

Support Our Children with a Strong Public Education System

Faith Minton, Warner

As a supporter of public education, I read with disappointment New Hampshire District 25 Representative Natalie Wells' recent letter regarding public education, which in my opinion is dangerous and deliberately inaccurate.

In her letter, Representative Wells makes critical claims about children and education. Given the inaccuracies in her description of public education, I would ask that she provide her readers with the sources of her information about what is happening in our local schools. Has Representative Wells actually visited our schools, attended school board meetings, and participated in open house events? What actual evidence does Representative Wells offer to support her claims? None that I am aware of. She educated her children in another state, retired here, and now hopes to create fear and misunderstanding of what happens in New Hampshire schools.

I believe Rep. Wells' views are echoes of views stated time and time again by Libertarian and Free State factions of the New Hampshire Legislature with which our Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut and our Governor

Chis Sununu have aligned themselves.

As a longtime Warner resident and taxpayer, former educator, parent of students educated at Kearsarge Regional School District, school volunteer and volunteer coordinator, youth mentor,

and past school board member, I have direct knowledge and feel much better qualified to share accurate information about our local public schools. Representative Wells' descriptions of what goes on in our public schools are simply untrue and inaccurate.

When an elected public official uses phrases such as "children made to feel guilty for actions 200 years ago," "children learning to hate their buddies," "parents who speak up at school boards ... are being punished," I ask what schools she is referring to? It is not our local public school system.

These phrases are part of a calculated national political effort designed to generate fear, to make people question the quality of our public schools. They are part of a deliberate attack by well-financed organizations like the Heritage Foundation, 1776 Action, Fight for Schools, Parents Against Critical Theory, Turning Point USA, the list goes on.

We will see more and more attacks on public education leading up to the next election. So please do not be swayed by uninformed messengers who want to undermine our public schools.

I invite Representative Wells and others who are uninformed to learn more about New Hampshire public schools. Contact your local school Superintendent and set up a visit. I am sure Representative Wells will be pleased to find out she lives in a community with quality schools which encourages active family participation. Her local Kearsarge Regional School District is made up of hard working, dedicated professionals who are proud to work in a highly ranked school community.

After your visit to our schools, Representative Wells, I ask that you report back about what is really happening in our local schools. I agree with your feeling that we should come together. Let's come together and support our children and families with a strong, supported public education system that serves all our children regardless of which town the child resides in. Please do not promote false, generalized, politically motivated narratives that are taken from those who wish to dismantle public education. We expect more of our elected officials.

Janet Moore, Andover

Having re-read all of Louise Andrus' *Beacon* articles, I've come to certain conclusions that I believe need to be shared with the public.

Through her letters, she has shared

Reflect on the Importance of Caring for the Common Good

als to make their own vaccine choices. She'd like us to honor our health care workers, brave and essential folks, even when they choose not to be vaccinated.

But, my concern is that these are the same workers who may have exposed their patients to the germs and viruses they bring into the workplace. And when the federal mandate was handed down, some of these essential health care workers may have been among those who would rather lose their jobs than be jabbed. In losing their essential jobs, they then put their patients at additional risk since not enough staff can be hired and the level of care goes down. Ironically, those same "un-jabbed" then go on, in some cases, to fill up hospital beds and ICU's when they eventually get infected.

Louise Andrus, our state representative, certainly believes in individual rights and in the state motto to live free or die. What's really clear to me, as one of her constituents, is that she simply does not care for the common good. That is my opinion, but it is also clear to me that protecting oneself against the virus also protects any and all people with whom one comes in contact.

When our brave veterans, whom she so rightly praises, went off to war, they fought for the common good, for the welfare and freedom of all the people. I hope our state representative soon finds the time to reflect on just how important it is to value all life, all peoples, and our own friends and neighbors.

LETTERS

that she has a 100% approval rating from the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance – read: libertarian – and the New Hampshire House Republican Alliance. She's been a parent to three children at AE/MS and expressed approval when the school was so responsive to concerns voiced to her by parents.

She's vocal about her attendance at MVHS school board meetings, speaking for the parents who were distressed by diversity training and mask mandates. In fact, she referred to that training as leading to indoctrination of the students and that teachers should spend more time on the basics. She's all for parental rights in the schools, but I must point out that these are our taxpayer-funded public schools where we, the people, hire and train and pay good educators to guide the community's children in their learning experiences and responsibilities.

Andrus pointed out twice in her letters that she went to MVHS meetings and stood up for the right of individu-

CRT has Nothing to Do with Making Children Feel Guilty

Harvey Pine, Ph.D, Andover

I am writing in response to the View from Concord, October 2021 from both State Representatives Louise Andrus and Natalie Wells. While I appreciate the unifying tone they strike and couldn't agree more concerning the sentiments for our veterans and those currently serving our country, I disagree with the dog whistles they employ to spread misinformation. They uncritically adopt the messages from the right concerning controversial books and Critical Race Theory (CRT).

I do not have strong feelings concerning the books mentioned in Andrus' opinion piece. My concern lies in the move to strike these books as a response to what has happened in Texas or Virginia, rather than a truly local concern.

The topics covered in these books are relevant and provide insight into realities too often shoved out of sight. As parents we have opportunities to know what our children are reading

and are able to intervene without banning the content for others. It only involves spending time with our children, developing trust, and being able to discuss topics that are controversial and perhaps taboo.

Regarding Critical Race Theory, I get a sense that Wells is misinformed on the topic, resulting in misleading her constituents. CRT has nothing to do with making our children feel guilty or aimed to stoke hate. It investigates the social, not biological, construct of race and the power dynamics that develop around racial identity.

In the United States it is undeniable that this has benefited, both intentionally and unintentionally, white people over those of other races. Without recognizing this, we really cannot address institutional reforms that need to happen if we want equitable communities. CRT is critical of the liberal approach used to address these challenges to society.

The most important point about
See CRT on page 11

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