
From: Chad Keith <chadk78@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 6:41 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: Test Refusal

Gov. Haley,

Due to the closing of A.R. Lewis Elementary and Holly Springs Elementary, my son will not be taking the SC Ready Test this year. He has decided to boycott the test to make a statement to the Pickens County School Board.

The two schools that have been closed are essential to the vitality of their respective communities and provide the best possible environment for education to the students which they serve. Both schools have had multi-million dollar renovations within the last ten years; closing them is a blatant waste of taxpayer dollars.

The vast majority of the residents of the county expressed disapproval over closing the schools. A stakeholders committee, made up of two parents from each school, researched alternative options to closing the schools. They found multiple options, which would have been feasible. However, their suggestions were ignored and four members of the school board decided that the wellbeing and academic success of the children of these communities was not important. They closed the schools anyway.

My main reason for writing you is to make you aware that this protest should not be a negative reflection of my child's academic capabilities (he is a straight A student); it should not be a reflection of the success of the school, its principal, or its teachers. I send my children to this school for a reason: it is the BEST and I would put our faculty and staff up against any others in the state! We love our school and have the highest respect for everyone who works there.

This boycott is a reflection of the poor choices made by a thoroughly inadequate school board, which does not represent the best interests of its constituents.

It is my hope that this test refusal will bring attention to what a terrible mistake closing these schools is and the decision will be overturned.

Thank you so much for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

Chad Keith
864-508-1840
Sent from my iPhone

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