



Public Unions: What Went Wrong?

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It recently reported that in schools with a strong union presence math and reading levels were way behind schools that had less union presence. You have to ask yourself, why? What's happening in these schools? Why is ok to produce a generation of children who can't read or write. Why eliminate standardized testing like the New York State Regents. Why do people make racist statements that certain elements of society can never learn? Why do we put people on the school boards who don't demand excellence and cave in to every union demand? It's not everywhere. And its maybe not in Rockland County necessarily but it happens enough throughout the country to threaten the very existence of our core values. If you can't read or write and you get your news from videos on social media, then you are not informed and you will believe anything anybody tells you. I think that is the point of not educating the populace.

So where did this all start? This is not only an indictment of the teacher's union but also an inditement of all public unions who make huge contributions to political candidates and essentially help their own bosses get elected so that the union becomes powerful enough that no management strategy can affect outcomes.

It's very clear there was a time when public employee unions were necessary. Many public employees were underpaid and working conditions could be very poor. Teachers Unions not only addressed pay but focused on class size and conditions within the schools. This led to vast improvements. What went wrong?

The answer as to what went wrong is simple. They started contributing to political candidates. They used their ideology to influence curriculum so that social justice became more important than reading and writing. When COVID was ending and people were going back out, the unions kept our schools closed. In many parts of the country schools stayed closed even as it was clear that the risk of COVID following vaccination was declining. You can look no further than Chicago. where the union helped elect a mayor to support their agenda to the detriment of the students and everyone else in the city. Chicago is absolutely a disaster when it comes to public education.

It is also clear that in most of these cases the union supports left wing progressive candidates who think that the solution to every problem is to raise taxes and to throw more money at the situation. That is not a solution. There is a solution. The first solution is that public employee unions should be banned from contributing to political parties. This will never happen in a state like New York where most contributions go to the Democrats and help maintain one party rule. Our law makers mostly Democrat allow these unions and left-wing ideologues to control our educational system.

Essentially every one of the recent left-wing ideas on progressive education have failed. The second solution is to go back to basics. Kids must learn to focus on reading, writing and arithmetic. Do not advance children to grade levels unless they have earned it. Hold teachers accountable for what is taught in their classroom and the successes of their students. Instead of making cutesy TikTok videos, teachers should be concentrating on the education of their students. When teachers fail on a constant basis to produce students who have knowledge appropriate to their education level, the teacher should be dismissed. I know this is difficult for some to hear but this must happen. And finally, parents take responsibility. Parents must be held responsible when children fail in school. Parents must take part in caring about their child's education. The pressure to succeed and work hard should come from not only the school but the parents. But many parents don't provide a good role model. That is another issue from society that came largely from COVID, the idea that you shouldn't have to go to work and that work was secondary. Well, if your work is secondary so is your child's education.

We need to save a whole generation of students who are basically failing. But remediation by the time you get to college is a joke. We must put people in power who are more concerned about reading, writing and math than they are about gender ideology, attending protests, and teaching social justice. Many of these ideas should come from the home not from school. The school needs to produce one thing, students who are competent for their age level. And the teacher's union has not supported this but rather social justice agendas which leave our students ill-prepared to deal with the future world.

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