

Education partnership's hypocrisy

Recently, The Education Partnership published a report condemning and using teacher unions as their scapegoat for burdening Rhode Island taxpayers.

Valerie Forti, the president and secretary of the foundation, said that teacher unions are more concerned with protecting the rights and benefits of

adults, not the children the teachers serve. The report attacked what they called "excessive" teacher entitlements and proposed cuts to them in order to lower taxes.

The Education Partnership is talking out of both sides of its mouth. For example, consider that the East Greenwich School Committee just unanimously

voted to end a lucrative contract with one of the Education Partnership's consultants.

In this hypocrisy, Donna Vigneau-Carlson who heads an administrator internship program of the Partnership, was paid \$123,960 per year by the East Greenwich school department then reimbursed by the foundation.

She had first went to a RIDE grant position that evolved into her current position at the Partnership.

Through this deceptive method, she is entitled to collect her pension through the state's retirement system, which is partially funded by the tax-

payers of Rhode Island.

Keep in mind she left a principal position making under \$100,000 per year in Coventry to take the consultant position at this corporate-sponsored lobbying foundation.

Thus, the Education Partnership espouses fighting excessive entitlements of teachers, while at the same time, paying exorbitant salaries to their own staff and pawning off their entitlement obligations to the Rhode Island taxpayers!

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Water utilities doing great job

On behalf of consumers across Rhode Island, I would like to commend the state's local water utilities for keeping public water systems operating around the clock, with virtually no exception during the record-breaking cold and stormy

through May 7), I applaud the specially trained, skilled and certified professionals in Rhode Island who work throughout the year to protect, monitor, test, analyze and treat public drinking water.

By performing this essential