



Statement Regarding Confirmation of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education

February 7, 2017

As the President of the Florida Coalition of School Board Members, I am thrilled to see Betsy DeVos confirmed as Secretary of Education. But most importantly, today: Parents won, Teachers won, Local School Boards won, and decisively, STUDENTS WON.

We applaud Mrs. DeVos in her commitment to placing the family, and specifically, parents, firmly in the driver's seat regarding education decisions for their children. School Choice equals Family Empowerment. **Today, Parents and Families won an advocate for their right to decide what is best for their child.**

As control is pushed back to the local level, School Boards will find it easier to drive those same liberties back into the classrooms, so that teachers can get back to doing what they do best: teach. **Today, School Boards won the power to govern effectively and Teachers won the freedom to teach.**

We were troubled to see big money, special interest groups and teachers unions working so vehemently push the status quo ahead of student success. For too long, we've had an education establishment built around the selfish needs of adults that has produced a generation in which only 37% are college ready. **Today, the underperforming monopoly of the status quo and its guardians LOST.**

Mrs. DeVos plans to devolve power back down to the state and local level, so that instead of a Federal "one-size-fits-all" set of standards and curriculum, we will have custom learning plans to meet the unique needs and God given gifts of each individual child. **Today STUDENTS won the opportunity to excel.**

When we began this revolution in 2014, we knew we needed to get the RIGHT people elected to the school boards and provide them with a like-minded network in the *Florida Coalition of School Board Members*. We quickly grew in influence, power, and membership and now with friends in the Florida Legislature and allies at the national level, we are winning again by expanding into the *American Coalition of School Board Members*.

President Trump, as a candidate, said, "We're going to win so much you're going to get tired of winning." Well, today parents, teachers, school board members, and students have plenty to celebrate. These are exciting times, but we aren't tired yet, so Congratulations Secretary DeVos, and **Let's Keep Winning.**

Shawn R. Frost
President,
Florida Coalition of School Board Members
FCSBM.org