

## Elected School Boards Under Siege

The following information comes from Suz Howells, President of the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and a champion for children. These links are great sources of information about the attack on elected school board members by prominent people in the field of education, which includes Reed Hastings, former SBE President. He stated several times at the Education: 2.0 forum at Stanford that he thinks that elected school boards are a "big part of the problem with education and reform".

I follow many of these groups - and perhaps, you might want to...

Below are links from the just the latest kerfuffle over locally elected school boards. Democratic election of school board trustees is in the crosshairs of the national education reform movement. The highest profile spokesperson, and one with great insider leverage, is our own Reed Hastings. I encourage you to share these links with your fellow trustees near and far – there is money, policy and influence seeking to end your role in public school oversight. Read the comments in the first link -- you'll see that Diane Ravitch, Randi Weingarten and Caprice Young (former ED, California Charter Schools Assoc) have weighed in. This is a hot topic and it's coming right at you!

<http://www.educationgadfly.net/flypaper/2011/11/dealing-with-disingenuous-teachers-unions-there-are-no-shortcuts/>

<http://www.educationgadfly.net/flypaper/2011/11/the-local-control-debate-is-just-beginning%E2%80%A6/>

<http://scholasticadministrator.typepad.com/thisweekineducation/2011/11/thompson-blame-disingenuous-reformers-for-shortcuts.html>

<http://titleonederland.blogs.thompson.com/2011/11/01/forget->

[%E2%80%9Cquickster%E2%80%9D%E2%80%94-on-ed-reform-reed-hastings-is-right/](http://titleonederland.blogs.thompson.com/2011/11/01/forget-%E2%80%9Cquickster%E2%80%9D%E2%80%94-on-ed-reform-reed-hastings-is-right/)

<http://www.stanforddaily.com/2011/10/24/roundtable/>

If you follow StudentsFirst (Michelle Rhee), Stand for Children (Jonah Edelman) and ALEC (Koch brothers' PAC), you'll find that they have all moved this issue to the top of their action agendas. They are backing reform-minded candidates (see recent Denver & New Orleans elections) and working on policy to end local oversight

(<http://www.edexcellence.net/events/rethinking-education-governance-conference.html>) simultaneously.