars in budget cuts our school district is now facing. Nothing to do about 320,000 kids and their education. It is also important to note that Ford and this faction leading the Administrator’s union never spoke out publicly nor lobbied against the state cuts to our district during the Special Session. This was nothing but a cold calculated move to get rid of Dr. Jara once and for all and when Sisolak called Dr. Jara out, they struck.

Part II tomorrow:

*AB2, Ford, And the Supporting Cast in the Back Story*

The CCEA Team