

## Morgan Dimaio

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**From:** Shannon McLoud <shanmcloud@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 8:48 PM  
**To:** Morgan Dimaio  
**Subject:** PPSD Accountability

Dear Ms. DiMaio,

I am a nine year veteran of the Providence Public School District. In my career I have worked in both middle and high schools, for five different principals, four different Superintendents, and now a few years into the disastrous state takeover. I say disastrous as I have yet to see a policy enacted that had actual positive implications for my students.

To say Providence was broken pre - takeover would be an understatement. At this point we have all read the John Hopkins report. In fact my classroom, a senior AP Lit class, was visited for the last ten minutes of class on the seniors' last day of school. I knew then that the report was going to be used to harbor more control over the district, but I never imagined how difficult it would make teaching in Providence.

Let's first discuss communication and collaboration, because in my opinion, they go hand in hand. Prior to the takeover, as a Teacher Leader for my department, I was frequently asked to join learning walks with the district, I was approached by district admin to assist on district wide projects, and I was sent a weekly email from RPA that outlined any testing that would be coming up, pertinent data, and information about RTII. It felt like a partnership. Sadly, it no longer feels like that. The weekly communication stopped soon after the takeover. Now under the takeover, emails regarding a testing window and policies are sent out sometimes days before, when schools and teachers have already planned their next lessons out. To put out a blanket mandate that a standardized unit test that teachers have not made is egregious. To do so and demand teachers drop their lessons to get to it right away is a blatant slap in the face. Data is hidden from teachers until it has been manipulated by the district. (For example, before the STAR reading window was closed, someone at district admin moved the goalposts for proficient readers to below the RI state average. This will ensure that it will look as if the TAP goals are met, but in actuality they will not have been.) In addition, the mandated end of unit exams are to be given as if it is a state mandated test, yet we are given direction to put the grade in our gradebooks. This is blatantly against the law, as it will inevitably violate IEPs. For example, a student may have an IEP accommodation that multiple choice answers cannot go above four. This is something we can do for classwork, but are not given the agency to do so for the end of unit exams. And although it is true that those same students cannot have that accommodation on their SAT exam, the SAT exam is not a graded exam recorded in their gradebook. These end of unit tests are expected to be. During this takeover walk-throughs turned into a micromanaged mission where we were constantly told by district admin that our

observations as school leaders were incorrect, and were strongarmed into writing what the district admin wished us to. It must be noted that said district admin doesn't even work in the district any longer, and has moved to greener, and more lucrative, pastures. That is one of the only consistent things throughout the takeover-people have been moved up here to "fix" the system, they disregard any institutional knowledge, and then they move to a new district that will pay them more. These are all avoidable issues if we were treated as the partners we once were treated as.

District administration has been controlled by one person, a deputy Superintendent. Their "leadership" has made it clear that they do not know what goes on in a classroom, or how students learn. Why this person is running the district as if teachers are a separate entity is beyond me.

We need real oversight in Providence with this takeover. We need the roving door of district admin to collaborate with the one constant in Providence; the teachers.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Shannon McLoud

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Shannon McLoud  
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