

Caldwell v. Roseville Joint Union High School District
case no. 2:05-CV-00061
TIMELINE OF EVENTS

July and August of 2003

- School Board adopts Holt Biology Textbook, even though its presentation of evolution is not accurate, objective and current, as required by California law.
- Caldwell first requests School Board to put his Quality Science Education (QSE) Policy on the agenda of a school board meeting for public debate and potential adoption, pursuant to his rights under California Education Code sec. 35145.5 and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

September of 2003

- School Board holds school board meeting, **but informs Caldwell that it is refusing to allow his QSE Policy to be included on the agenda (and continues its refusal for eight months.)**
- At the school board meeting, Caldwell suffers **religious discrimination and anti-religious verbal attacks from school board member James Joiner, violating the district's own code of conduct on appropriate conduct at district meetings.**
- Caldwell is told that he will have to take his QSE Policy to the parent-teacher council at his daughter's high school before he will be permitted to bring it before the Board.
- When Caldwell contacts the principal of his daughter's high school, requesting that his QSE Policy be placed on the agenda for that school's parent-teacher council, **Caldwell is told that he is not welcome to discuss his QSE Policy at parent-teacher council meetings, even though they are limited public forums.** Caldwell is told that he will have to submit his QSE Policy proposal to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, who will convene a district-wide committee of science teachers to review Caldwell's science education proposals on a district-wide basis.

October and November of 2003

- Caldwell and his science expert present Caldwell's challenge to the biology textbook and Caldwell's proposed instructional materials on evolution to the district-wide committee of science teachers at a meeting that is closed to the public and press by school officials, in violation of California's open meeting law.
- Rather than addressing the scientific and educational merits of Caldwell's science education proposals, **the committee members ask questions improperly focusing**

on the private religious beliefs of Caldwell and his science expert, with no objection from the Assistant Superintendent presiding over the meeting.

- The District-wide committee then sends the critique of the biology textbook and proposed instructional materials to outside science professors for a “science” review, since the science teachers admit they are not qualified to evaluate the merits of the proposals.
- **Instead of science opinions, the outside science professors provide reports filled with anti-religious attacks on Caldwell and his science expert.**

December of 2003

- The District-Wide science teachers committee relies on the tainted outside “science” reviews in deciding to reject Caldwell’s scientific critique of the biology textbook and Caldwell’s proposed additional instructional materials. The District’s Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction ratifies the District-Wide science teachers committee’s decision.
- Caldwell requests a review of the District-Wide Committee’s decision, **but the District refuses to provide Caldwell with the three levels of review and appeal mandated by the District’s own procedures.**
- The principal of Caldwell’s daughter’s high school puts Caldwell’s science education proposals on the noticed agenda for the parent-teacher council’s monthly meeting. **However, when Caldwell and his supporters show up at the meeting to discuss the issue, they are told by the principal that the matter has been dropped from the agenda, and he refuses to permit Caldwell and his supporters to discuss Caldwell’s science education proposals at the meeting.**
- In an effort to discredit Caldwell, the principal later **falsely accuses Caldwell of asking him to distribute religious literature to parents at the meeting, an accusation the principal subsequently recants.**

December of 2003 to April of 2004

- Caldwell files internal administrative complaints regarding the District’s misconduct regarding his science education proposals. The District denies Caldwell’s administrative complaints and ratifies all of the District’s misconduct.
- The District continues to refuse to put Caldwell’s QSE Policy on the agenda of a school board meeting for public debate and potential adoption, and finally agrees to do so, only after Caldwell threatens a lawsuit.

May of 2004

- Caldwell’s QSE Policy is finally put on the agenda for the May 4, 2004 school board meeting for public debate and potential adoption. However, Caldwell is subjected to

more viewpoint discrimination and religious discrimination before, during and after the meeting.

- Board member Joiner **reads a private e-mail from Caldwell to a fellow church member in an effort to discredit Caldwell's science education proposals.**
- Board member Joiner **publicly threatens that the District will sue Caldwell and his supporters if they continue to use District procedures to present Caldwell's proposed QSE Policy.**
- Board member Joiner **announces that he will no longer accept communications from Caldwell and his supporters (though he accepts communications from other citizens).**
- When the board appears to be on the verge of passing Caldwell's QSE Policy, **the school district's superintendent asserts a bogus procedural objection to block the board vote.**

June of 2004

- The school board votes 3 to 2 to reject Caldwell's QSE Policy.

January 11, 2005

- Caldwell files federal civil rights lawsuit in the United District Court for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento, *Larry Caldwell v. Roseville Joint Union High School District, et al.*, case no. 2:05-CV-00061.