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News Release

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FEA CALLS FOR DODEA DIRECTOR TO BE OPEN AND HONEST ABOUT STAFF CUTS, MAINTAIN SCHOOL QUALITY

The Federal Education Association today called upon the Director of DoDEA schools to be more open and honest with stakeholders and to avoid steering the schools towards mediocrity.

“This is no way to run a school system,” says FEA President Michael Priser.

“Dr. Miles is not being honest with DoDEA stakeholders about her plans to cut staffing,” says Priser. “Her own memos clearly state her intention to cut over 350 middle school educators, yet she denies it. She wants to get rid of hundreds of dedicated classroom aides for Full Day Kindergarten and tries to justify this by hiring a few more teachers so she can claim to lower the Pupil to Teacher Ratio.”

“Worst of all, she is making these cuts to pay for 160 unnecessary new administrative employees who will perform duties already covered by other employees.”

Says Priser: “What we need is openness and honesty from the DoDEA Director. Dr. Miles cannot continue to make educationally unsound decisions with no input from others and then try to justify them with a rubber-stamp task force.”

“Dr. Miles did the same thing when she slashed the Reading Recovery program earlier this year. She cut a very successful program for absolutely no good reason, then announced a task force to advise her about the decision she has already made,” says Priser.

“Decisions should not be made in ivory towers and handed down as dictates. Parents, students, and educators need to be involved if Dr. Miles wants any changes to have credibility and buy-in from the people they will affect most.”

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FEA CALLS FOR DODEA DIRECTOR TO BE OPEN AND HONEST ABOUT STAFF CUTS, MAINTAIN SCHOOL QUALITY (continued)

“DoDEA’s own words about these proposed staffing cuts indicate that, under Dr. Miles leadership, the agency is no longer setting academic excellence as its goal. In its press release that claimed the staffing changes are only proposals being evaluated, DoDEA said ‘Both evaluations are being conducted to ensure the educational environment for DoDEA students is commensurate with the educational environment students will most likely encounter during transitions in and out of stateside public schools.’”

Says Priser: “That sounds as if the new guiding philosophy at DoDEA is to only be as good as the average public school in the U.S. I always thought DoDEA was striving to be the best. When did this change?”

With over 5,400 members, the Federal Education Association (FEA) is the leading advocate for educators and classroom excellence throughout DoDEA. The association was founded in Germany in 1956 and now represents faculty and staff in Europe, Asia and Stateside.

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