

Three Minute Speech

Hello, my name is Neal Kleiner and I just retired after thirty eight years in LAUSD in order to run for School Board District #7.

I have spent all 38 years at school sites and have seen what works well at schools and what does not.

The last five years I was principal at John Muir MS in Los Angeles and with the collaboration of many dedicated teachers, support staff, and parents we turned around a failing school and made it a place where parents were glad to send their children.

If we could do it at John Muir, we can do it through all the District. I want more local control of the curricula.

Too many decisions were made by “Downtown” without consulting those affected at the schools sites: parents, teachers, and administrators.

I also want local communities to have more say on school site selection as new schools are built in their areas.

I feel that class size reduction is very important, especially in grades four and five. It is here that students first start reading in the content areas and with classes in the thirty's, students encounter serious reading difficulties.

We must attack the drop out problem by keeping students from getting behind in elementary schools and dropping further behind in middle schools.

Another issue is school safety. All students and employees must feel safe at a school site or moral suffers. Schools must be free from violence, clean, and environmentally safe.

Every school should be a school where parents want to send their children, where students feel challenged to learn, and where teachers and support staff want to work.

Most of our schools are like that. My goal is that ALL schools in LAUSD will be that way.

Lastly, this is a referendum on the Mayor of Los Angeles attempted takeover of our public schools. He has enough on his hands solving the many problems in Los Angeles, that he doesn't need this power grab.

The courts threw out AB1381 and the Mayor is trying to buy the School Board. The Mayor has pledged to spend another million dollars to buy this election.

If you agree with the mayor, vote for my opponent. If not, then vote for me, Neal Kleiner, the independent candidate who is supported by our parents, teachers, and administrators from all over the District. I am not for sale.

Thank you, very much for this opportunity to speak with you.