

April 25, 2010

Letters to the Editor

HNLetters@Northjersey.com

To the Editor,

Unbelievable! In responding to typical civics lessons, the Governor of the State of New Jersey chose to take the opportunity to subject the entire teaching profession to the unscrupulous allegation that teachers were trying to force students to lobby their parents into voting in favor of the local school budget. This could not be further from the truth, and he knows it.

Every election time, school, state, or national elections, teachers turn their attention to the election process. Lessons are developed on the process itself, students are reminded about the importance of elections and the responsibility of the citizens to vote. Discussions in classes are held; in some cases, guest speakers are brought into classes or schools to speak on these topics, and, yes, students are asked to discuss the election process with their parents.

How revolutionary! Students being asked to discuss civics topics with their parents.

Not only does the Governor make outrageous generalizations about teachers, but then likens our students to mules supplying dope to their clients! And there is not a word from the press; not a declaration of outrage; nothing. Why hasn't anyone called for his resignation?

We do not view our students as drug pushers, suppliers or sellers. We do not view our students as jackasses. We are offended by his tactics, lies and attempts to take civics lessons that should be lauded for urging good citizenship into his bullying political agenda.

Neither we, nor our students, are jackasses Governor. You should be ashamed and the *HERALD* should be leading the call for his apology to the students of this state, the teachers that work with them every day, and their parents for his crude and insulting remarks.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Tirri
President
Paterson Education Association
445 Straight Street
Paterson, New Jersey 07501
Office Phone (973) 881-9445
Personal Cell Phone (201) 321-7291