

September 9, 2015

Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes

Restore the Caucus (www.restorethecaucus.com) has posted [Lake Forest Caucus Committee minutes from 2012](#) (See the article titled: [Best Practices: Avoiding "Farce" if Possible](#))

It appears that back in 2012, the then newly hired LF Schools Superintendent Simeck was allowed to address the Caucus Committee at an August meeting and tell them the type of school board members *he* wanted. *In other words, that Caucus Committee let him help hire his own bosses.*

Minutes from that August 27, 2012 Caucus Committee meeting at Lake Forest Country Day School state: "Mr. Simeck asked that we seek people who are capable as [sic] acting as trustees on behalf of the community rather than as delegates from a constituency. His metaphor is that the students and teachers are actors or dancers upon a stage. *The Board sits in the balcony and the only person that moves between the groups is the superintendent. . .*" [Emphasis added]

Sits in the balcony? Under Illinois law, the Board governs the school district and is charged with the duty to adopt, enforce and monitor all policies for management and governance. It's also specifically charged with "[d]irecting, through policy, the Superintendent in his or her charge of the District's administration."

So contrary to Mr. Simeck's insistence on Board members who simply watch from afar, Illinois law demands they actually direct (as in "Board of Directors") the Superintendent.

Second, Simeck's concept that school board directors should view themselves as "trustees" rather than "delegates from a constituency" is also dead wrong as this is not an "either/or" situation; indeed, the Board is specifically charged with "representing the needs and desires of the community in educational matters."

Caucus Committee minutes on Simeck's job spec for his own bosses in the August 27, 2012 presentation continued: "He [Simeck] would like to work with board members who are honest, hardworking and who seek schools that are high performing. He advises us to consider those applicants who are patient, wise and ask good questions. They should be able to focus on process, act as a community sounding board and help the district administration learn from their [sic] mistakes. They must be able to press for answers when necessary."

Wouldn't we all like a boss who asks good questions but only presses for answers "when necessary" (whatever that means)? Wouldn't we all like a boss who will

“focus” on “process” (not results) and act as a “sounding board” (not a “delegate from a constituency”) for those they’re legally charged to represent? And finally, wouldn’t it be nice to have a boss that can help us “learn from [our] mistakes” but do it from the nosebleed seats and without a lot of pesky questioning, if you please?

You can’t make this stuff up.

How do we change the present situation?

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