**How the “Denver Plan” and the “Denver SIX (DPS school board members) have gotten FAT on the public Dole and Failed Denver’s kids!**

* DPS has the **highest rate of teacher turnover** in the metro area. Last year 22% of teacher’s left the district. 200 were fired and in McCarthy style, 80 of those were placed on a “Do Not Hire” list.

* Under the tenure of Tom Boasberg, **90% of DPS principals have turned over**.
* Despite deteriorating neighborhood schools like Garden Place Elementary, the school board spent **$70 million dollars for a new administration building**.

* While 43% of DPS teachers are forced into probationary status, the district employs **54 Directors** in the Academic and Innovation Office with averaging salaries of $100,000.00. The DPS board hires **more outside consultants** than any other district.

* The DPS Board has been gradually defunding the Teacher’s pension plan. In 2009 PERA was funded at 88%. Today PERA’s DPS division is funded at 82%. A risky credit scheme increased the pension related debt from $700 million in 2008 to $1.6 BILLION dollars today, **costing teacher’s retirement security and wasting millions of taxpayer dollars** ($200 million in fees alone).

* The last two DPS Board of Education elections earned $100,000 to $200,000 per candidate, **financed by the billionaire and millionaire boys clubs**. While corporate interests have been served well by the “Denver six,” Denver’s neighborhood schools have been dismantled and children neglected.

* The DPS “PLAN” has targeted poor and minority communities, replacing neighborhood schools with charters, many privately managed through hedge fund investors, **directing public dollars for private gain.**

**In the 10 YEARS of Denver’s “corporate REFORM” Agenda**

* The **achievement** **gap has increased** between white and minority students. The widest gap is between white and black students in math at 47 percentage points. The gap for Hispanic students is 40 percentage points and has been widening since 2011.
* **Gentrification** has led to significant property investments for wealthy while eliminating affordable housing for low-income families and **increasing transience** for the most vulnerable children.
* Denver neighborhoods over the past decade have grown **increasingly divided** with ¾ of DPS schools being segregated.
* The “DPS six” is now **displacing families** through “Enrollment Zones” in order to impose charter enrollment. Many children, particularly those in low-income areas are placed on **waiting lists for public schools** in their own neighborhood.

* **DPS has led the state in standardized testing**, requiring more tests with higher stakes than any other district. Despite students spending the majority of time testing, scores have remained flat. The ACT scores for the district dropped last year and **college** **remediation rates are higher than ever recorded.**
* All **students have lost critical choices** with more dollars being spent on management and administration and fewer dollars being invested on prevention, intervention and classroom resources including: music, art, physical education, technology, enrichment and extended learning opportunities.
* **Bullying** in DPS is being underreported, while the **school-to-prison pipeline grows**.
* Last year, out of 42 schools identified as “high-growth,” **17 schools lost proficiency**.
* Along with neighborhood schools, the Denver School board has embarked on an aggressive campaign to **eliminate bilingual and special needs programs** and services throughout the district. Many families and teachers are learning of these closures after the Denver Six have made the decision.

**Three Important Alternatives:**

This year voters will have an important opportunity to elect candidates that will work for Denver’s kids and Community. Mail Ballots will be delivered after October 10th. Cast your votes for:

Robert Speth, At-Large http://www.spethforstudents.org

Kristi Butkovich, District 1 <http://www.kristibutkovich4publiceducation.com/>

Michael Kiley http://kileyforkids.com/

 **Learn more at:**
<https://kaplanforkids.wordpress.com/author/jeanniekaplan/> & <http://www.angelaengel.com/>

Sources:

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