

Teachers, not Lt. Gov. Swift, deserve media attention

Since being named education czar some weeks ago by our 'education governor,' A. Paul Cellucci, I have seen Lt. Gov. Jane Swift's picture in your paper quite regularly. In each case she is visiting local or regional classrooms and is pictured with eager, attentive children looking on.

She looks quite animated during her public relations photo opportunities. While one would expect Swift's presence in the schools to be increasing (strange how I don't remember any such presence prior to her new appointment), I find it troubling that you continue to provide these visits such high-profile coverage.

For one thing, Swift's visits are only a public relations diversion from the Cellucci-Swift efforts to gut education funding across the board.

On Friday Swift was bringing \$302,000 dollars in books - paid for through Atty. Gen. Thomas Reilly's office. This contribution is meager in comparison to the millions Cellucci and Swift tried to cut from the Commonwealth's education budget this year. Why wasn't Reilly the focus of your Sept. 30 article rather than Swift?

Thousands of dedicated teachers across our region diligently and professionally devote their lives to educating our children despite a lack of appropriate respect from politicians, the media, and, too often, the public.

The next time I see a picture of eager, imaginative kids in school I'd like to see them pictured with the real heroes: their generally over-worked, under-supported, under-paid, and under-appreciated teachers.

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