

#6 – I HAVE A DREAM that \_\_\_\_\_ will be able to develop to their full potential.

Good evening, Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_,  
and board members:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I wish to share my concerns about Common Core State Standards Initiative. This is the new federal education program that Governor Schwarzenegger signed - **sight** **unseen**, so now we are supposed to be implementing it in all of our districts across the State.

Most people have not yet heard of COMMON CORE; that was by design. **We** were not supposed to know about it. **Congress** did not know about it either. Both Congress and all of the State legislators

in the 46 States that signed onto it were bypassed in the decision making.

Common Core is not improving education standards but is dumbing them down.

**CURSIVE HANDWRITING** will no longer be taught. The Director of Education said in a memo sent April 25, 2012 “The Common Core State Standards do not include cursive writing at all. Instead, students are expected to become proficient with keyboarding skills”.<sup>124</sup>

I HAVE A DREAM. That my grandchildren will be able to read handwriting. That they will be able to

sign their name to contracts. That they will be able to take notes in business meetings.

## **MATH**

According to James Milgram who is a professor emeritus of math at Stanford University and served as a member of the Validation Committee for the Common Core national standards for math, he said, “The Core Mathematics Standards are written to reflect very low expectations.”<sup>40</sup>

I HAVE A DREAM. That my grandchildren will be able to excel in math and be proficient in math so they can choose any career in which math would be needed.

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**“Attorney Emmitt McGrouthy – Common Core English Standards Remove Much Classical English Literature.” Having children read manuals instead of reading as much literature, would not help them develop their critical thinking skills. pg. 33, Common Core: A Trojan Horse For Education Reform**

**I HAVE A DREAM. That my grandchildren will be able to use creative thinking skills and exercise their liberties and make wise choices.**

## **LITERACY**

**Sandra Stotsky who is of the University of Arkansas Department of Education Reform, sat on**

the Common Core review for Language Arts. She said Common Core “Will lead to Low Level of Literacy for all High School Students.” pg. 34  
Common Core: A Trojan Horse For Education Reform

I HAVE A DREAM. That my grandchildren will be very literate and well informed. That they will be able to develop their full potential and not just mindlessly function like a robot.

### Personal Data Collection:

Extensive databases will track criteria on each child from preschool to age 20: family income, voting status, religious affiliation, health history, blood type etc. Glenn Beck’s TV program, March 27, 2013.

**I HAVE A DREAM. That my grandchildren's future won't be hindered by their family's history.**

**Workforce tracking students:**

**Lisa Harris, retired teacher & activist. “Instead of children being encouraged to excel to the highest level that they can, they're putting them in a place to where, instead of a child choosing a career and going after their interests, they're letting the career choose the child or the workforce choose the child, and tracking them all along the way, to slot them into whatever the workforce' needs are.” Guest on Glenn Becks' TV Program on March 27, 2013.**

**I HAVE A DREAM. That my grandchildren will have the freedom to pursue the career of their dreams.**

**I believe that it is important for you to have an open discussion on Common Core with parents involved. Please exercise your power as Board members to review this information while you still are able to and allow parental input and study regarding the academic education of their children.**

**Thank you.**

Cursive handwriting:

*“The Common Core State Standards do not include cursive writing at all. Instead, students are expected to become proficient with keyboarding skills,”* the DOE said in a memo sent April 25, 2012.<sup>124</sup> pg. 85, Common Core: A Trojan Horse For Education Reform

<sup>124</sup> <http://www.fox59.com/news/wxin-cursive-writing-schools-no-longer-required-to-teach-cursive-beginning-this-fall-20110630,0,7533627.story>.

Math:

James Milgram – is a professor emeritus of math at Stanford University and served as a member of the Validation Committee for the Common Core national standards for math. He was the only one of the 25-member committee who had any math degree. He testified before an education committee of the Texas legislature and said that the standards were a byproduct of politics and special interests that made them “reflect very low expectations and to be as non-challenging as possible”: pg. 32, Common Core: A Trojan Horse For Education Reform

*“A number of these [special interest] sources were mainly focused on things like making the standards as **non-challenging as possible**. Others were focused on making sure their favorite topics were present, and handled in the way they liked.*

*As a result of all the political pressure to make Core Standards acceptable to the special interest groups involved, there are a number of extremely problematic mathematical decisions that were made in writing them. Chief among them are: The Core Mathematics Standards are written **to reflect very low expectations**.”*

Milgram explained that by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Common Core math is about two years behind the math of other high-achieving countries. Common Core Geometry standards leave out key topics in Euclidean geometry, including proofs and deductive reasoning. Milgram believes such shortcomings mean that America’s new math standards—instead of being comparable to international standards as touted—will not stack up well against foreign competition at all.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>40</sup> <http://parentsacrossamerica.org/2011/04/james-milgram-on-the-new-core-curriculum-standards-in-math/>.

## English Literature:

Attorney Emmit McGrouthy – Common Core English Standards Remove Much Classical English Literature: The curriculum lowers the standards so that only classical literature, 50% will be taught from what was traditionally 80%. The other 50% is just informational text, such as reading a computer manual. Why is that so harmful? pg. 33, Common Core: A Trojan Horse For Education Reform

*Classical literature is the foundation of our nation. It teaches children to: investigate their surroundings; to make wise decisions, to have empathy; it teaches them how to exercise their liberties. You don't learn that from a computer manual.*<sup>42</sup>

<sup>42</sup> McGrouthy. OpCit.

## Literacy:

Sandra Stotsky – Common Core “Will lead to low level of literacy for all high school students.” Stotsky is of the University of Arkansas Department of Education Reform. She sat on the Common Core review panel for Language Arts. Here is the quote that was given in the Education Reporter, Jan. 12, 2012: pg. 34, Common Core: A Trojan Horse For Education Reform

*“The Common Core Language Arts standards, will lead to a lower level of literacy for all high school students...[the Common Core’s] grade-level standards are mostly language skill sets, with little substantive content.”*<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. [Education Reporter, Op.Cit.]

## Personal Data Collection:

Extensive databases will track criteria on each child: family income, voting status, religious affiliation, premature at birth, health history, and blood types etc. They can ask these questions and sell them to some private corporation because they bypassed Congress. Glenn Beck’s TV program, March 27, 2013.

## Workforce tracking students:

*“Instead of children being encouraged to excel to the highest level that they can, they’re putting them in a place to where, instead of a child choosing a career and going after their interests, they’re letting the career choose the child or the workforce choose the child, and tracking them all along the way, to slot them into whatever the workforce’ needs are.”*

Lisa Harris, retired teacher & activist. Guest on Glenn Becks’ TV Program on March 27, 2013.