

Today I would like to address the anti-union postcards from Educated Teachers.com that some of you might be receiving in the mail. The group that is sending these postcards is the Center of the American Experiment. This group was big proponent of the Janus ruling and would like to see teachers unions disband. If you take the time to peruse their website, you will see how this think tank would like to see less funding of public education in Minnesota.

I am concerned about the postcard that people are receiving because of the false information that was presented in it. It states that Education Minnesota is trying defund the police and to get rid of SROs (school resource officers) within our schools. In their postcard, it references words spoken by an unnamed union official that “demand police-free schools.” As you know, Denise Specht is our spokesperson for Education Minnesota and Education Minnesota hasn’t taken an official position of this issue. As a matter of fact, Education Minnesota has advocated that it is up to individual districts to decide on the issue on SROs. This postcard also says your union dues are going to groups to defund the police and that isn’t true. You will notice that they couldn’t name any of those groups in their message. Once again, this group is playing on fears in society to further divide people to the point where we have no voice.

The Center of the American Experiment doesn’t like the fact that Education Minnesota is 83,000 strong and that we have a collective voice to help make change or, more importantly, defend the needs of educators to provide the best we can for our students. They tout the fact that they can offer liability insurance for teachers, but what does that do? When we have issues in Rochester, are they the ones who are going to show up on a daily basis to offer support and deal with administration or the district? The answer to that is – no! Every day we have faculty representatives, executive board members, our Education Minnesota field representative and me that are working on local issues. Along with that, Education Minnesota works every day to make sure we have a voice in the education decisions made in Minnesota.

Hopefully, this will help you understand what you were sent and you can see that this is a ruse to get people to become less effective in voicing their concerns. Our union is only as strong as the members that are actively involved with what we do. Thankfully, we have great members that work hard to make sure our students are getting what they need.

Finally, I want to remind you that Early Voting starts today in Minnesota. Make a plan to vote for this election. You can vote early, vote by mail or vote in person. No matter what method you use – just make sure you vote!

Keep up the Great Work!

Dan Kuhlman, President  
Rochester Education Association  
[dan.kuhlman@edmn.org](mailto:dan.kuhlman@edmn.org)  
507-319-7321