

At Teachers Union Convention, Indoctrination Eclipses Education

As a teacher, I attended the National Education Association convention last week, and my worst fears were confirmed.

Public schools are no longer a safe place for families who hold traditional values or for families who believe gender (as in male/female binary) is biologically determined.

It was also evident that the teachers union is a lobbying arm of the Democratic Party.

The NEA seems to think there are many gender options, and that's why teachers and students must always address themselves with their "preferred" pronouns. It thinks this pronoun practice is essential and will create a more inclusive society.

That was demonstrated firsthand when each state delegate who spoke during the three-day convention July 4 to 6 was encouraged to state his or her name and "preferred" pronouns before addressing the assembly.

Pronouns I heard were he, she, they—and hex. One delegate even announced "they" had a uterus before addressing the assembly, apparently because that was something we all needed to know.

In the teachers union's preamble, it says, "NEA is to be the national voice for education managed by and for the public good, to advance the cause for ALL individuals."

However, as I read the 70 new business items and 40 amendments of bylaws, legislation, and resolutions, and listened to the platform speeches, it was obvious the NEA only represents those who hold the same [ideologies](#) and radical [leftist](#)

political views.

From what I observed, the NEA's goal is for public education to be a training ground for political activism, while demonizing anyone—including students and their families—who does not share those same political and sociological beliefs.

The NEA does not want public education to be neutral ground in developing critical thinkers with an emphasis on academic achievement.

Its priorities were apparent, because of the 110 motions discussed and voted on, only four remotely addressed student academic achievement. Those four dealt with student financial literacy and resources for English learners and language acquisition.

Nearly half of the motions dealt with identity politics, social justice, and ways to promote the goals of the Democratic Party.

Some examples: broad-brushing police as biased and corrupt; mocking the Second Amendment as a societal harm; fighting for preferential treatment for any and all groups considered "marginalized," especially nonconforming genders and infinite sexual identities; fighting misinformation in the media (that is, any media outlets that do not agree with their views); increasing abortion rights; adding seats to the Supreme Court; and advocating for more queer representation on school boards.

Some other outlier items addressed environmental issues, hiring illegal immigrants as teachers, funding research concerning autism as it relates to gender identity, and funding global feeding programs.

Close to 40 percent of the motions were related to protecting teachers' jobs and increasing their benefits and their right to be social justice cadres.

Although the NEA says it fights for nondiscrimination and civil rights, the only state delegates able to attend the Chicago event in person were those fully vaccinated. Any teachers who didn't have vaccination cards could only attend virtually, regardless of whether they tested negative for COVID-19 or their reasons for not getting the shots.

The vaccinated delegates, who attended in person, had all expenses paid by their union local, while unvaccinated teachers were excluded and stigmatized as a "harm" to attendees. For a group that screams "My body, my choice," the double standard is appalling.

On a positive note, the NEA voted down a new business item trying to mandate that all teachers in the nation be vaccinated. It lost, with 84 percent of the vote opposing.

Vice President [Kamala Harris](#) addressed the gathering on July 5 and repeatedly called Republican leaders in Washington "extremists." The NEA's executive director, [Kim Anderson](#), said, "The Supreme Court has removed the right to marry someone of a different race." (That's flat-out false.)

She went on to say, "This Supreme Court and a significant number of radicalized elected officials have walked away from 'freedom for all' for an extreme discriminatory, exclusionary, misogynist, homophobic, out of touch, racist, cruel, corrupt ideology!"

Shortly after Anderson's remarks, I spoke up during a debate opposing a new business item to create a smear list of organizations seeking to "dismantle public education due to diminishing freedoms of sexual and gender identities and honest education" (a smokescreen for critical race theory).

This was my virtual statement:

I, Brenda Lebsack, oppose [new business item] 15. NEA says they strive for a safe school climate for all, yet forget

that, according to the 2021 Pew Research, 56% of Americans believe gender is based on biological reality. NEA does not believe this. NEA believes that a child can choose their gender based on their feelings and that there are infinite options and pronouns. How can public schools be a safe place for all students, when NEA leaders demonize over half of the families represented in our public schools?

If NEA creates a fact sheet of the organizations "[dismantling](#)" [public education](#), please include [NEA](#) on that list.

As founder of the Interfaith Statewide Coalition and a teacher in California, I can tell you that many orthodox Muslims, Jews, Catholics, and Christians no longer feel public schools are a safe place.

Your social justice goals to assault family cultures that do not match your own, and to use public education to propagate extremist views, is wrong. This is an abuse of power. That's why I, as a teacher, support parent rights and school choice.

I was tempted to state my "preferred" pronouns as "Com, U, and Nism," but I resisted the urge to do so.

In conclusion, with respect to almost everything the NEA accuses others of doing, it is one of the biggest offenders.

America is in desperate need of [educational reform](#) because this powerful union, the National Education Association, has a delusional messiah complex and is using teachers and students as its political pawns.

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