

Join Counter Recruitment: Public Schools Need You!

By Kim Doss-Smith

The “Truth in Recruiting” coalition of WAMM and Veterans for Peace is gearing up for another year of projects. Coalition members will continue to go to public school job fairs and talk about the rights youth sacrifice when they join the military. New this year will be a campaign to counter JROTC expansion in the public schools, and the offering of curriculum-based mini-modules for educators to enrich their classroom teaching.



Cartoon by Kirk Anderson. The new Chief Executive Officer of the Minneapolis Public School District worked to militarize public schools in Chicago.

The new focus on countering JROTC expansion in the schools is necessary because Rick Miles, who is not trained in education but has a very heavy military background, as well as master's degrees in business and national security, has been hired by Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson in a newly named position, “Chief Executive Officer of the Minneapolis School District.” Presumably he is here to do the same job he did in Chicago, which was to expand JROTC into the majority of Chicago's high schools and make Chicago one of the largest suppliers of kids to the U.S. military.

The other new project, “Teaching Peace,” will involve updating a peace education course once taught in the Minneapolis schools. The project will design it to meet curriculum standards and establish mini-courses easily taught in a few days. This program will be developed for both junior and senior high levels.

Volunteers will be needed in all areas. Especially needed are teachers and former teachers who are familiar with current social studies, history, and English standards. Please call the WAMM offices to join a team and volunteer: 612-827-5364.

Kim Doss-Smith is the current director of Women Against Military Madness and a member of Veterans for Peace. She has had longtime involvement with counter-recruitment issues.