



Contact: communications@berwyncares.org

BERWYN CARES STATEMENT TO DISTRICT 201 BOARD OF EDUCATION CALLING FOR RESIGNATION OF JEFFRY PESEK

April 13, 2011 (Berwyn, IL) My name is Robert Pauly. I am the President of Berwyn CARES. CARES is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering collaboration among students, educators, parents and community members with a goal of providing an exceptional learning environment for our children. We are united to promote stronger community involvement in our schools.

I am here tonight representing our membership, hundreds of parents and residents concerned about the state of our local schools. I am also here as the parent of a student in District 201.

When asked, the quality of education provided by this District is the ***single greatest concern*** expressed by our membership.

- We are concerned that 75% of the students in District 201 fail to meet state standards.
- We are concerned that each year, over 1500 students leave Morton schools unprepared to compete in a world economy.
- We are concerned that the expenditure per pupil is among the lowest in the county and that recent budget cuts have further diluted the curriculum to the point that college acceptance for graduates is jeopardized.
- We are concerned that this board of education has lost the confidence of the community - support that is critical to improving some of the lowest performing schools in the state.

The National Center for Public Education guidelines on what qualifications a school board member should possess asks 'Does the person inspire parents and other stakeholders to have confidence in the local public schools?' Overwhelmingly our community has responded that Jeffry Pesek does not.

Since the *Chicago Sun Times* published his federal testimony, hundreds of individuals have contacted CARES to indicate that this Board of Education should demand Mr. Pesek's resignation. Many of them signed the following statement which I would like to present to you now.

"The overall quality of our schools, both now and in the future, rests with decisions made by the board of education. We want the best and brightest in charge. Jeffry Pesek's federal testimony demonstrates he lacks the qualities and qualifications that students need. We the undersigned join with Berwyn CARES in calling for a jury of Mr. Pesek's peers on the District 201 Board to take immediate action to remove him."

School boards in high-achieving districts exhibit characteristics that are distinctly different from boards in low-achieving districts. Effective boards have a collaborative relationship with the community and work to engage both internal and external stakeholders. The potential for collaborative relationships with District 201 stakeholders has been severely compromised by the events of this week. It is the position of Berwyn CARES and its membership that until there is leadership change in this board, District 201 will never be a viable educational option for the whole of the community.

Berwyn C.A.R.E.S. (Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students) is a community-based organization created to improve the local education system by encouraging more family and community involvement. Since 2006, CARES has established itself as the leading resource for up-to-date, reputable information on Berwyn's District 98, 100, & 201 schools.

More information is available online at www.berwyncares.org.

The Center for Public Education (Center) is a national resource for accurate, timely, and credible information about public education and its importance to the well-being of our nation. Their publication 'Eight characteristics of effective school boards' offers best practices from successful districts.

<http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Public-education/Eight-characteristics-of-effective-school-boards/default.aspx>