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Part 1

A current lawsuit, *Hurd v. Clark County School District*, shows that CCSD continues to violate decades-old federal & state special-ed laws — with non-verbal autistic kids pushed, pinched, kicked, stepped upon and grabbed forcefully enough to bruise and cause bone and tendon damage.

Part 2

This abusive, often primitive culture repeatedly reveals itself when parents lose patience with the district and file against it in the federal court system. Although long prohibited by state law, the abuse continues behind closed doors — in so-called “self-contained” classrooms.

Part 3

In the 21st Century’s first decade, conscienceless abuse by CCSD special-ed staff destroyed chances for Bobby, a four-year-old, to surmount his disability and eventually lead a normal life. While his young, still-plastic nervous system was taking on what would be its permanent form, beatings and other aggression almost certainly caused permanent brain dysfunction

Part 4

Sworn testimony in the current *Hurd* lawsuit reveals that in 2014, CCSD violated state law by placing James Doran, a 240-pound body builder and weightlifter — who had never taught before and lacked a special education license — in charge of a closed Forbuss Elementary autism classroom containing non-verbal fourth and fifth-graders.

Part 5

Parents’ lawyers filed with the court this July multiple detailed witness accounts of incidents



of alleged abuse by Doran that reputedly had been reported to Principal Shawn Paquette — but, to no effect.

Although state lawmakers in 1999 had made illegal a previously used CCSD practice of making certain special-needs students run to “get their energy out,” Doran himself testified that Paquette had expressly told him to take a particular autistic student, S.S., “by the hand and run him.”

Part 6

Suing parents took advantage of a key provision in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to depose CCSD itself as to its actual policies regarding the abuse of disabled students.

In July, CCSD co-counsel Kara Hendricks was compelled to admit —following the records

search plaintiffs had demanded — that the district *does not possess* records of the discipline of adults determined to be guilty of child mistreatment. Arguably, that suggests “deliberate indifference,” which in the federal courts, means financial liability.

Part 7

A decade ago, attorneys representing the small boy who’d been battered in what became known as the Preschooler II case suggested to the Clark County School District a way it could prevent similar problems in the future.

If cameras were installed in the classrooms where nonverbal autistic kids were being taught, they said, physical assaults on them by district employees would be much less likely to occur.

CCSD, for some reason, was extremely hostile to the idea.

“We’ll go to the Supreme Court over that. We’d rather pay a lot of money, but cameras will never happen,” said the district, according to an attorney in the room at the time.

Part 8

The 1970s federal IDEA legislation was a naïve attempt to evade the dark reality of humanity’s in-built and reflexive capacity to discriminate against the different and the “other.”

As all the lawsuits against Nevada public schools should have made clear by now, the contemporary Silver State model for special education no longer suffices. As currently structured, it is actually quite complicit with the darker side of human nature — a nature that, ignoring all the reasonable rules written into federal, state and school-district regulations — regularly reveals itself.

Nevada lawmakers need to ask themselves: How long are these realities to remain undressed?

Editorial Commentary: Ye CCSD Pink Palace