

Rancho Manor Neighborhood Association

1801 Granite Avenue Las Vegas NV 89106

Tel & Fax: 702-385-7654 Cell: 702-497-6321 Email: Tippy2d@aol.com

September 19, 2009

Principal
Howard Wasden Elementary School
2831 Palomino Lane
Las Vegas Nevada 89107

Dear Sir:

On Wednesday, September 16, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Rancho Manor Neighborhood Association considered the matter of the volunteer service of our resident, Frank Perone, as a volunteer crossing guard at Wasden Elementary school. For over two decades, Mr. Perone has performed this service without compensation. It is generally observed that his efforts have been useful and constructive in helping to reduce traffic congestion and ensuring the safety of pupils crossing the street. By doing this, he frees paid staff from these duties and allows them additional time to perform the professional services for which they were trained. I am writing to you to express the incredulity of our Directors that you, and the Clark County School District, would seek to force him to end these services. As my daughter, a Wasden student from 1997 – 2001, said: why would they do that - Mr. Perone is one of the best things at Wasden.

We would note that in this role, Mr. Perone does not aspire to any police authority nor claim to represent the CCSD. When he asks the driver of a double parked vehicle to move along, or holds back children until the street is clear, he acts only as a citizen and adult advisor; the same authority that a school employee would have in a municipal thoroughfare. It is obvious, however, that your approval and cooperation is needed for him to serve in that function, and it seems to us that any problems or complaints could be discussed civilly, as between gentlemen. The Board unanimously resolved that you support Mr. Perone, and ask him to resume the role he has performed for years with such dedication.

This incident is only one of a number which seem to show the distaste which the staff of Wasden Elementary and the CCSD, have for the community and the parents of the children which they serve. It has been reported from various sources that the Wasden PTA was deprived of a meeting and work room there, a long standing arrangement at Wasden. The reason given was urgent space requirements, but after removal of PTA belongings, the room was not then used. Before you dismiss this issue as none of our business, I would point out that many of us are Wasden graduates, parents or grandparents, and have long supported the school and its activities. There was a time when professional educators thought of themselves as serving their community, welcomed its support and encouraged the interest of parents in the academic and social activities of the school. Howard Wasden had an exemplary reputation for involved and supportive parents, and a PTA that provided considerable financial support. I often volunteered for trips, parties and various academic exercises as a Wasden parent, and until the last principal, was made to feel welcome and useful. Increasingly it seems like parents and the community only get in the way of a school and school district which are interested in only their own institutional self sufficiency and bureaucratic prerogatives. Should you look for community support in the future, you may find that you have forfeited it.

I would be delighted to hear from you personally either by e-mail or telephone.

Yours truly,

Daniel J Deegan
Pres, Rancho Manor Neighborhood Assn.

Rancho Manor Neighborhood Association

Daniel J Deegan, President

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Mr. Scott du Chateau, Principal
Howard Wasden Elementary School
2832 Palomino Lane
Las Vegas NV 89107

Dear Principal du Chateau,

Thank you for your telephone response this past Thursday to my letter of September 19 concerning the volunteer crossing guard at your school, in which you stated that you were following a district wide policy mandate to cease coordinating volunteer crossing guards, the merits of which you declined to discuss on the basis that this was a policy formulated and imposed by higher authority.

My letter was written on behalf of our Association Directors, community leaders in their own right, and the General Meeting which authorized the communication. Would you please do them the courtesy of a written response in which you restate the explanation you gave to me and make any additional points you desire. This way your answer will go direct to our community, without any distortion or misinterpretation from an individual third party.

Would you also forward with your response a copy of the circular or directive, dated and signed by the authorizer, in which the district wide policy is spelled out. This way we question it with the proper authorities, a course which we fully intend to follow.

Thank you for your attention.

Daniel J Deegan

Pres. RMNA

Copies: Superintendents Ruffles, Day
Trustees Janison, Young
Assemblyman Munford
Mayor Goodman
Councilmen Barlow, Tarkanian