

Mike Rosen

October 31, 2007

Time: 11:36 a.m.

Mike: Let's go to Katie in Denver, Katie, you're on 850 KOA.

Katie: Hi there.

Mike: Hi. What's on your mind?

Katie:

Well, I agree that there are many different ways we can educate our kids. I'm not an educator, I'm not an expert, I'm just a parent.

Mike: Yes...

Katie: But I do think that it's important that students have time to study arts and music and creativity.

Mike: Sure, well no one disagrees with that. We just want a balance.

Katie:

But I read the letters in the newspaper from Representative Merrifield and I don't think he's saying that Representative Witwer's proposal is bad. Or that he would oppose it.

Mike: No, he's exactly saying that.

Katie: I saw in the Denver Post earlier in the month was saying that it was outdated thinking-

Mike: Let me just, let me just-

Katie: And in the Rocky Mountain News yesterday-

Mike: Excuse me, Mr. Hold Button. For the record, let me read directly from Merrifield's letter to the editor.

State Senator Josh Penry and Representative Rob Witwer's bill proposing education standards mandating increase math, science, English and foreign language and the Post's endorsement of these requirements are outdated thinking. The most recent thinking backed by research, data, and experience...

And then he goes in to cite people who agree with him. Well, you can mince words on whether saying that it's outdated thinking is bad. He is opposed to this legislation and he is opposed to infusing more science and math and the other basic academic rigors into the curriculum. So, Katie, the point is he's opposed to this. And that's really what we're talking about. Nobody is saying ban art and music from the curriculum. We're talking about priorities and the appropriate mix. Do you agree with Merrifield?

Katie: I disagree with your interpretation-

Mike:

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, that wasn't my question. Do you agree with Merrifield that we don't need to devote more time to math and science and that it would be more desirable to devote more time to art and music? Which is his position. And I'm not distorting his position. Do you agree with that?

Katie: I agree that there are already standards in place that-

Mike:

You're tap dancing, Katie, and I don't allow that on this program. You don't have to be part of this conversation.

You can go someplace else. If you want to continue, I'm going to need a direct answer from you on this question. Do you agree with Representative Witwer's proposed legislation or not? Easy question.

Katie: It isn't too easy. First of all, I haven't seen...

Mike:

We've described it to you. You're tap dancing. I have a low tolerance for it. He believes there should be more focus given the current mix right now on math and science and English and foreign languages. Do you agree or disagree?

Katie: I think that students should-

Mike: Goodbye.