

State lawmaker says Texas school board members get 'indoctrination' into groupthink culture

Guts. That's what Republican State Senator Lois Kolkhorst showed this year when she took on the state's powerful education lobby with harsh but true words.

Senator Lois Kolkhorst said a few months back at [an Austin hearing](#) that the Texas Association of School Boards, which trains trustees in almost every school district, "indoctrinates" its members into "a kind of culture" that is unhealthy for schoolchildren.

It's an adults-first, children-second mindset, the Brenham lawmaker said. Too much emphasis on the next building, not enough on academics.

She didn't stand alone. At the same hearing, a school board member, parents and activists supported her contention with similarly harsh words.

Remember the lone man in China who stood up against the tank in Tiananmen Square? The senator is like that, and the tank is the billion-dollar Texas public school business. School board members are the largest group of elected officials in the state. It's dangerous to poke the bear.

The senator, who represents parts of 21 counties, said this: "Here's what I find when I deal with some school board members. The indoctrination. You're supposed to tell your lawmakers not to do this. You're supposed to tell your lawmakers that we need more money and less accountability.

"When they come back from [TASB] training, their personalities have completely changed."

She promised, "I'm going to look very closely at the indoctrination — the training of these school board members."

In an education bulletin to members of the Texas Association of Community Schools, a lobbyist later described these comments as "a turn for the nasty."

Actually, they're a turn toward truth.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/watchdog/2016/11/18/state-lawmaker-says-texas-school-board-members-get-indoctrination-into-groupthink-culture/>