



Special Edition Trumpet Education Conference Summary

Learn How to be the Core Education Conference By Hope Fobes, Newsletter Editor

GCRW presented an awesome education conference on April 24th in Richardson, Texas. Nine nationally known speakers helped educate our audience on education issues and the politics involved. Our president, Tracy Hancock, was the driving force behind the conference with help from many quarters, including Joline Tate, the VP of Programs, D'rinda Randall, the Education Chair, and Candy Noble, past GCRW President, SREC Candidate, and Golden Corridor's Laura Bush Scholarship judge.



century of progressivism in our schools, and that it can not be fixed all at once. We need to pick small issues first. She recommended going to education conferences and school board meetings to become familiar with the current landscape and problems. Create a newsletter on the web and then use that newsletter as an entry to get into conferences with a press pass. This was how she was able to confront specific superintendents about playing golf with vendors while at a conference on the taxpayers dollars. She also was able to get five school board members elected by the promise that these school board members would not profit in business because of school board contracts.

Jonathan Saenz

Jonathan Saenz from Liberty Institute spoke on Sex Education, Religion, and Social Studies. Even though Liberty Institute has an office in Plano, he is based in Austin to be closer to the Texas legislature. His area of emphasis is constitutional free speech and religious freedom in school. He reports that school supervisors often try to keep all religion out of school with the mistaken idea that doing so will limit their problems. They also have problems because state law often differs from federal law in this area.



The Free Speech Bill and the Bible Curriculum Bill that allows and almost requires schools to offer a Bible study class was passed in 2007. The ACLU fought the Bill in Odessa as unconstitutional –and lost.

The current standard for sex education in school has three options: 1) teach nothing; 2) teach sex education and include some abstinence training; or 3) teach abstinence as the primary form of sex education.

The State Board of Education is responsible for setting the standards in textbooks and curriculum. Textbooks are reviewed once every ten years. This is an important year. Currently, the State Board of Education (SBOE) consists of 10 republicans and 5 democrats which is why the conserva-



Joline Tate, Candy Noble, D'rinda Randall

Peyton Wolcott

The First Speaker was Peyton Wolcott, the founder of the National Grassroots School Check Register Movement. Her mantra was walk softly and carry a big FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). She noted that the American Revolution only had 20 to 25% participation of colonials. A small number of committed people can accomplish a revolution in the school system.



She reported that we have had a

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tive viewpoint is being upheld. However, Planned Parenthood is targeting Texas to change SBOE's balance of power to the left in order to influence sex education and Social Studies curriculum. They see Texas as a good financial opportunity for abortion funds.

Chip Adams

Chip spoke on Getting Involved in Your Local School Board. He quoted the cost per capital of schools in 1909 versus 2009—\$9 compared to \$11,600.

He spoke of the changes in education in the last century. President Wilson as an educator believed that destroying traditional values was the only way to progress and that it began with education. A major emphasis on the Teacher's Union is the strategy 5 Diversity. This has filtered down to our ISDs where the 'global' prospective is being taught.

Don McLeroy

Don McLeroy's topic was Why Educate? He has been a state SBOE Trustee since 1998. He challenged the audience to determine the reasons we want our children educated. Is it because we want them to have the knowledge and background to make good decisions or is it like many of the liberal groups push to make them into the workers needed in the future? The goals we desire determine the type of education we implement.

Don McLeroy wants to improve academics for children. He feels the current system is not focused on knowledge but is teacher centered not student centered. The emphasis that society seems to be pushing is process rather than content. The Teacher Unions want to teach the 'how to' (process) rather than pure knowledge.

The standards which include tests, textbooks, and grade level expectations are all defined by the Texas SBOE. The current practice of 'Teaching to the Test' is a direct result of the teacher incentives based on tests scores. Only the SBOE can change this practice.

One battle of note is the teaching standards of the English curriculum rewrite in 1999. The English Coalition wanted to use the English standards to promote liberal ideas. Often outside groups try to influence the



SBOE to set standards that will teach their bias and propaganda rather than the actual subject matter. The actual current standard that was set in Texas for English is 1) to teach rich literature 2) with good vocabulary and 3) with timeless truths.

MerryLynn Gerstenschlager

The next speaker was a VP of Texas Eagle Forum who spoke about the United Nations and the Nationalization of our Schools. MerryLynn Gerstenschlager has attended 16 United Nations Educational forums and recognizes that the UN is already reaching into our schools and standards with such programs as the International Baccalaureate. The UN goals switch education from knowledge to training workers—also found in OBE (Outcome Based Education). She declared the UN education is a virus that needs to be eradicated from our schools.

She also worries that Obama's 'Race to the Top' sets up federal control over education standards, further removing parental influence. She applauds Perry's refusal of the stimulus money for that program.

She noted that international benchmarks are often part of the national standards. And she claimed that a major goal of these programs in to include environmental indoctrination in their education.



Brenda Rizos

Designing Parent Websites was Brenda Rizos' topic. She advocated the use of technology to get our message across. She suggested we harness the internet to monitor schools and school boards. Use county appraisals to track funds for which the school boards are responsible.

She also suggested researching Robert Muller, the founder of UNESCO in order to determine other forces in education. She mentioned [GuideStar.com](http://www.GuideStar.com) as a site to use and peruse.

Michael Quinn Sullivan

Michael Quinn Sullivan is the CEO of Empower Texans and he spoke on Educational Costs & Impact. He re-



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minded us of some bad educational ideas used in the past such as open classrooms and whole language learning. He also noted that it is possible to efficiently spend money with no visible results, which seems to happen all too often.



He challenged us to decide where we are going with education. Education is certainly a public good but it is not keeping up to date. The format for education today was state of the art—in 1905. We need to determine what we want for education and how we want to present it by utilizing all the resources available today rather than what was done in 1905.

Michael also talked about the independent in Independent School Districts. School districts used to be organized by county with each county having only one school district. But the wealthy wanted to be ‘independent’ of the county to create better schools.

General disinterest seems to be the root of our education problems. Expectations in education need to be re-identified and evaluated. Public schools are more interested in employing adults rather than educating students. Electing the right school boards (state SBOE and local) is necessary to keep them accountable to taxpayers.



Don McLeroy

Don McLeroy spoke again in the afternoon on the subject “Our New TEKS—What a Difference They Make”. (TEKS— Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.) He was instrumental in helping change the science textbook standards to teach the strengths and weaknesses of all theorems and hypotheses, including evolution. Evolutionists would rather teach evolution as a ‘truth’, rather than a theorem. Evolutionists believe 1) all life evolved and 2) all life evolved in an unguided, natural process. The problem is that in the fossil record, no in-between, evolving states are found. All fossils are in stasis.

He was able to do this only because the SBOE trustees were comprised of 10 conservative republicans and 5 democrats . Next time standards are reviewed, the distribution of conservative trustees versus liberal

trustees may change so it’s very important to be active in these SBOE elections.

The History standards are now open for public review. Don urged the audience to make comments and review the standards. He fears the decline in respect of Americans around the world will foreshadow our decline as it has done with other civilizations. He stated the process of civilizations’ decline followed four steps: 1) Rise of moral relativism. 2) Decline of personal responsibility. 3) Repudiation of Judeo-Christian values. 4) Men and women believing they can solve everything on their own.



Hiram Sasser

Hiram Sasser of Liberty Institute spoke in the afternoon about First Amendment Rights. He has worked on the Plano Candy Cane case since 2003. There have been over 600 filings and the PISD has spent well over \$1 million. He observed that Collin County is the fifth most conservative county in the country and yet it has very liberal school board superintendents making the choice to fight these religious issues.

Plano fought (and lost) a case against the Student Bible Club saying that it was not a curriculum club like the other clubs. It was a flagrant violation of the law.

Another area of concern in Plano is that the law firm, Webb & Webb sponsors a Winter Art project but allows no religious themes in the art.

Hiram continued with the revelation that the battle isn’t won at the legislative level. It still has to be enforced which means suing or at least the threat of suit. An example where the threat worked was in the case of the City of Plano Swimmers fund raiser. The COPS sold bricks for the new recreation center where people could put names or symbols for display. When some people added crosses to their bricks, the city turned those bricks face down. The threat of a law suit was enough to force the city to turn the bricks back.



Peyton Wolcott

The final speaker of the day was Peyton Wolcott. She discussed the nationalization of schools. She also handed out her business card with her website which has 300 pages of research available. (See www.peytonwolcott.com).

She declared that when choosing school board members, select only candidates that will commit to NOT

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doing business with the school board. Many school boards are run on the promise of business contracts from the school board to the school board trustees. If that is the case, the school board trustees are more interested in the contracts they can obtain than the interests of the students.

Peyton reminded us that all politics are local—and that school board politics are localer. When reviewing the school board, determine who does the property tax collection and who got the contracts that the school board announced. Hold your elected school board officials accountable to the taxpayers. Demand transparency. Work on getting the school board to place their check register online—and then do periodic reviews of how the school board is spending its money.

The Education Act of 1995 rewrite took away power from the school board and gave it to the supervisors. Now it is important to see how the supervisors are spending the tax dollars and what they are doing for education—or themselves. Talking sweetly to the administrators can provide a plethora of information. And if that doesn't work, use the Freedom of Information Act.

On the local, state, and national level, the government is keeping a database of student information. How much information and what kind of information is being expanded almost daily. This can be a real worry. Peyton cited Edwin Black's book, **IBM and the Holocaust** as an example of data use run amuck.

GCRW audio CDs of the full conference are available upon request.

SBOE Report: Stay Strong!

By D'rinda Randall

The SBOE Board is a true group of heroes that are so dedicated to the children of America. We deeply thank you for your work.

I came to the forum yesterday. I was heartbroken when I witnessed the public servants, adults and kids voice dislike and for most, utter hatred, for this glorious country that we all blessed to be living in. The Conservative truth warriors **MUST** stay strong. This issue is bigger than books, curriculum, teachers, students of today. Two of my son's are almost out of the public school system but my youngest has just started. You



must fight for the love of this country for my youngest and his friends.

Many people yesterday said there were too many people left out of the changes. So many were misguided, ignorant or were just flat out lying. I did enjoy when time and time again you all would ask public servants (I use that name before I say public officials. They are supposed to SERVE!) for specifics on the reasons they were against the changes and they had nothing. Then when the kids would voice inaccurate information, time and time again you all were able to correct their 'oversight.'

There are millions of people that have made this country great. How thick do they think the book should be? How much do we need teachers to take on? Do we, as parents, hold no responsibility for sharing the love of our history, of our race and culture? I have never been so disappointed as I was yesterday by the conduct of the people at the forum. Your work became racially charged. What a shame. You all have done so much adding heroes from all cultures into the changes. Thank you.

Has our country made grave errors in the past? YES! But those were our ancestors. That was not any of us. I am Choctaw Indian. I am proud of the struggle my family went through. It makes me strong. It does NOT and WILL NOT make me a VICTIM! There was such entitlement, ignorance, deliberate misinformation, and slander in that room.

I couldn't help but wonder yesterday what our ancestors would think of the way people behaved. Would they be proud? Did they sacrifice all that they did for their names to be put in history books or did they do it to give us a legacy in America?

I did not get a chance to testify yesterday before we left at 5:00p. This was my main point for coming: To omit or change history to what we want it to be, is a lie. Omitting Christianity being the fabric of our Founding Fathers is a lie. I wish many of our public servants understood they will have to answer to someone greater than themselves one day.

When you educate through truth, the student can learn their own path. When you indoctrinate through lies, you dumb down the student. You stunt their possibilities. You **MUST** vote for the changes you all have sacrificed. As I saw yesterday these children are lost because of liberal bias. But you all are responsible for the next generation to love and contribute to this wonderful country. Your changes and additions are what they need.