6-12-19

 Keep the language in HB 154 in the budget. The people have spoken and want HB 154 to be included in the budget.

 Top down does not work. Teachers, parents, and the community need to be involved in the solutions. I read that no teachers were involved with the new proposed transformation plan? How can you not include the very people that are in the state take overs? We have ideas and suggestions to improve our buildings. Buildings, each building in an inner city poverty stricken district is different. Trust me, I Have taught at 7 of our buildings over my 22 years here in Lorain, Ohio. Do not give so much power to one person to come in and make decisions for the entire district. Have teams at each building and problem solve. Year round school, innovative programs to reach the struggling students, smaller class sizes with highly trained teachers, extended hours at some schools, traveling teachers for children that don’t attend school, teachers that go into the homes and work with parents, a school or site for children that are not able to handle school at this time due to trauma. We recognize that children have PTSD but still force them to attend school with 27 other students, we need to give them the necessary time and supports to heal before expecting them to carry on every day like normal. Include us in solutions, do not dictate.

 Give the power and decision making to the local people. We need checks and balances in our district. A CEO has all the power to spend funds on whatever he/she deems needed. For example- in our district an administrator was paid $16,000.00 for moving expenses. Meanwhile we do not have scotch tape or copy paper at some schools. Head Start gave $92,000.00 to our district because we are in collaboration with them. Previous years the classroom teachers were included on how the funds were used, not this year. That money was dumped into the general fund instead of going to materials, programming for our preschool students. My co worked was given a new preschool room last August; she was told there were not adequate funds to purchase the needed furniture for her classroom. She had to beg and borrow, and buy so much of her room. Why didn’t our district give her some of the $92,000.00 to purchase needed materials? Funds need to be spent on the students. Local control is needed to check on where all the money is spent. Another example, is our district paid administrators $3 million before the state took over; a week ago at the ADC meeting, the treasurer reported that the budget is now $5 million for administrators. Money taken away from students.

 It is not an easy, one size fits all solution to get schools out of academic distress, but we do know top down does not work. Include HB 154 language in the budget. Local control needs returned to districts.

Sincerely- Karen Rossi 22 year veteran LCS teacher