

petra

pg. 1/2

3

**ACT I**  
**Scene 2**

*(Downstage center in a pool of light stands a podium in front of the flagpole with the flags)*

*(A man's voice makes an announcement)*

V/O

Next for public comments is Petra Stockman.

*(PETRA enters and goes to the podium with her phone and prepares it so she can view it)*

V/O

You have 3 minutes. Set the clock please.

*(A timer viewable to the audience counts down three minutes as she speaks)*

Start

PETRA

Superintendent Gynt and board members, thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Petra Stockman and I'm happy to be a new teacher for Pinus Contorta Unified School District. Full disclosure ... Mayor Stockman is my uncle, and he is my family's Pastor. My father is Dr. Stockman, who's an environmental scientist and who's volunteering his expertise for the planning of the K-8 magnet school, Connections STEAM Academy, which is scheduled to open in the fall to replace Ponderosa Elementary. So, I want to present some facts before I state my concerns.

1. Ponderosa Elementary is a Title One school that has failed and 80% of its students are Hispanic. Ponderosa experienced white flight which was enabled by school choice, when the Conifer area students started being bused there.
2. It is the only school currently that has bus transportation. There is no neighborhood school in the Conifer area that children can walk to.
3. Ponderosa is set to be renovated for the new science magnet academy and plans to revitalize the Ponderosa business area are underway.
4. This new magnet school will not have boundary lines or bus transportation. Admission will be granted by lottery and seats will be set aside for out of the district students.

5. The Conifer area will be redistricted with new boundary lines and children living next door to each other will be bused to different schools labeled as "receiving schools."

So, how is this serving the current population of Ponderosa when most of the children that live in the Conifer area need a bus to take them to school? It seems you have manipulated the purpose of a magnet school, which is to attract diversity, but instead you are using it to repel a minority low-income group. You are repelling the yellow school bus to attract the Mercedes Benz. You are sending a message to children that need to ride a bus, that they are undesirable students to learn science. They can't be "in it to win it." Do you realize that every day the buses will drive right past their old school, the one that will have an attractive makeover, to get to their receiving school? And now, I hear some parents at the "receiving schools" are complaining and they don't want to receive the bused children. The magnet may not have boundary lines, but barriers are being put up so that the Conifer area students can't attend.

We need to look through the eyes of children. What is this teaching them. Thank you.

(Black out)

— End