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News Release

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Federal Education Association Calls on Pentagon to Change Leadership at DoDEA

Citing numerous bad decisions and educational policies implemented in the past year, the Federal Education Association today called for the Pentagon to make a change in leadership at the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

In a meeting with Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy Tommy T. Thomas, FEA presented a detailed account of poor decisions and policies implemented under DoDEA Director Dr. Shirley Miles.

“We told Mr. Thomas that the direction Dr. Miles is taking DoDEA schools is negative and hurtful to the quality of education for our students, and that a change in leadership must be made in order to prevent irrevocable damage,” said Michael Priser, FEA President.

Among the examples FEA cited to Mr. Thomas of poor decisions/policies implemented under Dr. Miles’ leadership were:

- Cutting successful reading and math intervention programs for elementary students
- Threatening to increase class sizes at DoDEA middle schools
- Reducing services to pre-school children with disabilities by denying teachers the opportunity to make home visits to pre-school students with documented developmental disabilities before the start of the school year; visits are permitted for other students below first grade

FEA also submitted written information to Mr. Thomas outlining other harmful practices, including:

- Redirecting millions of dollars in DoDEA financial resources away from the classroom level in order to hire dozens of unnecessary new administrators and administration staff

- Reducing meaningful professional development opportunities for educators in their specific curricular areas
- Attempting to cut full-time, dedicated classroom aides from kindergarten classes before backing down under public pressure

“These decisions were all made by Dr. Miles or made under her guidance,” Priser said.

“They demonstrate that, despite her claims of being interested in ‘continuous improvement,’ Dr. Miles has no idea how to bring about educational excellence. In fact, by bloating administration while cutting programs that help students, she is doing serious harm to our schools. This has to stop.”

“It is our hope that Mr. Thomas will recognize that he has a serious problem in the present leadership of DoDEA and that changes must be made.”

With nearly 6,000 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.