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April 10, 2012

Hand Delivered

Michael Hicks, Clerk
Governing Board
Tucson Unified School District
1010 East Tenth Street
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Re: Martin Sean Arce, Non-Notice

Dear Mr. Hicks:

This letter responds to the non-renewal notice sent to Martin Sean Arce. The aforementioned notice did not include any notice as provided for in A.R.S. § 38-431.03A(1). Irrespective of such, Mr. Arce continues to object to **any** Executive Session discussion of him; any conversation concerning his employment with TUSD must occur in public. Whatever comments TUSD administration or Governing Board members have to make concerning Mr. Arce need to be on the record, not behind closed doors or hidden from the public.

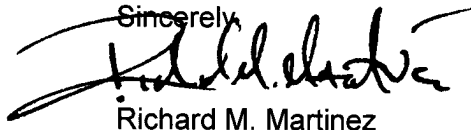
The non-renewal of Mr. Arce is problematic for TUSD, your administration and each member of the Governing Board. Mr. Arce has done nothing to warrant ending his career with TUSD. He has been a devoted and outstanding educator who has always faithfully served TUSD's students. His voice and leadership is critical in a school district that is over 62% Latino and serves many students who live in challenging circumstances.

Mr. Arce is being punished for having the courage to speak against the despicable politics of the Arizona Department of Education and the extremist agenda that has plagued our community. He alone in your administration has stood against the repeated lies that have been circulated with complete impunity about the Mexican American Studies program, lies that you so willingly repeated last week to our entire nation. That the Governing Board has succumbed to the fear and intimidation created by Mr. Huppenthal is a disservice to our entire community.

It is unfortunate that the Governing Board will hide behind a contrived rule intended to insulate you and deny us the opportunity for a frank and open dialogue on a topic as important as terminating Mr. Arce's employment with TUSD. Mr. Pedicone will continue to be dishonest about Mr. Arce's performance and alleged opportunity to continue with TUSD. And our community will suffer because of your lack of leadership at a critical time, one when we needed elected officials willing to stand against those who abuse their position, promote fear and create resentment.

Our community is more divided than it has ever been. The Pedicone era at TUSD has proven to be a complete disaster, one that has allowed racism to prevail over the educational needs and rights of our students. Removing Mr. Arce from TUSD's leadership is irresponsible, unlawful and reflects yet another step in TUSD's descent into the abyss of discrimination. One can only hope that this period ends before irreparable harm is done to our community, TUSD and the steadily dwindling number of families who depend on TUSD to educate their children.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Martinez

c: John J. Pedicone, Superintendent

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