

The State Church, “*Public Education*”

Chapter Seven – A Paradigm Shift of Huge Proportion

Change is welcomed by many and for many it is viewed as the Devil incarnate. I for one do not adhere to change very well. Why change anything that is working or is seen as a benefit to mankind? No one can argue that mankind has endured thousands of changes over the centuries and many of these have helped the cause of mankind in remarkable and undeniable ways and benefits. These can be easily seen by all of those whose lives have been changed or transformed in ways no one could have ever imagined just a few centuries ago. The fact that change can bring great benefit to many is just the reason that so many people will oppose change even when something is no longer beneficial or has become tainted in many ways. Sometimes change is so great the very beginning of great ideas is lost and no longer recognizable by anyone.

Nothing is so more true than that of the government run public education system in America. It is impossible to discuss the need to make dramatic changes to the current government run public education system in America with any elected public leader or school official. Public education has and continues to be one of those sacred institutions that is held in high regard and where not fault can be found. There is nothing farther from the truth than this position and belief regarding public education in Texas and across the country.

The status of the current government run education system in America is in decline and has been for the past four decades or even longer. The cost of education has skyrocketed while the results and level of academic achievement have dropped steadily for the past several decades in the majority of public schools in this country. This is not to say that children are not learning but the fact remains children in the US have fallen well behind those of other developing countries. There are many reasons for this and most of them are not understood or either ignored by elected leaders and public educators. For decades local school districts have followed the lead of federal government and leaders in Washington and demand more money year after year to the point that no one really knows the cost of educating a child in Texas or any other state in the union.

No one can argue the fact the quality of education in Texas has dropped dramatically. This has occurred at the same time taxpayers and homeowners are being stripped of their wealth and homes in order to keep a broken and failing government run education system afloat. Local school districts continue to pass fraudulent annual budgets with increases for salaries and stipends that far exceed what the average homeowner receives annually. A quality education does not correlate with money in anyway shape or form. Some of the most educated and knowledgeable people that ever lived never had more than a bible or a couple of McGuffey readers during their early learning years. Educators and politicians in the US have drifted well off track over the past several decades in regard to how a real education is

derived. It is not sitting in a classroom in a modern school with all the bells and whistles money can buy. Where parents, leaders and public-school officials have failed is in the fact they want to make learning easy. Nothing in life that is worth having ever comes easy it comes with hard work. Parents have been brainwashed into believing that education only happens in the so-called best schools with best buildings and facilities. While some of the modern conveniences of new school buildings are helpful many or simply not needed. Some of the brightest and smartest individuals that have climbed to the top of their professions attended schools without air-conditioning, computers, cell phones, security bars and gates and the list goes on.

The idea of a public education system in America was based on well intentions and ideas. Parents wanted their children to have a better life than they had experienced, and this is a noble cause. But the time and culture were much different than it is today. The population of “learned people” was extremely low per capita. Today across the world the majority of all people groups have been exposed to some level of education and live better than their predecessors and are comfortable. The need and desire to receive an education is still a worthwhile goal and will benefit anyone young or old for a lifetime. So what changes are needed that would allow children, young adults, and even older adults to have access to and gain an education? The answer to this question will send public educators into orbit. In this chapter we are going to take a look at some of the key problems facing education today as well as some of the possible solutions that will improve the delivery and cost of education for every child, student, adult and for the parents of school age children.

There are many changes needed to help improve the education system and process in Texas and across the nation. But the most difficult challenge to overcome will be met head on by public educators and even the parents who believe they want change. The most important and difficult thing to change regarding the government run public education system is the false perspective and belief that children can only be educated with a socialist approach and in the classroom fishbowl environment and approach used today. There are so many problems with the current ideology that children must be educated in a classroom setting surrounded by other children and become indoctrinated with socialist and communist like teaching methods used in the public-school classrooms across America today. One of the most disturbing ideas and beliefs is that children need to be around other children to learn social skills and be able to interact with adults and the general public. This is one of the most ignorant and outrageous beliefs I have heard and listen to for most of my adult life. If I could only turn the clock back and not have been exposed to things that made significant negative impacts on my life not just as young person but that have taken years to overcome as an adult. The drug, sex, rock and roll hippie era of the 1960’s and early 1970’s created a lot of difficulty in my life. I was fortunate in many ways and did not end up like several young men I knew. A few of these I was close to but unfortunately whose lives were taken incredibly early because of the influence of the culture and social pressures they were exposed to in the government run public school system.

Young children do not learn how to be good citizens and develop good character qualities from other young children. Young children need to be exposed to adults and learn how to interact with adults at an early age to ever be successful and feel that they are in fact part of the social system and have value. In the later years young adults that have developed good quality traits and moral character may be able to help other young adults to learn the same. These types of individuals are however few among the general student population in schools. Children need to be challenged at an early age to learn how to become a responsible person and not simply left to the government controlled public education system as a replacement for adults with solid foundations and moral character.

Another myth and falsehood propagated by public educators is that any child being taught outside the government run public school system is not receiving the best education. There is nothing farther from the truth than this belief and view. Some of the smartest and knowledgeable young people I have ever known never stepped foot in a public school or college. The same is true for those children who were homeschooled. Many opponents to private, parochial, or home schooling will say that parents cannot teach everything that a child needs to learn. There has never been a more truer statement made however the same is true for the government run public school system. If a child attends the public school system from kindergarten to the 12th grade and graduates, they will have graduated with the minimal academic level required by the government, not the best education that is possible. This is why private, parochial, and home-schooling is so desired by many. Parents have the choice to teach their children outside the box and to introduce to them to the things of everyday life and experiences needed to mature them not only in the academic realm but in life in general. This is why so many employers desire home-schooled and private schooled young people to come and work for them.

The most difficult thing to change in people's mind regarding the current system today will be discussed and described in detail in this section. The topic that is about to be discussed will bring out the truth about a person's belief system and what they genuinely believe in. I found this to be no more truer than with individuals that I have known for years and who I thought believed in and held the same values that I do. If you want to start an argument or create a stir you only have to ask the question, who's responsibility is it to provide and education for children? This may sound like a silly question and a large number of people might answer with, it is the parent's responsibility to provide for the education of their children. The responses may come from someone that you might consider to be of the conservative posture or position from a political view. When you dive into this topic a little deeper and start to present a new idea and way to fund education in the US you will find out that many people are just the opposite of what you knew and thought about them. The next chapter will go much further into the financial issues surrounding the public education system.

The point of this chapter and this section is to make a philosophical statement and position regarding the responsibility of parents regarding the education of their children. For

decades in the state of Texas and in many other states public education has been funded by a system of ad-valorem taxation on personal property. The decision by lawmakers and public educators to tax all citizens that own property to fund public education in Texas has reached a breaking point. Homeowners in Texas and across the nation have been taxed out of their homes. The largest asset many Americans have and worked hard for and paid off so that one day that might be able to retire comfortably and live in their home. Unfortunately for many Americans living the dream has turned into a living nightmare. Taxpayers some of whom have never had a child attend the public school system or either chose private school or homeschooled their children have been taxed twice for being responsible parents. This is one of the most blatant abuses of government power and overreach at the state and local government level including school districts.

No citizen living in the United States no matter what state they live in is born into bondage and bound by illegal laws to provide the education for someone else's children. It is the sole responsibility of the parents of school age children to provide for their children. This is nothing other than common sense, which is very uncommon among government leaders and public educators. To hold one hostage by forcing them to pay into the government run public education system to keep from having their homes stolen from them is no different than what the colonist living in the 1700's endured under the heavy hand of the British government. The public education system has not only degraded overtime in terms of academic achievement but has also been responsible for creating several generations of parents that have turned over their responsibilities to the government and local school districts.

So how does a state or nation turn the tide to restore real accountability to parents and to educators no matter what system or institution they choose to participate in? The answer is quite simple, you must treat education and the system of choice to deliver such education no differently than how you would pick out a good steak. You get what you pay for. If parents want the best education possible, they must have full control of the decision to choose what is best for their children and how much they are willing to spend on it. When parents take their responsibility seriously and have to write the check to enroll little Suzie or Johnny for school each year it will make them responsible by virtue of the results achieved. Many public educators will argue that a lot of parents are not involved in the education process at all for their children. There is no doubt this is true for many children, but the burden falls back on educators and the other parents that have chosen to be responsible and want the best for their own children.

The government and public educators have done a great job at dumbing down parents and the general public regarding education. They have turned this nation into a socialist system and communist approach to governing the public. The end result of these poor decisions is leading this nation into the unavoidable reality of the next major revolution of a major country and nation. The government at all levels across the nation has abandoned the principals of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as stated in the Declaration of Independence over 240 years ago. A paradigm shift of huge proportion is needed today in this

nation and in the minds of every American if they want this nation to continue on in the manner and fashion the founding fathers dream for it. To ignore the facts and have the attitude of apathy will drive the remaining nails into the coffin of nation that is dying right in front of our eyes.