

September 1, 2005

Letter to the Editor
Nebraska Journal-Leader
Fax 402/755-2205
Ponca, NE

Dear Editor,

I see in a recent letter to the **Journal-Leader** where our Superintendent Larry Molacek continues to have little regard for the children of our district and increases his role as the lead man among school administrators in the mid-west in their efforts to silence Paul Dorr of Ocheyedan, IA. Dorr, the father of eleven children is helping the little guys, senior citizens and small farmers like me in our struggles with local public schools who want to consume huge sums of taxpayer dollars to build school buildings that are way too expensive for most taxpayers to afford. I understand the ABCs committee in Ponca may want to hire Dorr in the future.

I also see in his letter to the **Journal-Leader** that Molacek was too cowardly to even mention Dorr by name in his editorial, something the Paul Dorr I know would never do.

Why do I insist our Superintendent has such little regard for our children? Because 24.6% of our 8th grade children during the 2002-2004 bienniums were at least one full year behind in their math skills and 26.4% of them, during this period, were at least one full year behind in their reading skills. By the time Molacek has superintended their education up to the 11th grade, it gets worse. Our school district has nearly 39% of our 11th graders performing at least one year behind in math and 32% behind in reading. In the old days we called this "flunking". These scores can be found at www.iowaschoolprofiles.com. Amidst these terrible results our Superintendent spends an inordinate amount of time raising our taxes higher and higher, while ignoring his most fundamental duty to our children. Is it any wonder that schools like ours in South Tama are doing such a poor job preparing our youth that now they are in less and less demand in the job market? Any wonder why more and more of our jobs are going overseas?

With the serious problems our children have Molacek keeps dreaming up ways to spend more of our tax dollars. To me he has become obsessed with Paul Dorr as Molacek spoke last fall at the Iowa Association of School Boards convention about him and indicated he was going to speak to a national conference of administrators about Dorr.

Yes, we did defeat this financial boondoggle the first time when Paul Dorr assisted us. But after this defeat Molacek's minions took the names of all the donors who gave more than \$25 to our committee (which we are required to disclose under Iowa law) and circulated them around town. School employees then told local businesses that they stopped purchasing from the businesses because the owners gave money to our committee. A local beautician paid dearly in lost customers. Their aggressive campaign to silence and oppress the poor people, small businesses and small farmers of our community was successful. The next time Molacek brought the bond up for vote we couldn't raise the money to campaign. Yes, he won the 2nd time, but keep in mind a little over 2,000 people showed up to vote while 3,400 voters stayed home. 37.7% voter turnout tells me **his campaign of intimidation worked**. Molacek's view of a unified community is when everyone is intimidated into silent submission to be fleeced by the likes of him. What message does this send to the children?

After the first defeat Molacek's fired the Omaha architect he was working with and tried to blame the firing on the voters. Our local paper last Sept. 14, 2004, reported, "The school district maintains, 'The district has tried to pass a bond issue and have lost both

times while working with Rambo and Associates [the Omaha architect]. It was clear the voters of the district were telling the school district to look at other [architect] options.” During our campaign we never heard of one voter who complained about the architect firm.

To me he needed to blame someone besides the high-priced proposal he placed before the voters, so he proclaims in effect to the paper - ‘the **voters** didn’t like the architect.’ This way the voters/taxpayers can’t complain when the architect sues for services rendered but fees not received from our school board.

Even though a prior school board had signed a contract with this Omaha firm, Molacek is trying to stall paying him. So Rambo has sued our school district in Federal court and the case is still litigating. Amazingly, “He [Molacek] maintained, “One [previous] school board cannot bind another [current] school board,” according to this same article. This is either incredibly ignorant of corporate law or just plain arrogant.

When Molacek and our school board (which I used to serve on) first proposed the building for voter approval, they said we would have 97,500 square feet. By the time they let the bids they **cut it back by** 8,500 sq. feet, according to the local papers.

It is my firm belief that if Molacek had to pass this bond issue this fall he wouldn’t stand a chance in the South Tama School District. I just don’t know how many people are going to be able to pay for the high-priced fuel, rising property taxes, medicines, in addition to the new sales tax and income tax surcharge imposed by Molacek and his crew and still find a way to get by. Our local beef packing plant has closed now too. It was one of the major employers in the area.

I would urge Ponca voters to think long and hard before you let Superintendent Larry Molacek influence you to do to the Ponca area what he has done to our communities. Meanwhile, if the ABC’s Committee of Ponca does decide to hire Paul Dorr, in our experience in Toledo/Tama, IA he will serve you and the voters with truth and integrity.

Sincerely,

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Montour, IA
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cc: ABCs Committee, Ponca, NE