



## Jeffco School Board Recall – Fact Checking (1-Page Version)

Jeffco Students First wants to assure the community is well informed. You will perhaps be approached to sign a petition to recall three Jeffco school board members. Their petition uses the following words “Respect”, “Accountability” and “Transparency”. We would ask that you consider the following facts. Below in *italics* are things being said in the community, in **red** are the facts.

### “RESPECT”

*The board attempted to censor U.S. History classes, leading thousands of students to walk out of class in protest.* **There was no attempt to censor U.S. History classes. The “controversy” arose from one board member’s proposal to review the College Board’s new AP U.S. History framework. The discussions resulted in a curriculum review process that is more transparent, with more community and student input. In July of 2015 the College Board released a new AP US History framework making changes that assure the framework provides a more balanced picture of AP US History.**

*Their unprofessional actions have pushed over 700 educators this past year to leave Jeffco schools, most to teach in other districts, because the educators believe the Board Majority’s policies hurt their ability to educate our students —* **As the economy has improved, teacher turnover in the state of Colorado has increased in the last two years, and now stands at 17%. Jeffco’s turnover rate also has increased, but remains lower than the state average.**

### “ACCOUNTABILITY”

*The board is paying Dan McMinimee \$280,000 when Cindy only made \$201,000 —* **The figures presented on the recall petition are an apples to oranges comparison. Mr. McMinimee’s figure includes all retirement and potential bonuses, while Dr. Stevenson’s figure only lists her base salary. The new superintendent’s compensation is in line with other Colorado superintendents, and is in fact lower than 10 other districts in the state, despite Jeffco being one of the largest.**

*The board is hiding \$90,000 each year in legal expenses from the public —* **All legal expenses for the board and district are available in the financial transparency database on the district website. In an effort to increase transparency this board hired its attorney in public, which had never been done before.**

### “TRANSPARENCY”

*They have repeatedly violated Colorado open meeting laws by secretly making major decisions behind closed doors —* **This board has not violated Colorado open meeting laws; they have increased transparency, moving meetings into the community and live streaming all board meetings. They publicly voted to hire their attorney and PR firms, which never had been done before.**

*They have severely limited public comment at board meetings —* **This board has made it easier to make public comment at Jeffco School Board meetings through online signup now available days ahead of time.**

*They have bullied students, and parents —* **The board has asked for decorum at their board meetings, asking community members to respect other speakers and not shout out during proceedings.**

*They have released a minor student’s private information in violation of state law —* **No private information of students has been released The board has increased the focus on protecting staff and student data privacy. They have stopped intrusive video recording of students and started a technology and data privacy committee to help ensure personally identifiable information is not shared with others.**