

**03/01/13  
DISCUSSION  
NO. 1 ON  
SCHOOL  
VOUCHER  
SYSTEMS**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>03-01-13 DISCUSSION NO. 1  
ON SCHOOL VOUCHER  
SYSTEMS</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate Education Committee

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair

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MEMBERS:

Senator Charlie Huggins  
Senator Mike Dunleavy  
Senator Berta Gardner  
Senator Bert Stedman

### AGENDA

Friday, March 1, 2013

8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

Beltz Committee Room, #105 Thomas B. Stewart Building  
Juneau, Alaska

+ “Discussion on School Voucher Systems”

*Testimony By Invitation Only*

1. Mr. Alan Borsuk, Senior Fellow In Law & Public Policy, Marquette University Law School
2. Mr. Robert Enlow, President & CEO, Freidman Foundation for Education Choice
3. Dr. Diane Ravitch, Research Professor of Education, New York University

\* First Hearing  
- Previously Heard  
+ Teleconferenced



## Alan Borsuk

Alan Borsuk was a reporter and editor at the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel from 1972 to 2009. He wrote extensively about education beginning in the mid-1990s, including coverage of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, the first urban voucher program in the United States. The program has grown to include about 25,000 students in more than 100 schools, almost all of them religious. Borsuk and reporter Sarah Carr visited more than 100 voucher schools in Spring 2005 to write a series, "Inside the Voucher Schools," which played a significant role in motivating changes in Wisconsin statutes and regulations for schools taking part in the MPCP. In 2009, he was named senior fellow in law and public policy at Marquette University Law School. He continues to write a Sunday column on education for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

During his newspaper career, Borsuk covered a wide range of subjects, including federal courts, environmental issues, Milwaukee city government, abortion, and philanthropy and foundations in Milwaukee. He covered several presidential campaigns and numerous presidential visits to Wisconsin, as well as wide range of state political stories. He is probably best known for his work as editor of *Wisconsin*, the Sunday magazine of the *Milwaukee Journal*, from 1986 to 1994, and for his reporting on education issues in Milwaukee from 1998 to 2009, when he took early retirement from the newspaper. His reporting played significant roles in shaping state policy on Milwaukee's private school voucher program and a variety of issues related to Milwaukee Public Schools, including proposals to put Milwaukee's mayor in charge of key decisions related to the schools. Borsuk was also the first person to find in federal education records and to make public the evidence that the gap in educational achievement between white students and black students in Wisconsin was, by several measures, the largest in the United States. He has won numerous awards for his reporting, including the 2009 Education Advocacy Award of the Marquette College of Education.

Borsuk has also written for the *New York Times*, the magazine of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University, and The Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media at Columbia University, and has spoken at seminars sponsored by Hechinger and the national Education Writers Association.

Borsuk has also been an active volunteer in education in his private life, playing key roles in founding two schools in Milwaukee, Yeshiva Elementary School for kindergarten through eighth grade students, and Torah Academy of Milwaukee, a girls high school. He is currently president of the board of the Wisconsin Institute for Torah Study, a boys high school in Milwaukee.

Borsuk grew up in Madison and is a 1972 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He worked in high school and college for the *Wisconsin State Journal*. Borsuk and his wife, Robi, have four children and seven grandchildren.



**Robert C. Enlow, President & CEO  
The Friedman Foundation for Education Choice**

In January 2009, Robert Enlow assumed the role of President and CEO of the Foundation for Educational Choice, the school choice legacy foundation of Milton and Rose Friedman. Previously, Robert had served as executive director of the Foundation for Educational Choice since late 2004. He joined the Foundation when it first opened in 1996, serving as fundraiser, projects coordinator, and vice president before being named executive director.

Under his leadership, the Foundation has become one of the nation's leading advocates for school choice, working in dozens of states to advance the issue by disseminating research, sponsoring seminars, undertaking advertising campaigns, organizing community leaders, and providing grants.

He is the co-editor of the book *Liberty and Learning, Milton Friedman's Voucher Idea at Fifty*, author of *Grading Vouchers, Ranking America's School Choice Programs*, and co-author of *School Choice: A Reform that Works* and *Early School Choice*, a chapter in *An Education Agenda: Let Parents Choose Their Children's School*. His articles and quotes have appeared in numerous publications including the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Arizona Republic*, *National Review*, and *USA Today*.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Robert lived and worked in England where he served as a Deputy Day Center Manager and Social Worker for St. Botolph's Project, an organization providing rehabilitative care and services to homeless men, women, and families. While in England, he also served on the School Board of two inner-city schools in London, Hillmead Infants and Juniors School, where he chaired the Finance Committee and served on the Building and Curriculum Committees. During his tenure, the success of the schools was nationally recognized in an inspection by Her Majesty's Office of Standards in Education Department (OFSTED).

From 1990-1992, Robert attended Oxford University where he worked on a post-graduate degree in Theology. He received his BA degree from Seattle Pacific University.

Robert has served as Private Sector Chairman of the Education Task Force for the American Legislative Exchange Council, a group that also recognized him as the Private Sector Member of the Year. He is also a board member of School Choice Ohio and the Economic Club of Indiana, and serves on the Indiana State Advisory Committee for the US Commission on Civil Rights. He currently lives in Indianapolis and has two children, Jefferson and Charles.

## Diane Ravitch



Diane Ravitch is Research Professor of Education at New York University and a historian of education. In addition, she is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

She shares a blog called *Bridging Differences* with Deborah Meier, hosted by *Education Week*. She also blogs for *Politico.com/arena* and the *Huffington Post*. Her articles have appeared in many newspapers and magazines.

From 1991 to 1993, she was Assistant Secretary of Education and Counselor to Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander in the administration of President George H.W. Bush. She was responsible for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education. As Assistant Secretary, she led the federal effort to promote the creation of voluntary state and national academic standards.

From 1997 to 2004, she was a member of the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the federal testing program. She was appointed by the Clinton administration's Secretary of Education Richard Riley in 1997 and reappointed by him in 2001. From 1995 until 2005, she held the Brown Chair in Education Studies at the Brookings Institution and edited *Brookings Papers on Education Policy*. Before entering government service, she was Adjunct Professor of History and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

She is the author of:

- *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education* (2010)
- *Edspeak: A Glossary of Education Terms, Phrases, Buzzwords, and Jargon* (2007)
- *The Language Police: How Pressure Groups Restrict What Students Learn* (2003)
- *Left Back: A Century of Battles Over School Reform* (2000)
- *National Standards in American Education: A Citizen's Guide* (1995)
- *What Do Our 17-Year-Olds Know?* (with Chester Finn, Jr.) [1987]
- *The Schools We Deserve* (1985)
- *The Troubled Crusade: American Education, 1945–1980* (1983)
- *The Revisionists Revised* (1978)
- *The Great School Wars: New York City, 1805–1973* (1974)

In 2010, the National Education Association selected her as its "Friend of Education" for the year, and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges conferred its Charles W. Eliot Award on Dr. Ravitch. In 2011, she has been honored with the Outstanding Friend of Education Award from the Horace Mann League; the American Education Award from the American Association of School Administrators; the National Association of Secondary School Principals' Distinguished Service Award; and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Teachers College at Columbia University. In June of 2011, she received the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

She was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, by the following institutions: Williams College; Reed College; Amherst College; the State University of New York; Ramapo College; St. Joseph's College of New York; Middlebury College Language Schools; and Union College.

A native of Houston, she is a graduate of the Houston public schools. She received a B.A. from Wellesley College in 1960 and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1975.