

4% Retroactive

Teachers are the salt of the earth
And they all deserve better from the top
You who try to take all of the credit and most of the cash
For the work we do readying the crop

You who think that we do not understand
The budget numbers you try to call true
We understand a lot more than you think
Maybe you should give credit and a raise where they are due

And Nelly, I must say, you really do great work
And this is nothing personal against you
As part of your job it is a necessary evil
To manifest the doom and gloom that you do

But at the end of negotiations ya'all refused to do the right thing
And make 4% retroactive to the beginning of the year
Instead you chose to be petty and tell us you couldn't
So totally bogus and completely insincere

It would have taken a cool million dollars
To give all the teachers the raise they had earned
The meanings of the words attract and retain
Are definitions you still have not learned

You could have taken the million
Out of one of three places from which you could choose
Other state, other local, and certificated salaries
Gave you over 4 million extra dollars in unused revenues

To not make the raise retroactive
Certainly did not help your rapport
With the Teachers who worked hard and earned it
On our good faith, you simply slammed shut the door

And then you claim to have your feelings hurt
When we say we cannot trust what you say
This would not happen if you learned the meanings
Of good faith, collective bargaining, and fair play.

But instead you chose to tell us
Through your action and your deeds
That we are not worth keeping here
That you don't give a hoot about our needs

You have created the quagmire we're in
You seem to think if teachers lose then you win

When you tell the public teachers aren't worth the raise
You fill said public with a malingering malaise

If a district does not show that their teachers are valued
Why would parents have reason to stay
They see that mistrust and contentious negotiations
Have become the Evergreen way

Why do you find it so very difficult
To do right by those who teach
To make 4% retroactive
Was well within your reach

It could not have hurt you
And the money you make
You could have helped ease
Some of the ache

You could have built back
Some of the trust that is lacking
And maybe Interest Based Bargaining
Would be worth unpacking

But until you decide to come back
With numbers that are factual
After the funding dust settles
And act upon the actual

And do the right thing
For those that work hard
Your teachers who
Continue to be Avant-garde

Your teachers who help children
Be the best they can be
Could certainly use your help
To help our own families

So quit being petty
When you find that you're holding
Extra revenues in the coffers
Don't let'em sit molding

But be righteous and spend it
On your teachers with pride
Treat us as you treat yourselves
And we can all be satisfied

And remember as we begin
This next contractual go 'round
Success of the district depends on teachers
To whom it is intrinsically bound

By

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"Teachers Rock"