

Netflix's Reed Hastings: "Get rid of elected school boards"

Reed Hastings is not the first enemy of public school boards of education. President Reagan was fond of stating that government is the problem. His solution for education was vouchers.

In 1990, John E. Chubb and Terry M. Moe, at the behest of the Brookings Institution, wrote the book, [Politics, Markets and America's Schools](#).

The thread running through the book is that markets are better. On page 19, they stated, "The way to get effective schools, rather, is to recognize that the problem of ineffective performance is really a deep-seated institutional problem that arises from the most fundamental properties of democratic control." Their solution—the market alternative, "a setting in which these organizations can flourish and take root." The book was a school house load of poppycock.

The experience of over 30 years of market-driven alternatives confirms that charters and vouchers are less effective than the democratic-controlled public common school system.

The real problem is that powerful forces are attempting to eliminate boards of education and thus, the public school system; but most citizens have no grasp of this nefarious plot of privatizers. Elected boards of education, whose members are public school advocates, stand between the common school system and privatization of education.

[NETFLIX'S REED HASTINGS: "GET RID OF ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS"](#)

by The Left Hook on March 11, 2014

On March 4th, 2014, Billionaire Netflix CEO, Reed Hastings delivered the keynote speech to the California Charter School Association's annual conference. In that keynote speech, Mr. Hastings made a shocking statement: Democratically elected school board members are the problem with education, and they must be replaced by privately held corporations in the next 20-30 years.

Reed Hastings has just over a billion dollars, riches built on software companies and the entertainment giant Netflix. Mr. Hastings also sat on the California State Board of Education from 2000 to 2004, when he stepped down [amid controversy](#).

Hastings, who sits on [Rocketship's national strategy advisory board](#), has [invested millions](#) in Rocketship. He's also made significant political action committee contributions on Rocketship's behalf, most recently, [he poured \\$50,000 into a PAC](#) to support pro-charter Santa Clara County Office of Education members.

Mr. Hastings's vision of the bourgeoisie controlling education is, frankly, frightening. We fear a system controlled by out of touch billionaires who subordinate and subvert the masses through Hastings's "large non-profits".

As Winston Churchill said, “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms”. Note to Mr. Hastings: Aristocracy and Oligarchy have been tried plenty of times, our predecessors got on a boat to escape them. We don’t want our progeny to have to do the same.

Hastings quote:

“And so the fundamental problem with school districts is not their fault, the fundamental problem is that they don’t get to control their boards and the importance of the charter school movement is to evolve America from a system where governance is constantly changing and you can’t do long term planning to a system of large non-profits...The most important thing is that they constantly get better every year they’re getting better because they have stable governance — they don’t have an elected school board. And that’s a real tough issue. Now if we go to the general public and we say, “Here’s an argument why you should get rid of school boards” of course no one’s going to go for that. School boards have been an iconic part of America for 200 years. So what we have to do is to work with school districts to grow steadily, and the work ahead is really hard because we’re at 8% of students in California, whereas in New Orleans they’re at 90%, so we have a lot of catchup to do...So what we have to do is continue to grow and grow... It’s going to take 20-30 years to get to 90% of charter kids....And if we succeed over the next 20 or 30 years, that will be one of the fastest rates of change ever seen around the world for a large system, it’s hard.”

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