

Good afternoon,

I have been watching the news, reading the papers, and even heard a few of those individuals who have complained about the injustice that is happening to them because of HB 70 and the leadership team we are thankful for and what it has brought to my city. Two things come to mind:

1. Firstly, where were these individuals when our schools were failing and people said they were doing something about it and in actuality our scores were just getting worse? Where was the outrage when hundreds of thousands of dollars were mismanaged by our local officials? Where is the outrage that our sitting Mayor is resigning and now opens the door for a room of people to select the leader of our city without a fair election? Where are those voices when hundreds upon hundreds of young people have graduated and remain struggling in life? Where were they when the equity audit in our district indicated that our black and brown kids were struggling more than our white students and no was doing anything about it and we are supposed to be “the International city”? If you were to ask all of those individuals who are upset with what is going on for documentation or facts about misspent funds or unfair practices—what documents can they produce. None. All of their “anger” and “outrage” is based on opinions driven by the privilege they live in. Ask them all of these questions that will give you proof, ask them where was this outrage when things were getting bad 10 years ago-- Where were they then? I can tell you—nowhere to be found. Why? Because they truly don’t care. The fact that someone is trying to bring accountability to our school system, people are upset. They are upset because someone is finally trying to do something that should have done years ago.

2. Second, does anyone actually care about the education of our kids? I mean if they did, they would understand that we have to do better. We may not like the fact that HB 70 was seemingly just put upon us, but if we are honest we ourselves, our kids were not getting the education they deserved, and finally legislators did something about it. As a result, there are things that are changing for the better. If someone would actually ask an educator or knows an educator, they would tell you that you have to look at how you structure your conversations about student learning. You have to figure out what our kids don’t know and attempt new ways to make them better; you have to spend time making sure that the people that educate them—teachers and leaders—actually spend time finding ways to get better and do better for kids. Better yet, we would hope that those educating our kids would know the standards of instruction so they can raise the expectations for our kids. With our current district leadership, that is exactly what’s happening—The district has improved the way that teachers prepare for kids and push’s them to review the work of their students and find ways to improve their performance on a weekly and monthly basis.

They then have an opportunity to use data to drive future instruction by planning and learning together. Our district now has a way for schools to look at progress on a monthly basis through a dashboard that shows them how they are growing in comparison to other schools in the district. School leadership teams now create and share their monthly schedules that includes their observation and feedback cycles, professional learning opportunities and how time is spent to meet the benchmarks outlined in the school leader dashboard. School leaders now observe and provide meaningful feedback to teachers that support and promotes future scholar growth.

All of the things that matter, only happen if the focus is educating kids, not by providing policy band-aids that quiet the noisy few that only appeared because real change was happening and their privilege was not being elevated and honored. Finally, we have things in place that matter for kids. We respectfully urge you not to change this for our kids. The work that is just beginning doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people care, really care and know what is needed to make kids better. Better yet, they also know what helps our teachers and leaders get better as well. The truth is so many teachers want to speak up and speak out but know they can't cross company lines and side with the so-called "enemy". There are hundreds of teachers and staff members across the district that is so thankful for the change that is happening. Yet, they are afraid to speak up because of the voices and names you hear over and over again in the media. This is so unfair to them and as a community, it is unfair to me. Please don't put a stop to the work being done in Lorain City School District. Please support the district's current efforts both publicly and financially. The work being done is the right work—let's get beyond the loud adult voices and allow the silent majority to have a chance to see something through for once.

Thank you for listening to my passion and my future vote will be watching your actions. Thank you.