



Rotberg, Iris < irotberg@email.gwu.edu >

Kappan article

2 messages

Jerry Robbins < jrobbins@emich.edu >
To: irotberg@gwu.edu

Mon, Feb 3, 2014 at 10:44 PM

Professor Rotberg,

The sound you hear is extremely loud applause from here for your article in the 2014 issue of the Phi Delta Kappan! Now to somehow get this message before policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels.

In SE Michigan, where there is a great excess of charter schools (my bias is that anything greater than 0 is an "excess"), all an individual or group has to do is say "our proposed charter school will require everyone to take Arabic and Middle Eastern History and Culture" and (surprise!) all the applicants are of Middle East ancestry. Similarly, the organizers only have to say "we will have an Afro-Centric curriculum in all our grades" and (surprise again!) all the applicants are African-American. The only good news that I can report is that, to their great credit, few, if any, other religious/ethnic/national/language groups have taken this approach in this area, although I have reason to suspect that a few struggling Roman Catholic schools have converted to charters for financial reasons.

Keep up the good work.

--

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Iris Rotberg < irotberg@email.gwu.edu >
To: Jerry Robbins < jrobbins@emich.edu >

Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 4:42 PM

Dear Dean Robbins,

I appreciate your kind words and, even more so, because your comments come from personal experience. My impression is that the type of situation you describe occurs much more frequently than people realize. The examples that have been pulled together for publication are generally those that resulted in law suits --probably just the tip of the iceberg. Perhaps I will find a dissertation student who would like to work on this!

I look forward to keeping in touch. With my best regards,

Iris

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