

December 7, 2015

Dear Board of Education Members,

We are the unions representing the employees of LAUSD, working together with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. We are administrators, educators, administrative assistants, plant managers, construction workers, police officers, custodians, teacher aides, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, office assistants, secretaries, and more.

We urge you to support the "Excellent Public Education for Every Student" motion. We believe every student deserves an excellent education regardless of what school they attend. We are for quality and inclusive community schools that are adequately staffed, provide good jobs and are accountable to the parents and taxpayers. We believe that jobs in schools are amongst the most important jobs in the nation.

That is why we oppose the Broad-Walmart charter expansion plan which would dismantle the public school district. This plan would move 50% of LAUSD students into unregulated charter schools. It is following a blueprint used in New Orleans, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Newark, which has taken the public out of public schools and set up unregulated charters in their place. Parents, students and educators in those cities have found that their school system is unregulated, undemocratic and inaccessible. We are concerned that should this happen, it would lead to:

- Loss in arts, music, physical education and other extra-curricular programs
- Loss of cafeteria workers, administrators, educators, police officers and critical school staff who are the heart of the school, meaning fewer adults on every campus
- Many schools will close, so students will have to leave their neighborhood to attend school and workers will have to take jobs that do not value their work.

Instead of attempting to build an education system that is divided and unregulated, we invite Eli Broad to become part of the solution and join the District, its parents, employees and allies to continue to build on where the district has become successful. Our students deserve to be the absolute focus of our schools and we should not politicize or privatize that. Let us read LAUSD's mission statement, "The teachers, administrators and staff of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) believe in the equal worth and dignity of all students and are committed to educate all students to their maximum potential."

The solution is not privatizing, as this would only have dire consequences for the majority of students. Does anyone think Walmart makes any investment without thinking of profits? Again, we are for quality and inclusive community schools that are adequately staffed, provide good jobs and are accountable to the parents and taxpayers. We demand that Eli Broad stop this destructive privatization of education in Los Angeles and invite him to join us in continuing to fight to achieve the District's mission. All students deserve to be educated to their maximum potential.

Sincerely,

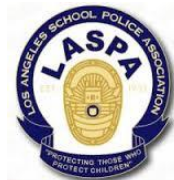
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