

# Social Studies and Science at Elementary Schools

John Lovdokken <john.lovdokken@gmail.com>

Mon 12/12/2022 12:04 PM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

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First, let me thank the board and the school district's support for resurfacing the Thurston Tennis courts and track this fall. The students feel very valued and cared about in a visible way by this investment.

I was asked recently to give the perspective of a High School Social Studies teacher regarding the choice to emphasize Reading and Math in elementary education a few years ago (at the expense of time for social studies and science) and what that looks like with students in high school today.

I see less understanding of basic concepts, especially in geography. This year I was asked, 'If Alaska is so cold, why is it by Mexico on the map?'. I could give many other examples, but it's enough to say I notice enough gaps to make me stop teaching higher concepts and cover basic vocabulary such as what a peninsula is.

I understand there are only so many minutes in a day and choices must be made, but I ask we try to find time, even once per week, for Elementary teachers to teach history and science. Learning to read and add are of course important, but knowing how words can hurt (or help) and that people are not numbers is as well.

Thanks you for your time.

John Lovdokken, Social Studies Teacher at Thurston High.  
Sent from my iPhone

# Staff Interviews

OSEA Springfield <oseachapter4@gmail.com>

Thu 1/5/2023 5:21 PM

To: public comment <public.comment@springfield.k12.or.us>;

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Hello Board Members,

I have been attending Board meetings virtually and would like to comment on the public's request that staff stay interviews be made public.

Our members did these interviews under the assumption that it was private between the district leadership who spoke with them and themselves. Never, did we expect any information received to be shared publicly.

Our members are very aware of the avenues in place to bring attention to any matters or issues they have. As a union, we have full confidence in District Leadership and are thankful they have not succumbed to the public pressure of releasing any of these star interviews.

Our union has a long standing great relationship with the district and we have always had an open door communication and trust between us. That would be ruined if our private conversations were shared publicly.

In solidarity,  
Kim Donaghe  
OSEA Chapter 4 President