

Bill 482

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to be more creative; accountability doesn't mean test scores it means measuring what we teach," said Assemblywoman Christina Guinchigliani, District 9.

She suggested mandatory kindergarten, direct funding for schools and allowing teachers to visit parents whose children might have missed classes as ways to combat the state's low test scores.

The bill's technology portion was not a divisive issue during the forum. Approximately \$27.5 million will be used to install technology which will give pupils and teachers Internet access. About \$8.6 million will

be used for repair, maintenance, replacement and hiring technical and training support.

"The main thing we would like to see is for students to be able to do anything needed when they leave school," said Rheault, referring to the expanded educational opportunities the Internet makes available.

School Board Trustee Shirley Barber would like to see increased parental involvement. "Get involved with your child's education process. Play games with them that teach them to read, or strengthen their math skills. Get them library cards and listen to your children."

Barber urged parents not to coddle their children, but to hold themselves accountable for making sure to teach their children to be good students.

She suggests parents visit their children's schools, meet with the teachers, staff and the principal, know the school's rules and relate to school officials your child's skills.

"You are not your child's friend," Giunchigliani said. "You are their parent. We have wanted our kids to like us and have failed to parent them. We have to become parents again."

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATIONS MADE POSSIBLE BY SENATE BILL 482

The criteria for a 'high achieving' school designator are:

- 95 percent of the students must have taken the Terra Nova test, with; 50 percent of the student body scoring 75 percent, or better nationally, and;
- the average attendance of students and their teachers must be 95 percent.

To be designated and 'adequate' school:

- 90 percent of the students must have taken the test; with 60 percent scoring better than 26 percent of the students tested nationally, and;
- Have 90 percent attendance.

To be labeled 'inadequate,' a school must have:

- Less than 60 percent of the school's population scoring below the 26 percent tested nationally, and;
- The average daily attendance is less than 90 percent, for three or more years running.

These designators can be affected by many factors: truancy, a high population of students who speak English as a second language, or standardized tests that are culturally biased.

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

West Las Vegas Neighborhood Executive Board Chairwoman Alice Wilson poses with nationally acclaimed artist Houston Conwill, left, and Curtis Briley, who chaired the West Las Vegas Charette project.

Art

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New York City.

Alice Wilson, the board's chairwoman, said, "I feel its such a great pleasure and privilege to have him (Houston Conwill) here in our community assisting us with this project."

Laurel Tinsley, a sculptor who has been living in Las Vegas for six months says that she attended the Charette because she wants to paint the city.

She said people should know, by the areas art decor, that they are in the African-American community.

Nigeria

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to develop a popcorn production plant to exploit the region's maize and palm oil production capability. With the addition of small scale machinery the local village could deliver packaged popcorn for an incredibly low cost. So you see the conference was very productive and some ignorance and naïveté were overcome and some bridges were built.

There was one true quote in the Washington Post article (printed in big, bold italics): "If the regime were White (people), oppressing a majority Black population, none of those Black mayors would have gone to Nigeria."

If the regime in Nigeria was made up of White people, I suspect the Black mayors wouldn't have been invited!

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