

Norma Harrison

Berkeley School Board Candidate - November 6, 2012 Elections

While present plans will be once again attempted in order to try to enable increased English use by people whose first language is not English, there needs to be the effort to which I referred so constantly. We need to plan how to live the multi-language life instead of boxing it into the classroom, the place that creates that distance that subverts learning for so many students. Just as we use language with infants, and go about daily activities, we need to do the same using mixed language – native language and English as we go about daily activities.

The obstacle to achieve the integrated life is the school. It is required by the state to be utilized for teaching in the manner with which we're all familiar, and which fails in so many ways. People doing the work of living together – the work, the play, the maintenance and recreation, age integrated, natural, not directed at getting a good job, is the environment for complete advancement in language skill, multi-language use.

The objective of meeting our system's requirement to fill the permitted positions will have to be gotten over. All work must be equal to all work, so that people are not striving, not needing to get ahead, not winning and losing as they proceed doing necessary and desired activities. This means we all are to be permitted to care for us all, no one left out – told that some are not equally eligible to enjoy the same standard of living as everyone else. Within that comfortable environment all the teaching, studying, learning, researching, caring can go on unhampered by restrictions to attain goals.

Rules, laws now controlling our activities will have to be ended; so many are the coercion that serves the benefit of our Owners, the Ruling Class. This conflict reaches deeply into our communities, controls schools, controls study, controls recreation, income, controls the roles we're permitted to take. All these need challenging, need us coming together to say we oppose the restraints and will work together to remove them as we replace them with the interactions that serve our interests and tastes.

It is with this direction in mind, to enable this vast discussion, that you want such a seat on the school board – so you're not always just repeating what's called reform. Reform is not possible – not for what's mistakenly called education, not for capitalism, which we're ly-ingly told can be good for all of us. Both are designed to keep us in something called 'our place'. Well, we know we want a different place together with our neighbors, for our mutual pleasure and comfort, in gentle care of Earth – not possible in capitalism, not possible in the capitalists schooling.

Thanks. Norma