

DON SAMUELS WANTS TO BANKRUPT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SEND THE MONEY TO CHARTERS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Don Samuels doesn't support our public schools. In fact, he wants to take resources from them and send them to private schools. Time after time he has aligned himself with state and national conservatives who want to undermine our public schools and send taxpayers' dollars to private institutions. Samuels has reserved his greatest malice for public school teachers, who he accuses of being lazy and ineffective. Samuels even said wanted to burn down Minneapolis North High School. In short the Don Samuels plan for education is to send your tax dollars to charter schools, to private schools as vouchers, attack the dedicated educators who teach our kids, and demonize public education.

SAMUELS HAS A LONG HISTORY OF TRYING TO SEND TAX DOLLARS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND CHARTERS

Wealthy, National Anti-Public School Advocates Funded Samuels's School Board Campaign. In December 2014 the Progressive wrote, "This year's election season gave us some textbook examples of how corporate education reformers use their personal fortunes to contaminate the democratic process... In Minneapolis, charter school advocate Don Samuels lost his bid to become mayor of Minneapolis in 2013. However, with the help of record amounts of out-of-state campaign contributions, Samuels won a seat on the Minneapolis school board. As in Rhode Island, the 50CAN Action Fund spent significant amounts of money in support of Samuels. Over the course of the campaign, donors to Samuels and the political action committees supporting him included an impressive list of out-of-state corporate education reformers, among them: California billionaire, Teach for America board member, and Rocketship Charter School chain investor Arthur Rock, who donated more than \$100,000; former New York mayor and charter school advocate Michael Bloomberg, who contributed \$100,000; and California charter school investor Adam Cioth, who added tens of thousands more to the campaign effort. Even Achievement First's Jonathan Sackler dropped in \$25,000 to help the cause." [The Progressive, 12/01/14]

Samuels' Campaign For Minneapolis School Board Was Backed By Pro-Charter Independent Expenditures. In November 2014 the Pioneer Press wrote, "Educators, their lobbyists, parent groups and organizations working to reform the public school system spent millions of dollars to elect sympathetic lawmakers and pass or defeat local school levies... Some big donations from out of state to the Minneapolis Progressive Education Fund caught the eyes of close watchers of the race for two seats on the Minneapolis school board. The fund is headed by Daniel Sellers, who also leads education reform group MinCAN, short for the Minnesota Campaign for Achievement Now. Sellers' group received \$100,000 from former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and \$90,000 from Silicon Valley investor and Teach for America board member Arthur Rock to fund efforts win two seats on the board. In the end, one candidate backed by Sellers' group, former city council member Don Samuels, won the race, along with incumbent Rebecca Gagnon." [Pioneer Press, 11/10/14]

Don Samuels Wrote The Foreword To A Report Advocating For Private School Vouchers Released By The Center Of The American Experiment, Which Has Been Described As A "Klan-Like, Anti-Black, Ultra-Right Wing, Conservative Think Tank." "Samuels was not believable, however, and stumbled to defend other egregious comments he wrote in a forward to a report by the Center for the American Experiment, which the Reverend Jerry McAfee described as a 'Klan-like' anti-Black, ultra-right wing, conservative think tank headed by Mitch Pearlstein. In the forward, Samuels, I believe pandering to white supremacist contempt of Black people, wrote that he wondered how many of our children would grow up to be murderers." [Insight News, [2/23/07](#)]

Insight News: The Foreword Samuels Wrote Was “Pandering To White Supremacist Contempt Of Black People.” “Samuels was not believable, however, and stumbled to defend other egregious comments he wrote in a forward to a report by the Center for the American Experiment, which the Reverend Jerry McAfee described as a ‘Klan-like’ anti-Black, ultra-right wing, conservative think tank headed by Mitch Pearlstein. In the forward, Samuels, I believe pandering to white supremacist contempt of Black people, wrote that he wondered how many of our children would grow up to be murderers.” [Insight News, [2/23/07](#)]

Samuels Became “The Darling” Of School Voucher Coalition. In February 2007 the Star Tribune wrote, “The Center of the American Experiment, a local conservative think tank, is renewing the push for school vouchers, and it tapped Samuels to endorse its position paper. In his foreword to the recent publication, Samuels again displays a flair for the dramatic, writing that he wonders ‘how many future murderers are in the first grade classes of the four elementary schools within a mile of my home?’ ... Samuels has become the darling of a coalition of mostly conservative, mostly suburban groups involved in a coordinated assault on ‘government monopoly schools.’ These groups are pushing hard in Minnesota for expanded tax-credit or tuition vouchers to allow public dollars to be spent on private schools. It isn't just people in the North High neighborhood who should worry about that.” [Star Tribune, 02/18/07]

SAMUELS WAS OPENLY HOSTILE TO THE PUBLIC EDUCATORS AND SCHOOLS WHO TEACH OUR KIDS

Samuels Gave A Non-Answer When Asked If He Supported Teacher Tenure In Minneapolis. In November 2014 the Star Tribune wrote, “The four candidates for citywide seats on the Minneapolis school board offer starkly divergent ideas on issues of teacher tenure, and student achievement and testing... Q: What are your views on teacher tenure? Should seniority dictate hiring, retention and layoffs?... Samuels: Experienced teachers tend to be more effective and so tenure should be a consideration in evaluations. But effectiveness and tenure are not synonymous. We must agree on the student outcomes that we want, then hire and retain the teachers that produce those outcomes consistently... Q: Is Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson serving the students of Minneapolis well? Why or why not? Will you support to keep her on as superintendent or does the district need new leadership? Explain your answer... Samuels: The shift and Acceleration initiatives are bold, aspirational moves by the superintendent. But she needs support from an independent and courageous board and cooperation from an inspired team. She has not had that. If we elect a board that puts children first, I believe she can be successful.” [Star Tribune, 11/02/14]

Star Tribune: Samuels “Reform Minded” Education Platform Included “More Flexibility In Teacher Layoffs.” In October 2013 the Star Tribune wrote, “Candidates for mayor of Minneapolis are zeroing in on education as never before, pledging to close the gap in achievement between white and minority students through a combination of extra funding, longer school days and years, and more flexibility in teacher layoffs... City Council Member Don Samuels and attorney Cam Winton have articulated the most reform-oriented proposals for schools. Both say they’d advocate for longer school days and longer years. Samuels would add one hour daily and 20 days per year; Winton said he’d collaborate to determine how much, but he has a 10-hour day (not all of it at desks) and a 200-day year in mind. The current elementary day is 6½ hours long, and the school year is 176 days... Samuels said he’d seek evidence from smaller-scale tryouts that the extra time pays dividends on achievement, and then take those results to the state and public to justify the extra spending for other schools.” [Star Tribune, 10/22/13]

Samuels Rejected Last In First Out Teacher Contracts. In September 2013 the Star Tribune wrote, “In the first mayoral debate focused on schools in modern Minneapolis mayoral politicking, candidates Cam

Winton and Don Samuels hewed closest to the reform agenda advocated by debate organizers... Quizzed about the 'last-in, first-out' state teacher layoff law, all candidates but Mark Andrew said unequivocally that they believe it ought to be changed... 'LIFO is the most ridiculous piece of policy in the teacher contract,' Samuels said in contrast, noting that he and his wife testified for legislation to repeal it that was vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton." [Star Tribune, 09/17/13]

Star Tribune: The Out-Of-State Education Reform Groups That Backed Samuels “Generally Oppose Teacher Tenure Rules, Are Strong Backers Of Charter Schools And Test-Based Accountability For Teacher Evaluations And Pay.” “An unprecedented amount of money is upending the citywide Minneapolis school board race with hundreds of thousands of dollars pouring in from well-funded outside groups... The vast amounts of money from out-of-state donors signals a dramatic shift in the race and adds Minneapolis to a growing list of local school board races across the country receiving money from outside groups. These groups generally oppose teacher tenure rules, are strong backers of charter schools and test-based accountability for teacher evaluations and pay.” [Star Tribune, 10/30/14]

Samuels Said He Wanted To Burn Down Minneapolis North High School. In February 2007 Minnesota Public Radio reported, “When Minneapolis City Council Member Don Samuels criticized one north Minneapolis high school, his remarks created a firestorm of protest. In a Mpls/St. Paul Magazine interview, Samuels remarked, "I've said burn North High School down!" That statement became a flashpoint for Star Tribune columnist Nick Coleman and others, who have criticized Samuels' inflamed rhetoric.” [mprnews.org, [02/07/07](http://mprnews.org)]