

Frank Engle

September 15, 2014 at 11:45 am

Hello Ms. Ravitch!

I have been following you for quite a while and your efforts and the dysfunction in the San Diego Unified School District under Superintendent Cindy Marten has inspired me to write a blog detailing all the non-collaborating and harmful actions that are being taken that directly harm the education of our 107,000 students in our district..

My Blog is called District Deeds (<http://districtdeeds.wordpress.com/>)...please check it out and feel free to give me your thoughts.

By the way, the latest debacle is Superintendent Marten approving the acquisition of a a military-grade Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP) for the San Diego Unified School District Police Force with NO community or Board discussion or approval.

I have summarized this extremely insensitive and amateurish action my Marten in my latest post: “Marten Continues to Steer the SDUSD Down the Road to Disaster” (<http://districtdeeds.wordpress.com/2014/09/12/marten-continues-to-steer-the-sdusd-down-the-road-to-disaster/>)

Keep up all your good work...you are a great resource for many of us!

dianeravitch

September 15, 2014 at 3:34 pm

Frank,

I understand that the decision to accept a military vehicle was made prior to Ms. Marten’s time in office. I don’t think the story is over about the future of that ridiculous MRAP. Stay tuned.

Reply



• *Frank Engle*

September 15, 2014 at 4:20 pm

Thank you for your response in your busy day Ms. Ravitch!

I am sure Ms. Marten was the one who approved it since she actually said so through a spokesperson:

“Through a spokeswoman, Superintendent Cindy Marten confirmed she had approved the acquisition and the approximately \$5,000 it cost to move the vehicle from Texas to San Diego. She declined further comment.”

Here is the link:<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2014/sep/11/san-diego-unified-school-board-not-notified-about/>

Believe it or not, this is probably one of her faulty decisions that made the LEAST direct negative impact on students...removing highly qualified principals without cause and English Language Support Teachers from schools with high poverty rates without any School Site Community collaboration has negatively impacted THOUSANDS of students since she has been in office.

She is over her head in the position and students are paying for it.



• *Frank Engle*

September 17, 2014 at 10:27 pm

Hello Ms. Ravitch!

Just checking in to see if you had heard anything different about Ms. Marten approving the acquisition of the MRAP. The press here in San Diego support the fact that she was the only one in charge responsible (outside of the subordinate who suggested it) for the “ridiculous MRAP”.

Please let me know if you have any other source to the contrary.

Thanks!

Frank Engle



• *dianeravitch*

September 17, 2014 at 10:44 pm

Frank Engle,

That military equipment was ordered before Cindy Martens became superintendent. She did not request it.

Frank Engle

September 17, 2014 at 11:09 pm

Hello Ms. Ravitch-

Thanks again for replying so quickly to my original post. I am unable to respond to the original posting,,,I am not sure if replies have been turned off or it is something on my account what...that is why I am replying here.

The documentation about the MRAP came in AFTER Ms. Marten took office and her own Spokesperson said that she approved it. No matter who may have inquired, the order was reviewed, financed and approved when she was already the Superintendent

Whenever the original inquiry was made, she saw and approved all the documentation and expenses since July 2013 with no Board or Community collaboration.

Don't you think that if she had been transparent and informed the community and the Board back in July, 2013 (per the published documentation in the article I provided), don't you think there would be a vigorous debate...the way a democracy should work?

I am not sure how your position could be any different. Please let me know of any documentation or news reports that refutes this premise.

Thanks!

Frank Engle