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Riverside Democrats Condemn Temecula School Board's Actions

Banning books, rejecting social sciences curriculum, firing Superintendent serve extremist agenda, not students.

Riverside, CA – 06/15/23 – Today, the Riverside County Democratic Party (RCDP) , led by Chair Joy Silver, voiced strong support of the actions taken by California Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and Superintendent of Education Tony Thurmond against the right-wing extremist majority currently in control of the Temecula Valley Unified School District Board of Education (Board). This, in response to the Board's rejection of a social sciences curriculum that not only was recommended by staff and the State Board of Education but also satisfies legislated content for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The stated objection to the curriculum is the mention of Harvey Milk, the pioneering LGBTQ+ rights activist in the supplementary materials. However, the Board has made clear that it opposes all racial and gender-based content in the curriculum.

Now, the Board has taken the issue a step further. In a stunning yet not surprising 3-1 vote held in a closed-door meeting, the Board fired District Superintendent Jody McClay, despite vocal protests outside by parents, teachers, and students representing an 11,000-member student body that is left without reading materials in social sciences for the upcoming year. Ms. McClay was not in lockstep with their positions, so they removed her in order to advance their right-wing agenda.

Joy Silver stated, “We are well aware that there are forces at work within our state who wish to erase the progress we have made in this area. From the brawls that broke out in Glendale to the image of an adult male shouting down into a black child's face in Temecula, the RCDP recognizes what is at stake: exposing children to an expansive, inclusive education versus feeding them bigoted propaganda. We are at a turning point.”

The Riverside County Democratic Party (RCDP) is one of 58 County Committees affiliated with the California Democratic Party (CADEM). They drive boots-on-the-ground efforts of registering voters, fundraising, electing candidates up and down the ballot, and fighting voter suppression. The RCDP is a volunteer-run organization that works to engage voters and fight for working-class values.

For more information, press only:

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