

#8 - Bill & Melinda Gates & Pearson's Monopoly

Good evening, Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_ and honored school board members.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am here tonight to share my concerns regarding the Common Core State Standards Initiative, the new federal education program that is known to few parents and the public. Parents need to be informed on how this program will affect their children's education.

You have heard the concerns of my colleagues, and I want to focus on who is funding this radical education program. *Ed Week*, announced in May, 2011 that **Bill and Melinda Gates**, founders of Microsoft products have cornered the Market in

**Common Core Standards. Gates' billionaire foundation joined Pearson, another billionaire foundation, to produce on-line curriculum for the Common Core standards. These two big foundations with the federal government assisting, are not only preparing e-books for the curriculum but also a 24-course training sequence to teach the teachers how to teach the new Common Core material.**

**Chris Tebben**, the executive director for Grant-makers for Education, a group of education funders, expressed concerns about “advantaging” one large education company. It is as if they are becoming a “monopoly.”

**Pearson** has also taken over several other book publishing companies. Operating under their pseudo name of *Penguin*, they have bought out smaller, self-publishing companies such as *Xlibris*, *Scott Foresman*, *Prentice Hall*, *Allyn & Bacon* and others, keeping their names so that people will not know that *Pearson* owns these companies. With this much power, prestige, wealth and book holdings, **Pearson** and **Gates** will be very successful in selling Common Core curriculum, on-line assessments, teacher professional development and technological resources nationwide and throughout the world. This is a monopoly!

It was reported that **Bill & Melinda Gates** foundation has mobilized the National PTA to

become a “key player at the front line of education reform” by **giving the National PTA \$1 million grant** to speak positively and encourage parents to embrace the Common Core curriculum.

Please exercise your power as board members to have an open hearing regarding Common Core so that parents can know what is in this education program.

Thank you.