
From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 6:17 PM
To: Merriman
Subject: Re: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

Ok

----- Original Message -----

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sun Jan 17 18:13:08 2010
Subject: RE: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

important but not critical with SED now having reformers in house. Would hate to see it go however in long run because I want the next mayor/chancellor to have to engage with charters and this forces them to. Even Liu would have to acknowledge their legitimacy god forbid. It also builds an in house bureaucracy with a pecuniary interest in charters. You know how it works. . . .

j.

From: Klein Joel I. [JKlein@schools.nyc.gov]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 6:04 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: Re: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

Like every great lawyer, 50-50. How impt is nyc authorizing role?

----- Original Message -----

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sun Jan 17 17:58:08 2010
Subject: RE: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

It seems that Craig is holding strong (and diaz at least) and so is the governor. There are strategies for getting his bill to the senate floor for a vote in the special session tomorrow night and it will obviously be a big test whether they can get that done and then cobble the 32 for the gov bill. That obviously changes the game for the assembly which then has to argue that its complicated bill is better than a simple bill.

We are clearly winning the press war and therefore will win the blame game either way.

Bottom line: pretty fluid. Wouldn't put it past the unions collectively to strip some republicans and cave some of our guys to get a bill through--and then put pressure on the Governor. How's that for a on the one hand on the other analysis that clients love getting from lawyers.

I think bottom line that it is still a fight.

From: Klein Joel I. [JKlein@schools.nyc.gov]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 5:57 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: Re: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

Thx. Where do you think we are?

----- Original Message -----

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sun Jan 17 17:53:08 2010
Subject: Fw: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

This is helpful and has been distributed around to your team James Merriman NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

----- Original Message -----

From: Nelson Smith
To: James Merriman; Chartock, Jonas <Jonas.Chartock@suny.edu>
Sent: Sun Jan 17 17:40:46 2010
Subject: FW: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

I don't see Joel or anyone from his office on the cc list below -- ?
Nelson

Nelson Smith
President & CEO
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
1101 14th Street, NW
Suite 801
Washington, DC 20005
202-289-2700
www.publiccharters.org

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Regnier
To: Michael Regnier <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; Peter Murphy <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; Ken Peterson <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; Williams, Steve <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; Bill Phillips <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; James Merriman <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; Vince Marrone <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>; Friedman <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>

Cc: jonas.chartock@suny.edu <jonas.chartock@suny.edu>; Brooks Garber <swilliams@cityhall.nvc.gov>

Sent: Sun Jan 17 17:18:21 2010
Subject: RE: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

Attached is the approved final NAPCS statement, in pdf form. Do not use any previous version.

Thanks to Brooks and the Alliance team for their support today.

Michael

From: Michael Regnier
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 4:56 PM
To: Williams, Steve; Peter Murphy; Bill Phillips; Ken Peterson; James Merriman; Vince Marrone; williams; Friedman
Cc: jonas.chartock@suny.edu; brooks
Subject: NAPCS memo on NY and RTTT

Hello all (and now copying Jonas and Brooks),

Attached is the final memo from NAPCS. PETER and JONAS, please review and email Brooks immediately to sign off on this version.

All changes are for clarity, e.g. explicitly saying this would be a step backwards and referring to "effective elimination" of SUNY as an authorizer. This version also tallies up point risks, section by section.

Michael

From: Williams, Steve [swilliams@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 3:57 PM
To: Peter Murphy; Bill Phillips; Ken Peterson; James Merriman; Vince Marrone; williams; Friedman; Michael Regnier
Subject: RE: RttT Bill Description

Hi All,

I couldn't get on the 3 pm call and am just catching up with the emails since the earlier call. This piece is really really good. Are we done editing? I'd like to share internally as well as with Senator Golden who I spoke with at length around noon.

Please let me know if this is something I can share.

Steve

From: Peter Murphy
Sent: Sun 1/17/2010 1:32 PM
To: Bill Phillips; Ken Peterson; Merriman; ; Vince Marrone; williams; Friedman; Williams, Steve; Michael Regnier
Subject: RttT Bill Description

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED NYS RACE TO THE TOP LEGISLATION
(S.6468/A.9558)

New legislation introduced late Saturday (Jan. 16) by the majority leadership of both the Senate and Assembly (S.6468-A.9558) would, if approved, severely weaken New York's Charter Schools Act to the point where few, if any, charters will be approved and the quality authorizing structure which New York has been singled out for by the federal government would be gutted.

In turn, this bill, if enacted, would make New York State uncompetitive in the Race to the Top competition for up to \$700 million in new federal education funding. The various provisions taken together could cost New York State up to 8 percent of the needed points (40 out of 500) - a critical gap given that the U.S. Department of Education has repeatedly made clear that only a few points will separate out winners and losers among the states.

Thus, enactment of this bill will ensure that New York State scores worse in the competition than if the legislature took no action at all.

The legislation purports to raise the charter cap to 400 from 200 and maintain SUNY's role as an authorizer. Either such claim would be highly misleading. This is because of the numerous onerous provisions contained in the bill primarily related to subjecting all new chartering to a new request for proposals (RFP) process that would render meaningless both the cap-lift and gut SUNY's charter authority.

In addition, the bill would remove a school district's role in charter approval and oversight, including the NYC Department of Education. No longer could the Chancellor approve or renew charters. This bill also includes new restrictions on co-locating charter schools in NYC district-owned space; a ban on contracting with for-profit management providers; and other negative provisions.

In sum, enactment of this bill would:

- * Concentrate chartering power with the State Board of Regents, e.g., all oversight and renewal decisions with the Regents, including for existing SUNY-approved schools (NOTE: SUNY's Board of Trustees are appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation);
- * Subject all new charter schools to a restrictive and onerous RFP process by the state, including pre-determining the size and location of charter schools, rather than existing practice of community-based charter proposals from anywhere, statewide;
- * Neuter SUNY's ability to override Regents' denial of new charters (up to 65 of the 200) based on the RFP requirements and a statutory override limit not to exceed half of the proposed charters under consideration (which could be few, if any);
- * Remove New York City DOE as a charter authorizer;
- * Place new requirements for charters to occupy or share district-owned space;
- * Ban for-profit management companies from contracting with charter schools.

This bill is scheduled to be voted on by both the Assembly and Senate this Tuesday, January 19th. It must be defeated. Instead, Governor Paterson's bill, which is designed to win the Race to the Top by maximizing point scoring opportunities, should be brought to the floor of each house of the legislature for a vote -- and approval.

The major provisions of the Senate/Assembly bill are described in more detail, below.

An RFP Process to Strangle Growth in Places Where Parents Want Charter Schools

The bill requires that Regents and SUNY design an RFP for charter school applicants and then tightly and minutely circumscribes the shape of that RFP. These provisions are designed to halt growth, particularly where parent demand for charters are highest and promote growth

where demand is lowest. It would remove the ability of public school teachers and leaders to design schools that they knew how to run and instead make the run schools that state officials have mandated and designed.

The process runs directly afoul of Race to the Top requirements and will be viewed as severely inhibiting charter school growth, a sure point loser in a competition that was meant to spur states to lift restrictions on charter schools, not impose them.

In particular, the RFP would

- allow only a small, arbitrary number of charters to be potentially given out in a given year—and then, if desired, award none. Growth could fall to 1 or 2 charters a year throughout the state or none.
- limit charters to regions that lack educational alternatives and “access” to charter schools and inversely keep charters out of regions deemed to have enough—without taking into account parent demand, parent need, parent voice. This is educational redlining. [1]<https://cityhallmail.nyc.gov/exchange/swilliams/Drafts/RE:%20Rttt%20Bill%20Description.EML/1_text.htm#_ftn1>
- deny applications for schools that intend to share space with a public school unless the parents of the public school vote to do so yet at the same not providing facility funding for charters.
- require mandatory enrollment and retention targets for various classes of students, and in so doing hold charters to a standard that not required of any traditional public school.
- Give failing districts effectively a veto on new charters with no appeal from that veto.

As a result of turning from a chartering process focused on parent demand and student achievement to one focused on politics, parent demand will be ignored and districts will be held harmless once again from chronic failure to educate our most needy and vulnerable students. In addition, the following outcomes will inevitably result:

- Charter school growth will be slowed to a trickle in NYC or, more likely, halted altogether, due to limiting shared space and geographic redlining restrictions.
- Charter school growth will slow to a trickle in other areas of the state due to the geographic steering and redlining provisions in the RFP process.
- The cost to operate a charter school will greatly increase due to the resulting rent obligations schools will face—thus taking money away from the classroom and inevitably making class sizes larger.
- Decreased interest among quality charter operators in applying for a charter in NYS who cannot rationally plan for growth—and thus impacting the quality of education that parents have access to.
- Stifled education innovation through the imposition of restrictive rules.

The RFP process was clearly and cleverly designed, to look like a cap lift but yet restrict growth in every possible way. In addition it treats different charters differently, which also is detrimental to Race to the Top scoring.

SUNY Effectively Removed as Charter Authorizer

SUNY’s role as a charter authorizer would be completely gutted by this bill though bill drafting legerdemain, as shown by the provisions described below. As SUNY has been singled out as a model authorizer, and as the Board of Regents has a documented and unfortunate record of authorizing schools that negatively affect student achievement, this too will cost needed Race to the Top points—points that would have accrued if the legislature had done nothing at all.

- As of January 1, 2011, the Board of Regents will assume sole oversight of all charter schools, each of which will be subject to renewal by the Regents alone. SUNY's role in charter oversight and renewal decisions of existing schools ends.
- SUNY jointly with the Regents would design the new RFP, which is tightly and minutely circumscribed by the statutory provisions of the bill, as described above.
- SUNY can supposedly override up to 65 of the 200 more charter schools authorized solely under the new RFP process; yet is restricted to not more than half of any such new charters approved; thus, if the Regents approve only one or none, SUNY will be shut out.

Inhibiting Public Charter Schools from Using Public School Space

This bill would place new restrictions on the use by charter schools of district-owned buildings, especially involving sharing of district space. Shared space was decided under the governance reform statues enacted early last fall. More importantly, this is another restriction on charter school growth that will cost NYS more points. Again, NYS would actually fair better if the legislature did nothing.

Limiting Who Can Help Run a Charter School

This bill would ban outright any contracting by charter schools with for-profit companies for operational or management services, no matter how good their track record in raising student achievement. This too would inhibit charter school growth and lose points.

* * *

This bill is a giant step backward in education reform and completely at variance with the Obama administration's Race to the Top program and the state Regents reform agenda.

It is no exaggeration to say that this proposed bill would effectively end any meaningful new charter school opportunities for families in New York State, regardless of any stated charter cap increase. As such, this bill would severely weaken New York's ability to secure up to \$700 million in federal Race to the Top education funding by forgoing points.

This bill makes sense only in the context of its proponents either intentionally throwing the Race to the Top competition (but wanting to avoid blame for doing so) or its supporters believe that the Secretary of Education and President Obama are unusually inobservant and gullible.

[1]<https://cityhallmail.nyc.gov/exchange/swilliams/Drafts/RE:%20RttT%20Bill%20Description.EML/1_text.htm#_ftnref1> The redlining provisions are at direct odds with a new federal \$25 million grant program that is the centerpiece of the Obama administration's charter reform agenda to promote growth for successful education networks that want to replicate. However, the RFP process is designed to stifle growth particularly among networks of successful schools that need to plan growth in advance and that cannot be subject to the caprice of an RFP process.

From: James Merriman
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2010 12:04 PM
To: Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer
Subject: update
Attachments: RttT_Legis_bill_S.6468-A.9558_Jan2010 final.doc

Apologies for not providing more and more frequent updates on RTTT. Here is where we appear to stand.

The Assembly and Majority Leader Sampson have introduced a bill that you have been reading about and that is very very bad. I'm attaching a four pager that we and the association worked on yesterday that describes the bill and evaluates it. We circulated as well an evaluation from the Alliance which we were instrumental in getting put together and which provides further detail on it and conflicts with the RTTT guidelines.

Bottom line, it would gut the authorizing structure, end shared space, make siting impossible elsewhere and leave everything up to regents discretion. Oh, and it would result in NYS being guaranteed it won't win RTTT.

The Governor and a few democrats (most prominently Craig Johnson) are standing firm against this bill and for the Governor's bill which is basically a clean cap lift with a few transparency and accountability measure that are, as a package, not ideal but not noxious either. Cap lift would be 260 schools split between suny and the Regents/chancellor. For, now the republicans are standing firm and united against Assembly bill.

This means that Senate cannot muster 32 votes for the bad bill but can muster 32 votes for Governor's bill.

The Governor has called a special session for tonight. They will try to get the Governor's bill to the floor of the Senate for a vote. If this is successful, or even if there is the credible threat of it, this may bring the Assembly to the negotiating table for real negotiations.

No one really knows if they are willing to walk away or just playing a game of chicken. What we do know is that it is better for the thing to blow up then come anywhere close to a final product that looks anything like the Assembly bill. If it does blow up, we will have at least won the public relations battle. The union is taking a beating as is the Assembly. Trouble is they almost take that as a badge of honor.

Everyone has been working together, everyone has been helpful. I'm going to Albany tonight. Will have cell and of course am available to talk

R

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED NYS RACE TO THE TOP LEGISLATION (S.6468/A.9558)

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In turn, this bill, if enacted, would make New York State uncompetitive in the Race to the Top competition for up to \$700 million in new federal education funding. The various provisions taken together could cost New York State up to 8 percent of the needed points (40 out of 500) – a critical gap given that the U.S. Department of Education has repeatedly made clear that only a few points will separate out winners and losers among the states.

Thus, enactment of this bill will ensure that New York State scores worse in the Race to the Top competition than if the state legislature took no action at all.

The legislation purports to raise the charter cap to 400 from 200 and maintain SUNY's role as an authorizer. **Both claims would be highly misleading.** This is because of the numerous onerous provisions contained in the bill primarily related to subjecting all new chartering to a new request for proposals (RFP) process that would render meaningless both the cap-lift and gut SUNY's charter authority.

In addition, the bill would remove a school district's role in charter approval and oversight, including the NYC Department of Education. No longer could the Chancellor approve or renew charters. This bill also includes new restrictions on co-locating charter schools in NYC district-owned space; a ban on contracting with for-profit management providers; and other negative provisions.

In sum, enactment of this bill would:

- Concentrate chartering power with the State Board of Regents, e.g., all oversight and renewal decisions with the Regents, including for existing SUNY-approved schools (NOTE: SUNY's Board of Trustees are appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation);
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- Neuter SUNY's ability to override Regents' denial of new charters (up to 65 of the 200) based on the RFP requirements and a statutory override limit not to exceed half of the proposed charters under consideration (which could be few, if any);
- Remove New York City DOE as a charter authorizer;
- Place new requirements for charters to occupy or share district-owned space;
- Ban for-profit management companies from contracting with charter schools; and
- Impose higher-cost State Ed. building code compliance, with no facilities aid.

This bill is scheduled to be voted on by both the Assembly and Senate this Tuesday, January 19th. It must be defeated. Instead, Governor Paterson's bill, which is designed to win the Race to the Top by maximizing point scoring opportunities, should be brought to the floor of each house of the legislature for a vote -- and approval.

The major provisions of the Senate/Assembly bill are described in more detail, below.

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The process runs directly afoul of Race to the Top requirements and will be viewed as severely inhibiting charter school growth, a sure point-loser in a competition that was meant to spur states to lift restrictions on charter schools, not impose them.

In particular, the RFP would

- allow only a small, arbitrary number of charters to be potentially given out in a given year; and then, if desired, award none. Growth could fall to 1 or 2 charters a year throughout the state or none.
- limit charters to regions that lack educational alternatives and “access” to charter schools and inversely keep charters out of regions deemed to have enough – without taking into account parent demand, parent need, parent voice. This is educational *redlining*.¹
- deny applications for schools that intend to share space with a public school unless the parents of the public school vote to do so yet at the same not providing facility funding for charters.
- require mandatory enrollment and retention targets for various classes of students, and in so doing hold charters to a standard that not required of any traditional public school.
- Give failing districts effectively a veto on new charters with no appeal from that veto.

As a result of turning from a chartering process focused on parent demand and student achievement to one focused on politics, parent demand will be ignored and districts will be

¹ The redlining provisions are at direct odds with a new federal \$25 million grant program that is the centerpiece of the Obama administration's charter reform agenda to promote growth for successful education networks that want to replicate. However, the RFP process is designed to stifle growth particularly among networks of successful schools that need to plan growth in advance and that cannot be subject to the caprice of an RFP process.

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- SUNY jointly with the Regents would design the new RFP, which is tightly and minutely circumscribed by the statutory provisions of the bill, as described above.
- SUNY can supposedly override up to 65 of the 200 more charter schools authorized solely under the new RFP process; yet it is restricted to not more than half of any new charters approved. For example, if there is a total of five charter schools proposed, only two could be overridden by SUNY.

Inhibiting Public Charter Schools from Using Public School Space

This bill would place new restrictions on the use by charter schools of district-owned buildings, especially involving sharing of district space. Shared space was decided under the

governance reform statues enacted early last fall. More importantly, this is another restriction on charter school growth that will cost NYS more points. Again, NYS would actually fair better if the legislature did nothing.

Limiting Who Can Help Run a Charter School

This bill would ban outright any contracting by charter schools with for-profit companies for operational or management services, no matter how good their track record in raising student achievement. This too would inhibit charter school growth and lose points.

Mandating Higher-cost State Education Dept. Building Code Compliance

This bill would impose higher-cost building and zoning codes on charter schools which are applicable to district schools, even though charter schools do not (and will not, under this bill) receive any facilities aid already provided to school districts. The state Education Department could at its discretion grant a “waiver” to allow for present-law provisions applying local building and zoning codes to a charter school.

Applying more expensive facility requirements to charters, without any new funding, serves no education purpose while, in fact, ensuring less funding is available for student classroom and personnel needs.

* * *

Conclusion

This bill is a giant step backward in education reform and completely at variance with the Obama administration’s Race to the Top program and the state Regents reform agenda.

It is no exaggeration to say that this proposed bill would effectively end any meaningful new charter school opportunities for families in New York State, regardless of any stated charter cap increase. As such, this bill would severely weaken New York’s ability to secure up to \$700 million in federal Race to the Top education funding by forgoing points.

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2010 9:25 PM
To: Merriman
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

We need to mobilize. We let this play out inside and got snuckered. Everytime we keep our powder dry we shoot ourselves. Round 2 will have less pull that current 700 mil. Why will they sign on then?

----- Original Message -----

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Mon Jan 18 21:21:01 2010
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Odds against it. But I don't see senate having votes to pass assb bill. Stalemate. Hear assb will vote down gov's bill and pass silver bill tomorrow. A way to "prove" the votes aren't there for gov's plan. Of course they would be if he said to vote for it, but that's inside baseball.

Still at it, but at the moment I think we're looking at no grant and Rd 2 appl James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

----- Original Message -----

From: Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>
To: James Merriman; [williams](#)
Sent: Mon Jan 18 21:12:15 2010
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Any chance a decent bill emerges?

----- Original Message -----

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.; [williams](#)
Sent: Mon Jan 18 20:56:31 2010
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

They are still trying to figure out but clear at least for now that there are not 32 for bad bill.

James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

----- Original Message -----

From: Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>
To: [williams](#) James Merriman
Sent: Mon Jan 18 20:52:48 2010
Subject: Tomorrow

Who does what?

From: Joe Williams
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2010 9:35 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Cc: Merriman
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

yes.

the one that craig johnson introduced tonight has as co-sponsors: klein, diaz, and espada. malcom claims he will support, aubertine told me he leaning toward supporting (but wanted to talk to craig first before he committed) and we are leaning hard on squadron.

if republicans hold, this one could move.

On Mon, Jan 18, 2010 at 9:12 PM, Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov> wrote:
Any chance a decent bill emerges?

----- Original Message -----

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.; williams
Sent: Mon Jan 18 20:56:31 2010
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

They are still trying to figure out but clear at least for now that there are not 32 for bad bill.
James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

----- Original Message -----

From: Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>
To: williams; James Merriman
Sent: Mon Jan 18 20:52:48 2010
Subject: Tomorrow

Who does what?

--
Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: Joe Williams
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2010 10:36 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: as of right now

we believe we have 34 votes for the "good" senate bill, enough to pass. hoping sampson lets it come up for a vote.

--

Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 12:23 AM
Klein Joel I.
albany

Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]

sampson supposedly threatening to not let johnson's bill out for a vote. assembly may pass their version, senate will pass nothing, and NY will look silly once again.

meanwhile, obama will announce that the Race will become an annual event, with even more money and an annually rising bar.

--

Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: James Merriman
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Klein Joel I.; Emary Aronson; Phoebe Boyer; Duffy Michael; Joseph H. Reich;
jcanada@litt
Subject: Rttt

It looks like neither good nor bad bill will pass. More later.
James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 10:30 AM
To: James Merriman
Subject: RE: Skelos

You hear anything about shelly telling conf they need uft more than they need charters?

-----Original Message-----

From: James Merriman
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 9:13 AM
To: Dennis Walcott; Klein Joel I.; Lasher Micah
Subject: Skelos

Would like public shoutout from mayor today for their conference for holding out and voting no on the sampson bill. Which will come to the floor this morning, James Merriman NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

From: James Merriman
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 12:08 PM
To: Phoebe Boyer; Emary Aronson; Joseph H. Reich; litt
Duffy Michael; Klein Joel I. Geoffrey Canada;
Subject: Still waiting

For the senate to vote--they will hold an ed committee mtg first. Much maneuvering but we still have a block though thinning and fragile. Down to diaz and johnson on the dem side to say no. Leader sampson has declared the vote a leadership issue and twisted arms strongly.

James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

From: Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 4:46 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: New York Belches in RTTT Competition

Friends:

When I was a freshman in college, one of my buddies woke up one morning after a rowdy night on the town and decided, while doing a “walk of shame” back to our dorm, that he was going to join a 10-k run that was starting in the middle of our campus. He was hungover (probably still drunk from the night before, but so was I so details are fuzzy), out of shape, and he looked terribly out of place at the starting line. While everyone else was suited up for a marathon, my pal was wearing cut-off jeans and a ripped shirt. On his feet, rather than running shoes, he was still wearing the docksiders he had worn the night before – and no socks. (It was the ‘80’s, give me a break!)

He ran for about a half mile and then vomited on the sidewalk.

It simply wasn’t meant to be.

I thought of my friend a lot in the last couple of days, as I watched the New York State Legislature do the governing equivalent of puking up a bunch of Jagermeister on the sidewalks of Albany in the way that it handled itself in dealing with the federal “Race To The Top” contest.

Not that there’s anything wrong with Jagermeister, but clearly my state legislature – like my old college buddy – proved once again that New York was not quite up to the task of competing in race where everyone else at the starting line was there to win.

I don’t mean to sound too grouchy, and truth be told, none of what has happened in the Empire State comes as a surprise. DFER was quoted publicly on several occasions doubting whether New York politicians had the guts to stand up to our powerful teachers unions and use the “Race To The Top” competition to once and for all declare that enough was enough in our state. There were times that I had hopes that President Obama’s calls for change would be heard in New York, but in the end our elected leaders in Albany served our kids the way they always do. We’re obviously working to change that.

So let’s focus on the positive:

-- NY Governor David Paterson hung in there and led the charge to make New York’s application competitive. We are extremely grateful. But now we need him to clean up the funding disparities between public charter schools and district schools that his

proposed budget – introduced today – will exacerbate.

-- Senators Craig Johnson and Ruben Diaz Sr. fought hard to make sure that our state teachers union didn't use our legislature to send the real message that it wanted to send to President Obama. Without their guts, public education in New York State would have taken a huge step backwards. Every person on this email list owes them a debt of gratitude for standing strong.

-- New York's Education Commissioner David Steiner and the Board of Regents, despite the lunacy of the New York legislature, managed to do what it could to put together an interesting Race To The Top application. Our hat is off to them, A for effort, etc.

-- States all across the country stepped up and delivered strong reform packages that are now leaving New York in the dust unless we can get our act together in the next few months by closing the inequitable funding gap for charter schools in New York, lifting the cap on charters, and taking BOLD measures to make sure that New York is doing EVERYTHING in our power to make sure that our kids are being taught by the best possible teachers.

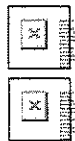
-- President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan deserve tremendous praise for finding the right lever from which to unleash progressive change from the White House. It has been nothing short of incredible watching things play out in the states in which we work. Don't worry about New York, we'll catch up someday. For now, we're encouraged by President Obama's announcement today that he intends to continue the RTTT contest with even more funding at in the future.

New York notwithstanding, we are witnessing a period of exciting reform. This is our best chance in years to truly transition public education so that it can rebound and thrive in the future.

Yours in the fight,

Joe

This email was sent to kjfern@schools.nys.gov



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From: Joe Williams
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 11:32 AM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Re: Updates from EEP - Board Action Required

will call. am in a "fight club" meeting in DC with Ellen and the rest of reform wing.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2010 at 11:31 AM, Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov> wrote:

We should talk

From: Joe Williams
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 11:29 AM
To: Ellen Winn
Cc: [childress](#); [fuller](#); [Wilkins](#); [Yzaguirre](#)
[romer](#); Klein Joel I.; Drucker Romy; Marcus S. Hall; [cushman](#); [bonn@](#)
[ferguson](#)
Subject: Re: Updates from EEP - Board Action Required

i belatedly approve. was busy getitng my ass kicked for the last few weeks.

On Tue, Jan 12, 2010 at 10:51 AM, Ellen Winn wrote:

Hello EEP Board:

Happy New Year!

There are a number of positive developments to report. We recently received a \$2M, three-year commitment from an anonymous source (we have the first installment in-hand) for general operating support. With this commitment we are in a strong position to expand our operations, attract additional funds (particularly multi-year grants), and generally move forward with our aggressive agenda.

Second, as you know we've been working to secure the appropriate Co-Chairpersons for the Board, who will serve as the organization's public faces. I am pleased to announce that Joel will be joined by [Michael Lomax](#) (President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund) and [Janet Murguía](#) (President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza). Michael and Janet bring great talent and experience from the civil rights and education sectors and beyond. I am deeply grateful that they have agreed to share their time, energy, and passion with EEP.

In order to make these appointments official we need the unanimous consent of the Board, as detailed in the attached Resolution. If you are in agreement, simply email me back with your "yes." (The Resolution also formally appoints Joel to the Board and names him as one of the Co-Chairpersons.)

I'd like to take this moment to thank our out-going President, Joe Williams, for his tremendous role in helping launch and grow EEP. (Joe will remain on the Board and will remain our Treasurer.) Joe's leadership, support, and smarts have been invaluable to the organization and to me personally. Thank you, Joe!

Less happily for us, as all of you know, Raul Yzaguirre has been nominated by President Obama to serve as the next Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. Sadly, Raul is required to resign from the EEP Board once he is officially appointed to this post. Raul's service to the EEP Board has been remarkable and we will greatly miss the perspective he brought to our fledgling organization. Thank you, Raul!

Finally, we are hoping to gather the Board for a meeting in the next month or so to discuss EEP's strategic direction. We will be in touch shortly to get this on the calendar.

As ever, many thanks for your ongoing assistance and support.

Best, Ellen

Ellen Winn | Director | Education Equality Project
895 Broadway, 5th floor, NY, NY 10003
Office: 212.253.2021 | Cell: 646.753.1258 | Fax: 212.260.9058

Email:
Website: www.edequality.org

Become a Facebook fan: <http://www.facebook.com/EdEquality>
Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/EdEquality

--

Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

--

Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 1:37 PM
To: Merriman
Subject: Re: call on friday

830-930

From: James Merriman
To: Emary Aronson ; Geoffrey Canada ; Jeffrey Litt ; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich ; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer
Sent: Wed Jan 20 13:28:27 2010
Subject: call on friday

Please let me know your availability to do a brief (15-30) minute debrief—first steps forward on Friday morning. I can do as early as anyone would like and propose 8:00 but can do earlier.

James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763
www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: Duffy Michael
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 2:16 PM
To: James Merriman; Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich; Phoebe Boyer
Subject: RE: call on friday

JK is available between 8:30 and 9:30; I'll make myself available whenever you set the call.

From: James Merriman
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 1:28 PM
To: Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer
Subject: call on friday

Please let me know your availability to do a brief (15-30) minute debrief—first steps forward on Friday morning. I can do as early as anyone would like and propose 8:00 but can do earlier.

.....
James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

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www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: James Merriman
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 2:18 PM
To: Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer
Cc: Christina Brown
Subject: Board Call: Debrief on Race to the Top and Next Steps

Friday, January 22, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

Call in:

Pass Code #:

For those wanting a little payback from yesterday and a reminder of what this is about, watch Deborah Kenny and John Legend on Morning Joe. Joe does not like the teachers union. Randi is appearing on the 29th and we are providing background to Deborah to get to the show's producers.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3036789/vp/34953073#34953073>

.....
James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763
www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: James Merriman
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 5:35 PM
To: Klein Joel I.; Emary Aronson; Joseph H. Reich; Boyer, Phoebe
Subject: FW: Gov

Please do not go further but this could be exceptionally good news, i.e., he will amend the budget language to let the formula work.

.....
James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763
www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 12:46 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: DFER: State of The Education Union



Statement on President Obama's First Year

Unfettered by inside-the-beltway partisan politics, President Obama indisputably has affected more change in the nation's education policies in his first year in office than any President in modern history.

The boost that the Administration's Race to the Top initiative - which was accompanied by a record \$100 billion increase in general federal aid to education - has given state and local education reform efforts is the Administration's biggest domestic policy success of 2009 - all without yet expending a dime of the \$5 billion Race to the Top fund.

What's more, while not a single Republican Congressman and only 3 Republican Senators voted for the economic and education reform stimulus package last February, the policy initiatives that Obama and Secretary Duncan put forth have since been embraced through both words *and* action by state and local elected officials in both parties across the ideological and geographical spectrum.

These accomplishments reflect campaign promises kept - in recognition of the relationship between education reform, jobs, and economic growth - to make education one of three key components of a long-term U.S. economic recovery strategy (the other two being energy and health care which obviously, and to say the least, have not fared as well), an augur well for the work on education reform that is yet to come.

Some effects are immediate - for example, more than a hundred thousand slots have already opened to parents across the country who want to choose a high quality public charter school for their children. Others, such as changes in state academic standards to ensure that students are college and career ready, the development of better tests, more rigorous qualification criteria and better pay for teachers, and fundamental overhauls of chronically failing schools, will pay dividends later this year, and over the next several.

These changes reflect an ongoing and historic realignment in education politics. First, the politics of education reform, at least once one gets outside the Beltway,

increasingly have less to do with inter-party politics than with pragmatism and the imperative need to get children out of schools to which no parent would voluntarily choose to send their children.

Second, and equally important, it represents forward thinking by the President which reflects a broader base of support for real education reform *within* the Democratic party. The days when the interests of adults completely overrode those of children and parents, when elected officials not only did *some* of what they were asked to do by the education establishment but *everything* they were told, are slowly but surely coming to a close. This is the beginning of the end of monolithic control by powerful interests over education policy that has stymied sensible education reform in the U.S. for decades.

The fights are far from over. While some states that have been historically intransigent to real education reform, such as California, have enacted ground-breaking policies as part of their Race to the Top effort others, notably New York, succumbed to back room tactics and bullying by lobbyists trying to preserve and defend an educational system that is failing hundreds of thousands of children in that state alone.

Moreover, the real challenges for the Administration, the real tests of its resolve, remain. Especially in an election year, government officials will have to work hard not to succumb to political pressure to reward states that have proven to be unwilling to advance credible and ambitious reforms. A retreat to this old way of doing things in Washington would represent a squandered opportunity of epic proportions.

If the Administration continues to keep the bar high for Race to the Top, and stays on the path of real change by making major investments only in those states and school districts that have shown the willingness to break out of the old ways of doing things, it will mark a major turning point in U.S. education policy, the effects of which will reverberate for decades.

To download DFER's handy 5-page fact sheet on "[Educational Change We Can Believe In](#)", [click here](#). For more information on Democrats for Education Reform, visit www.dfer.org.

This email was sent to JKlein@schools.nyc.gov.



[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)

From: Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 1:16 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: DFER's Ed Reformer of the Month for January is....

Drumroll please....

This month, our reform-affections are fixated on the State of Texas (which, if you are following Race To The Top, you understand needs some serious change in Austin) and the race for one of the Dallas seats in the **Texas House of Representatives**. DFER is finding itself swooning over **Eric Johnson**, an education reformer/lawyer and one of the most exciting challengers in a Democratic primary right now.

Eric grew up in West Dallas and was fortunate enough to have received a Boys and Girls Club scholarship to attend Greenhill School starting in second grade, from which he graduated in 1994. He then went on to graduate from Harvard cum laude before earning a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Affairs with a focus on education policy and international affairs from Princeton University. After spending time as a lawyer at Haynes and Boone, he has now decided to represent the neighborhood he grew up in, which desperately needs his support and representation.

The incumbent in the race, who has a strong anti-reform record, is currently facing trial on public corruption charges for allegedly accepting bribes from a developer. (This hasn't stopped a lot of traditional Democratic groups from endorsing the incumbent.) The primary is March 2nd.

As the Dallas Morning News put it in their endorsement: "A lawyer and an active volunteer in the community, Johnson is attuned to the challenges facing many of the neighborhoods in the district. He has spent time getting up to speed on an array of legislative issues, but he has made K-12 education his priority. Johnson, who is 34, astutely points out that the dropout rate is a critical issue; he argues that failing to finish high school amounts to a one-way ticket to economic hardship or incarceration." While Johnson aspires to spur change and help at-risk students succeed, (Incumbent Terri) Hodge seems to personify the soft bigotry of low expectations. Her goals - both for herself and her district - are disappointingly modest."

Please show Eric Johnson some education reformer love by contributing early and often to his campaign. Again, the primary election is March 2nd, so please give today! It's easy to help support his campaign through DFER's Ed Reformer of the Month web page - <http://www.actblue.com/page/dferjan10>

Joe

This email was sent to jklein@schools.dwc.tx.gov.



[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 4:58 PM
To: Joe Williams
Subject: RE: good luck tonight

Thanks

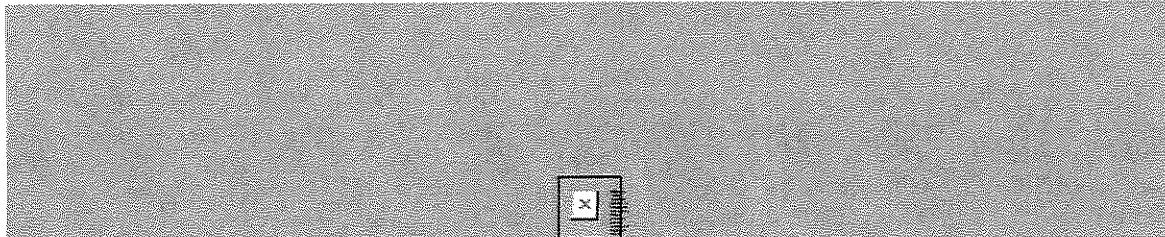
From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 4:57 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: good luck tonight

Joe Williams

go get 'em.

--
Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 7:01 AM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: DFER: Save Public Education For As Little As \$100 Per Month



Wanted: 1,000 Good DFER Men and Women To Join The DFER Army

Are you sick of watching good, solid reform-minded candidates for office get trounced by special-interests in ways that prevent public education from ever reaching its full potential?

Nearly three years ago, Democrats for Education Reform was launched to try to help pragmatic, change-oriented candidates for office win their battles against a Democratic Party establishment which often stifled innovation and the free-exchange of ideas on education reform issues.

For too long, the Democratic Party – largely because of the strong influence of special interests which were thriving under the status quo – served as the party of “no” when it came to education reform proposals. We swatted down every reform idea with the notable exception of calls for more money and lower class sizes.

Shamefully, we continued to defend public education systems that simply weren't working for the kids who most needed them. We stopped standing up for the little guy.

But all of that has been changing, thanks to people like you. We have a Democratic president and Education Secretary who are fully committed to change. We have mayors, state legislators, and school board members from coast to coast who are joining them in taking on a failing status quo. We have teachers, parents, charter school board members, and others who are helping create ground cover so that we can once and for all save public education from itself.

But we need your help to break through the wall.

Can you commit, right now, to helping pro-reform candidates for office by contributing \$100 or more per month to the campaigns of DFER's "Education Reformers of the Month?"

Eric Johnson, of Dallas, Named DFER's January Ed Reformer Of Month

As the Dallas Morning News put it in their endorsement:

"A lawyer and an active volunteer in the community, Johnson is attuned to the challenges facing many of the neighborhoods in the district. He has spent time getting up to speed on an array of legislative issues, but he has made K-12 education his priority. Johnson, who is 34, astutely points out that the dropout rate is a critical issue; he argues that failing to finish high school amounts to a one-way ticket to economic hardship or incarceration." While Johnson aspires to spur change and help at-risk students succeed, (Incumbent Terri) Hodge seems to personify the soft bigotry of low expectations. Her goals – both for herself and her district – are disappointingly modest."

Find out more, and [help Eric's campaign here](#) via DFER's Act Blue site.

Listen To

Our goal this year is to get 1,000 people to give \$100 or more each month to the candidates who are changing the world and working feverishly to close the achievement gap. By signing on and joining our list of reform warriors, you will be sending a POWERFUL message to the forces that are working to resist the kind of change in schools that President Obama has unleashed: Get out of the way, because change is gonna come.

Or if you'd prefer, contribute directly to DFER to help support candidates indirectly (and support our spectacularly lean and mean operations.)

It's easy to help. You can start winning the war by contributing today to our education reformer of the month via our secure web site and partnership with ActBlue. We'll notify you every month as our support-worthy candidates for office are announced. (You can start by supporting Eric Johnson, a fantastic candidate in a Democratic primary for an important Texas House of Representatives seat.)

If you'd like to join the DFER Army and are willing to commit to contributing at least \$100 per month to DFER's preferred candidates for office, please quickly sign on here so we can make sure we keep you up to date on the latest and greatest.

We need your help today! Together, we can win this!

Joe

DFER's Charlie Barone On Teacher Unions And Teacher Quality on NPR

DFER's federal policy guru Charlie Barone joined American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten on NPR's "On Point" yesterday. You can [listen here](#).

For more information on Democrats for Education reform, visit www.dfer.org.

Have You Signed Our Statement of Principles?

Help us send a strong message that meaningful reform of public education is a priority among Democrats like you! [Sign our petition today](#).

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This email was sent to jKlein@schools.nyc.gov.



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From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 10:31 AM
To: James Merriman
Subject: RE: Tough night

Predictable if sad. Almost all uft, lot of charter anger.

-----Original Message-----

From: James Merriman
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 9:25 AM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Tough night

But sounds like it went well. Fully aware the anger will move towards us and fully on board on need to dramatically accelerate and broaden. Interesting that beeps instructed their reps on how to vote. What happened to independence.

James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 1:21 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: FW: joel's letter
Attachments: Joel Klein Letter.pdf

You doing anything on this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Roland Fryer
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Fwd: joel's letter

Here is the letter that you sent to principals some time ago about this. We did not get a great response.

The basic idea is to understand what makes charters effective. For example, it can't just be lack of unions, because none of them have unions and some have amazing gains in achievement while others don't.

We want to dig deeper. There is tremendous variance in charter school outcomes and we want to understand why -- with the goal of implementing programs in regular public schools based on the insights gleaned from this project.

Here are some logistics. My research team will spend a day at each school talking to the principal, and a handful of teachers and students. We also want to videotape some classrooms that we choose.

For participating, each school enters a lottery to win one of three \$100,000 prizes. The prize amount is tentative. We have the money, but we need to check the legal ramifications of giving away so much money.

We may need to gift the money to NYC and have you put it in the school budget.

Best, Roland



Department of Education

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to ask for your help. This month we celebrated a tremendous milestone in the New York City Charter school community—we have authorized our 100th school. Mayor Bloomberg and I spent an afternoon celebrating with the charter community in Brooklyn and the event energized and inspired me. Charters are doing incredible work with our highest-needs students and I want to thank you for your commitment to this City and ask for your help with a research project. A team from the Education Innovation Laboratory at Harvard University, led by economist Dr. Roland Fryer, is undertaking a project whose goal is to better understand which practices and programs-- and combinations of them – drive the exceptional results of charter schools. We want to better understand what makes your schools effective, so that more students can benefit from your successes. I know that mixture of programs and practices lead to your outstanding results: many innovative teaching methods and educational designs start in charter school classrooms.

To help the Education Innovation Lab start its research, I need your help collecting some key data:

- * Your lottery numbers – entrants and results since you have been open or since 2002
- * The OSIS numbers of students who entered the lottery, or the students' first names, last names and dates of birth

If you have any questions about the research, please contact Will Dobbie at Education Innovation Laboratory (wobbie@edlabs.harvard.edu). Someone from our internal research and policy group or Harvard may contact you to follow-up about this data.

Best Regards,
Joel I. Klein

From: James Merriman
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 1:40 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Re: joel's letter

Hadn't and don't know I was aware of this. Could. Have him reach out.
James Merriman
NYC Charter School Center
111 Broadway, Suite 604
NY, NY 10006

----- Original Message -----

From: Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>
To: James Merriman
Sent: Wed Jan 27 13:20:35 2010
Subject: FW: joel's letter

You doing anything on this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Roland Fryer
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Fwd: joel's letter

Here is the letter that you sent to principals some time ago about this.
We did not get a great response.

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We may need to gift the money to NYC and have you put it in the school budget.

Best, Roland

From: James Merriman
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 9:32 AM
To: Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer
Subject: FW: Joe Klein in Time on RTT and NY

Joe Klein's take on NY, RTTT and the AFT/UFT. If one didn't know better one might think that Joel and he were brothers. Bad media is not, thank god for small favors, one of our problems

<http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1957277,00.html?xid=newsletter-daily>

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 10:11 AM
To: 'joewilliams@dfer.org';
Subject: Re: Houston is on fire

Give us plan of what's required.

From: [williams](#)
To: Ellen Winn ; Natasha Kamrani
Cc: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Thu Jan 28 10:10:09 2010
Subject: Houston is on fire
Ellen:

Any interest in getting into a street fight with Randi in Houston in Feb. 11?

My partner-in-crime, Natasha Kamrani (cc'd here), is organizing a counter-rally to one that Randi and the Houston Federation of Teachers are planning for that night's HISD school board meeting. It all surrounds the teacher quality/teacher eval work that is in play.

This is a chance to fight out a major national issue in one high-profile spot.

Game for a call?

Joe

--
Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

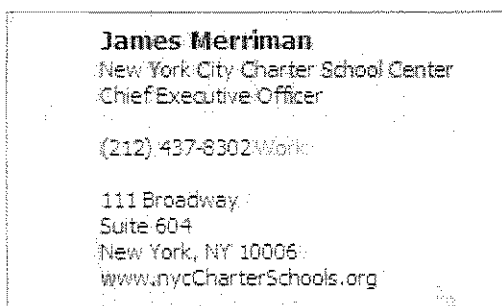
From: James Merriman
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 11:04 AM
To: Grant Christina
Subject: New Contact Information
Attachments: James Merriman.vcf

Your message was delivered; however, please update your address book with my new contact email address:

Our website address has also changed to www.nycCharterSchools.org

Thanks for noting these changes.

Outlook users: please right click on my business card to add my new information to your contacts.



James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763
www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 4:15 PM
To: merriman(
Subject: Re: need a few minutes

Call my cell tomorrow

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sat Feb 06 16:13:36 2010
Subject: need a few minutes
tomorrow or monday a.m. to talk 2 things:

Opportunity Charter School siting issue (issue is Eva)

finding a way to make it/apologize to Reverend Bernard.

From: Bradley Tusk
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Re: Email

Yes. Let me figure out another format.

----- Original Message -----
From: Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>
To: Bradley Tusk
Cc: White John <JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov>
Sent: Sun Feb 07 08:33:25 2010
Subject: Email

Brad, couldn't open the attachment. Possible to send in different format or fax to
? Thanks, Joel

From: tusk
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 12:13 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Re: Got it

Great. See you tomorrow.

-----Original Message-----

From: Klein Joel I.
To: Bradley Tusk
Cc: White John
Subject: Got it
Sent: Feb 7, 2010 12:09 PM

Thanks. Looks strong.

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 2:17 PM
To: merriman
Subject: 2 pager

Can you resend? Inadvertently deleted.

From: James Merriman
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: FW:
Attachments: Primer on Charter School Funding Freeze.doc

From: James Merriman
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 10:18 AM
To: Joel Klein
Subject:

Here is the primer (sorry it is a 2 pager--topic not simple).

On the funding study, there is an error discovered this week after your people reviewed it again (it resulted from changed circumstances in how many schools located in public space since Gyurko did the original study). Our fault and we should have seen it ourselves. The error was not attributing costs of security, utilities and maintenance as an in kind.

In any case, bottom line, depending on whether you do a sector wide calculation or just a schools in public space calculation (obviously I would argue for the former), it reduces the gap to perhaps 4-5 percent or as little as 1% if looking only at a school in public space. Still it is less not more and that gap was pre-freeze. With the freeze that gap could be quite large--north of 10 certainly and perhaps much more though we just can't know yet

I do not think that it undermines in anyway the analysis in the attached or how compelling it is for the Mayor to make this a priority.

J

PRIMER ON CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING FREEZE

Required Action and Timeframe

Request that Governor Paterson remove language in his proposed executive budget that would freeze charter funding in 2010-11 (see NYC Option below). The Governor has until Tuesday, February 9 to amend his own proposed budget.

Background

Governor Paterson's proposed budget calls for per-pupil charter school funding to be frozen at the 2008-09 level (in NYC, \$12,443 a child). Last year's freeze resulted in a loss of approximately \$1000 per child in funding. This year's cut will be north of that though the amount is not known.¹ Restoring the funding would require the City to pay charters in 2010-11 approximately \$50 million more than if the freeze were in place.

Yesterday, Robert Megna, head of the Division of Budget and Larry Schwartz informed us that they would not remove the funding freeze provision without a direct request from the Governor. It was clear their advice to the Governor would be not to remove it though they suggested they might seek language to lessen the impact of the freeze. We are asking influentials to flood the Governor with calls this weekend.

It is important to note that removing the freeze would not directly affect the State's budget as the per-pupil payments do not come from state aid appropriations but from district transfers, *i.e.*, removing the freeze will not require finding other revenue to balance the budget.

Our present goal is to get the language removed from the proposed budget. We fully understand that we will have to fight to keep it out. But for obvious budget dynamic reasons, inclusion of this language in the proposed executive budget would make that fight almost impossible and its outcome a forgone conclusion.

Reasons The Freeze is Unfair

It is critical to note that charter schools are not in any way asking to be exempt from tough times or to be held harmless from cuts. Our argument is, therefore, different from districts and other entities that simply want more money in the budget. Our argument is that, as structured, the cuts are unfair. All we ask is that the funding formula be kept in place. *That formula ensures that charters will participate in any reductions in spending, though on a different time frame.*

The Double Cut: First, the freeze will result in a *double cut* for charter schools. The first cut is during the budget year in which the expected jump in charter funding from 2008-09 will be foregone. The second cut will be in 2011-12 and the next year, in which

¹ NYSED will release preliminary calculations within a week or two for the projected per pupil in each district. The reason that charter schools are due to see an increase is because the lag in the funding formula means that they are catching up to increases the district received due to CFE, increases charters did not fully participate in.

the district's diminished spending will "flow" through the formula and drive down charter funding since charter funding is tied to the level of district spending. Even Randi Weingarten has acknowledged this phenomenon.

The Cut is Disproportionate: Second, the cut is disproportionate. This year, NYC DOE will spend about a billion more than last year (exclusive of increases in state transportation aid and federal title funding, which charter schools either get in kind or separately from the per pupil). Meanwhile charter funding will be frozen.

Charters Get Less Already: Third, charter funding is less than district funding year after year. While observers disagree about the size of the disparity (which depends on the methodology used), no one seriously disputes that, as a sector, charter schools get less.²

Other Arguments in Favor of Advocating to Remove Freeze Language

While the unfairness of the cut is reason enough, there are two strong political/policy arguments against a funding freeze:

Helping Unionized Schools: The freeze will hurt the five unionized conversion charter schools far more than non-unionized schools because of their fixed cost labor structure (pensions, health care and salaries tied to the CBA). Indeed while the schools will be able to operate in 2010-11 (though with massive 10-15% reductions in spending/programs), they will go out of business in 2011-12 if funding is not fully restored. The Mayor can be a champion of unionized charter schools.

Positioning NYS for a RTTT Win in Round 2: Second, delinking charter funding from district expenditures and increasing the inequity between them will cost NYS points on any second round RTTT application it files. Funding equity between charters and districts is a criterion on the rubric. Eliminating the freeze at a cost to the City of perhaps \$50 million positions it to receive at least four or five times that amount in RTTT dollars. Removing the freeze now is prudent fiscal management

The NYC Option

The main political support for the funding freeze comes from upstate districts in which charter per pupils represent a much larger portion of the budget. As such, the Mayor could consider asking the Governor to insert language that would give districts the option to implement the freeze or pay out pursuant to the formula at the district's discretion. Alternatively, language could be added that would simply require NYC to pay out per the formula and leave the freeze in place for other districts. While we recognize that this is a statewide movement, NYC did not create the political problems upstate and our schools should not suffer the consequences. This option is a last resort but must be considered.

² Measured sector wide and taking into account that one-third of schools do not get public school space, that disparity is well about 25%.

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 2:21 PM
To: merriman
Subject: Re:

Thanks. You want to discuss other stuff?

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sun Feb 07 14:18:30 2010
Subject: FW:

From: James Merriman
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 10:18 AM
To: Joel Klein
Subject:

Here is the primer (sorry it is a 2 pager--topic not simple).

On the funding study, there is an error discovered this week after your people reviewed it again (it resulted from changed circumstances in how many schools located in public space since Gyurko did the original study). Our fault and we should have seen it ourselves. The error was not attributing costs of security, utilities and maintenance as an in kind.

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I do not think that it undermines in anyway the analysis in the attached or how compelling it is for the Mayor to make this a priority.

J

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Monday, Februarv 08. 2010 9:55 AM
To: merrimanj
Subject: Re: AR Bernard

Spoke to him. He's looking forward but wasn't happy.

From: James Merriman
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Sun Feb 07 14:18:30 2010
Subject: FW:

From: James Merriman
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 10:18 AM
To: Joel Klein
Subject:

Here is the primer (sorry it is a 2 pager--topic not simple).

On the funding study, there is an error discovered this week after your people reviewed it again (it resulted from changed circumstances in how many schools located in public space since Gyurko did the original study). Our fault and we should have seen it ourselves. The error was not attributing costs of security, utilities and maintenance as an in kind.

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J

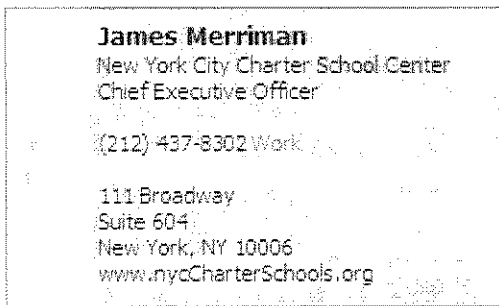
From: James Merriman
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:04 PM
To: White John
Subject: New Contact Information
Attachments: James Merriman.vcf

Your message was delivered; however, please update your address book with my new contact email address:

Our website address has also changed to www.nycCharterSchools.org

Thanks for noting these changes.

Outlook users: please right click on my business card to add my new information to your contacts.



James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763
www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: Joe Williams
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:34 PM
To: McGinity, Gregory; Eva Moskowitz; Klein Joef I.
Subject: AFT spreading the wealth

Can someone forward this to Lou Gerstner the next time this debate rages out? See the \$10,000 contrib to NAACP, surely they bought a table. An important point of leverage.

The Education Intelligence Agency
COMMUNIQUÉ – February 8, 2010
On the Web at <http://www.eiaonline.com>

- 1) EIA Exclusive: AFT Gave Almost \$5.3 Million to Advocacy Groups
- 2) Last Week's Intercepts
- 3) Scheduling Note
- 4) Quote of the Week

1) EIA Exclusive: AFT Gave Almost \$5.3 Million to Advocacy Groups. An Education Intelligence Agency analysis of AFT's financial disclosure report for the 2008-09 fiscal year reveals the national union contributed almost \$5.3 million to advocacy groups and charities. Though AFT contributed to many of the same groups as NEA, the bulk of its spending reflects its differences with the larger union more than its similarities.

AFT's expenditures were far more oriented to the larger labor movement. One might think that its affiliation with the AFL-CIO would preclude such a concentration, but many recipients of AFT's donations have little connection to education. AFT's charitable contributions are more diverse than NEA's, with recipients such as Freedom House, the United Way, and the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund.

Some of the larger amounts went into the state of Colorado, to support the organizing of Colorado WINS, a coalition of labor organizations formed to take advantage of Gov. Bill Ritter's 2007 executive order to allow union representation of state workers.

There is also a \$100,000 contribution made on July 9, 2008 whose recipient is only categorized as "Missing," with what appears to be a zip code of 27610. That covers Raleigh, North Carolina.

Here is an alphabetic list of the recipients of AFT's contributions, with relevant web links. All of these were paid for with members' dues money (the union's federal PAC is a separate entity funded through voluntary means):

- ACORN (national) - \$25,000
- ACORN (Maryland) - \$21,894
- Alliance for Retired Americans - \$28,000
- American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center - \$30,000
- American Ireland Fund - \$10,000
- American Rights at Work - \$1,510,000
- A. Philip Randolph Institute - \$7,000
- A. Philip Randolph Institute (Florida) - \$5,000

Apollo Alliance - \$15,000
Center for American Progress - \$10,000
Children's Defense Fund - \$5,000
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington - \$10,000
Citizens for Tax Justice - \$15,000
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists - \$12,035
Coalition of Labor Union Women - \$5,000
Colorado WINS - \$442,725
Committee for Education Funding - \$8,570
Common Core - \$25,000
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. - \$45,000
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute - \$55,000
Demos - \$10,000
Economic Policy Institute - \$407,208
Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate - \$500,000
Freedom House - \$45,250
Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network - \$10,000
Good Jobs First - \$20,000
Harmony Education Center - \$5,000
Harvard Labor and Worklife Program - \$5,000
Health Care for America Now! - \$125,000
Hispanic College Fund - \$5,000
Jewish Labor Committee - \$72,500
Jobs with Justice - \$10,000
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement - \$22,148
Labor Project for Working Families - \$5,000
Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State - \$5,000
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights - \$25,000
Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO (Countdown to DC Justice) - \$10,125
NAACP (New York) - \$10,000
National Alliance of Black School Educators - \$5,000
National Association for Bilingual Education - \$5,000
National Black Caucus of State Legislators - \$36,000
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation - \$12,500
National Coalition on Health Care - \$10,000
National Conference of State Legislatures - \$36,938
National Consumers League - \$5,000
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education - \$64,899
National Council of La Raza - \$10,000
National Council of Negro Women - \$5,000
National Endowment for Democracy - \$12,500
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators - \$25,000
National Public Pension Coalition - \$90,000
No on Prop 105 (Arizona) - \$5,000
Protect Colorado's Future - \$250,000
Rainbow PUSH Coalition - \$25,000
Rebuild America's Schools - \$30,000
Robert F. Kennedy Memorial - \$5,000
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference - \$5,000
SEIU (for Colorado WINS) - \$377,093
Special Olympics - \$50,000

United Negro College Fund - \$5,000
United Way of the National Capital Area - \$10,000
U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute - \$10,000
Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund - \$10,000
Working America - \$595,000

2) Last Week's Intercepts. EIA's blog, Intercepts, covered these topics from February 1-8:

- * Union Thinks Union Is Anti-Union. Why don't they just tax the rich?
- * I'm Spartacus! Apocalypse next?
- * NEA Wins Springfield, Missouri Representation Election. In Nevada, you need a majority of the bargaining unit. In Missouri, you only need a majority of those who care enough to vote.
- * James Vaughn of Orting, We Salute You! Truth in advertising.
- * School Choice as Defined by LA Unified. "Unverified parents"?

3) Scheduling Note. The next EIA Communiqué will appear on Tuesday, February 16.

4) Quote of the Week. "Unions are set up to minimize frictions and maximize benefits for the bottom 55%. That's how they work everywhere--in schools, and out. That's how they have to work. No amount of cajoling, no number of white papers, is going to change that." - Megan McArdle, columnist for The Atlantic. (February 4 Asymmetrical Information)

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The Education Intelligence Agency conducts public education research, analysis and investigations. Director: Mike Antonucci. PO Box 580007, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Ph: 916-422-4373. Fax: 916-392-1482. E-Mail: mike@eiaonline.com

--
Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 2:30 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: RE: going soft

Heard we'd have a solution

From: James Merriman
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: going soft

In your old age. Eva is going to have them out on snow patrol!

Speaking of . . . anything on Opportunity. The natives are restless and war council's brewing. Charter v. charter. Ugh.

James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

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www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 3:17 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: RE: going soft

Got it

From: James Merriman
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 3:15 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: RE: going soft

Good. But someone got to let LG know by Friday

James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER
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T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763
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It's about great public schools

From: Klein Joel I. [<mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 3:14 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: RE: going soft

Keep confi but I think this will work out.

From: James Merriman
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: going soft

In your old age. Eva is going to have them out on snow patrol!

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www.nycCharterSchools.org

It's about great public schools

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 8:05 AM
To: 'joewilliams@dfcr.org'
Subject: Re: great job

Thanks

From: [williams](#)
To: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Wed Feb 10 07:48:06 2010
Subject: great job
on morning joe.

--

Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 6:34 PM
To: Natasha Kamrani
Cc: Klein Joel I.
Subject: Re: any news on op ed? we could use some help.

I don't have any Hispanic voice that I can deploy right now.

On Wed, Feb 10, 2010 at 6:31 PM, Natasha Kamrani

wrote:

Thanks,

N

--
Joe Williams
Executive Director
Democrats for Education Reform
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4
New York, NY 10036
www.dfer.org

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 10:43 PM
To: winn Cantor David; williams
Subject: Re: Op-Ed for Houston

Ok

From: Ellen Winn
To: Klein Joel I.; Cantor David; [williams](#)
Sent: Wed Feb 10 21:18:20 2010
Subject: Op-Ed for Houston

Joel: Let me know if you're ok w/ this. Pasted below and attached.
Thanks, Ellen

Op-Ed for Houston Chronicle

Both research and experience tell us that teachers matter. In fact, they matter more than *any* other factor that we can control in a student's education – more than dollars spent per student, class size, or the type and quality of text books. No reform is more critical to closing the nation's shameful achievement gap than boosting the quality of teachers in high-poverty schools. "The single most important factor in determining [student] achievement is not the color of their skin or where they come from," says President Obama. "It's not who their parents are or how much money they have—it's who their teacher is." Without "the right people standing in front of the classroom," the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution concludes, "school reform is a futile exercise."

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is taking a critical step to ensure that *all* its students are taught by top-notch teachers. Superintendent Terry Grier – who has long been a true warrior in the national fight to close the achievement gap – is making an important move: he is recommending that the teacher evaluation process include an examination of student achievement data. The data will look at how much learning a student gains over one year. This type of data is called "value-added," meaning that it only analyzes the change across one year relative to where a student begins; a leveling of the playing field that allows us to isolate teacher impact. Value-added data will be *one* element in a set of criteria that are used to gauge a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

To be sure, value added analysis is still a work in progress and methodological challenges remain. Yet for all its imperfections, value added analysis is a vast improvement on the existing system, which fails to address the one question that really matters: Compared to other educators with similar students and facing similar challenges, how well are a given teacher's students actually acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life? While experts debate the finer points of the value-added model, it is now clear that, at minimum, it is a fair way to identify those teachers who are truly failing our students. Value-added data should never be the *only* metric by which we assess teachers, but honestly, how can it not be in the mix?

In Houston, parents should commend their insistent and persistent HISD Superintendent Terry Grier for his effort to close the racial and ethnic achievement gap by ensuring that every child is taught by an effective teacher. Grier is a signatory of the Education Equality Project (www.edequality.org), a bipartisan advocacy organization of elected officials, civil rights activists, educators, and other leaders who believe eliminating this gap is the most pressing civil rights issue of our generation. And Houston is among a handful of cities leading the nation in closing the achievement gap.

Joel Klein, Chancellor NYC Public Schools and Co-Chair, Education Equality Project

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 2:57 PM
To: Ellen Winn
Cc: Joe Williams; Cantor David;
Subject: RE: Update on Houston

ok

From: Ellen Winn
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 2:54 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Cc: Joe Williams; Cantor David;
Subject: Update on Houston
Importance: High

Joel: Joe is working hard to get your Houston op-ed placed.

In the meantime we are going to release the statement below from the organization/me. The idea to do it this way is to not have to run it by Janet and Michael.

Please let me know if you have any problem with this course of action. (It will be on our home page and also go out in our news blast, etc.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT ISSUES STATEMENT ON HOUSTON'S COURAGEOUS WORK TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT BY HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

NEW YORK, February 11, 2009 – Education Equality Project (EEP) Director, Ellen Winn, released the following statement on tonight's critical Houston Board of Education vote.

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is working hard to close the achievement gap. Its courageous efforts should be celebrated and supported.

Together, Superintendent Terry Grier (a signatory of the [Education Equality Project](#)) and the Houston Board of Education are embarking upon a comprehensive project to dramatically improve student achievement by placing a highly effective teacher in every classroom. Rigorous research efforts have demonstrated that – in the words of the Aspen Institute's Commission on No Child Left Behind – "teacher quality is the single most important school factor in student success."

Last month, the Board unanimously approved a plan to improve teacher evaluations starting next year. Going forward, teacher evaluations will give teachers an honest assessment of how much they're helping their students learn. The evaluation process will include standardized test scores as one indicator of teacher success.

Tonight, Grier is asking the Board to approve a policy that would require principals to use all the information available to them—including value-added test scores—when making decisions about renewing a teacher's contract. Value-added analysis is a statistical method used to measure teachers' and schools' impact on students' academic progress rates from

year to year. (The process only analyzes the change across one year relative to where a student begins, thereby leveling the playing field.)

The Education Equality Project emphatically encourages the Board to approve this critical proposal and commends Superintendent Grier for leading the charge to close the achievement gap. If Houston approves this policy, hundreds of thousands of students will be impacted. Think of the doors that will open to these students with better teachers and better chances at a good education – the chances they will now have for meaningful work and a real opportunity at attaining the American dream. How can we afford to keep those doors closed?

###

ABOUT EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT

The Education Equality Project is leading a civil rights movement to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap in public education by working to create an effective school for every child. (www.edequality.org)

From: Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 3:46 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: DFER: Nation's Edu-Eyes Are On Houston Tonight



More Houston Teachers Removed For Criminal Misconduct Than Less-Than-Excellent Teaching

**Yet More Than 100,000 HISD Students
Not Reading At Grade Level**

Will Tonight's School Board Action Save Public Education In Texas' Largest District?

On January 12, in a widely publicized speech, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten called for "A New Path Forward" for the nation's second largest teachers union - one that would embrace more rigorous systems of teacher evaluation that would "include student outcomes."

We don't question President Weingarten's intent or sincerity, nor do we doubt her assertion that ineffective teachers are a minority of the teaching profession.

But far too often in the past, promises by union leaders for real reform over the airwaves have been squarely contradicted by the positions advanced by union officials in political backrooms. Both national unions have steadfastly treated teaching, despite the high stakes for children and communities, as a right rather than a privilege.

The first test of AFT's commitment to the principles it outlined last month will begin tonight in Houston, and play out over the days and weeks ahead.

In a vote this evening, the Houston Board of Education is expected to approve a policy put forth by HISD President Terry Grier that would make student achievement a significant factor in teacher evaluations and create a tiered system where ineffective teachers would first be given the opportunity and resources to improve, but which

would ultimately terminate their contracts if they continue to underperform.

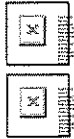
Recent statistics show that right now, termination of teacher contracts in Houston is a rare occurrence. Last year, in a district where 100,000 students were reading below grade level, only 36 teachers, a miniscule .3% (yes, point 3 percent) of a total teaching force of 12,000 were let go for performance reasons.

Over the last five years only 140 Houston teachers were dismissed for performance reasons, while 240 were fired “mostly” for criminal activity. Could criminal misconduct, sexual abuse, workplace intoxication, and job abandonment really be almost twice as prevalent as poor job performance? It seems about as unlikely as it would be tragic.

During recent school board elections, where the biggest issue of contention was the use of student performance data in teacher evaluation, the AFT flew in staff and members from outside of both Houston and Texas in opposition to reform oriented candidates. Beginning tonight, the AFT can signal that it truly has embarked on a “New Path Forward” by standing with the Superintendent and the School Board rather than, as it had done in the past, actively working against it. The whole school reform world is watching.

For more information on Democrats for Education Reform, go to www.dfer.org.

This email was sent to Klein@schools.texas.gov.



[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)

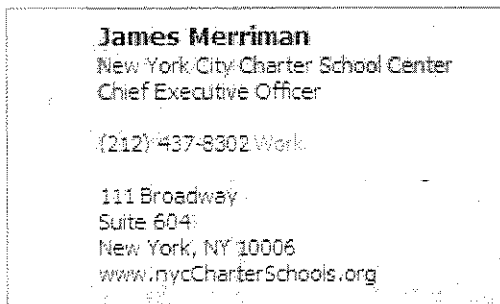
From: James Merriman
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 11:46 AM
To: White John
Subject: New Contact Information
Attachments: James Merriman.vcf

Your message was delivered; however, please update your address book with my new contact email address:

Our website address has also changed to www.nycCharterSchools.org

Thanks for noting these changes.

Outlook users: please right click on my business card to add my new information to your contacts.



James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

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It's about great public schools

From: James Merriman
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 3:30 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: FW: HELP -- this morning's call!
Attachments: Announcement.docx; Conference BP Selection Com Ltr.docx

Joel,

On behalf of Bill Sims, head of the state association in the good old buckeye state, I'm asking you if you would be a keynote speaker at this conference, which is funded by Gates and which Fordham, among others, will participate. I think it is great if you could do this and we could expand the conversation around district/charter cooperation, a subject more on my mind of late as you can imagine.

Bill is an extremely competent guy and so I feel confident that it will be a solid event and I can tell it will have the full backing of the Columbus biz community, which is not insubstantial. My guess is that it draws a large national audience hungry for a bit of a break in the fight.

The date for the keynote is 9/27. Let me know and/or you can reach out to Bill yourself.

j.

.....
James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

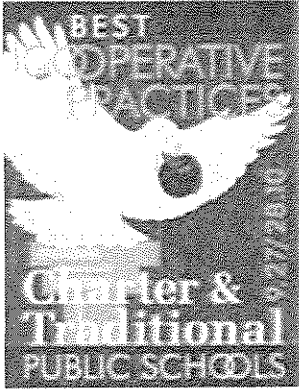
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It's about great public schools

From: Bill Sims
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 1:47 PM
To: James Merriman
Cc: Amy Black
Subject: RE: HELP -- this morning's call!

James,
Thanks again for making the ask of Joel Klein.

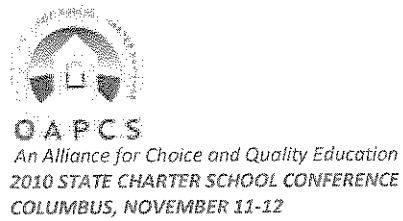
The conference is:



I've attached an working "sell sheet" with initial co-hosts but this list will of course grow.
I've also attached the invitation letter we have used to invite members of the BP selection committee.

Thanks again and will be anxious to hear.
--Bill

William J. Sims
President and CEO
Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools
33 North Third Street, Suite 600
Columbus | OH | 43215
614.744.2266
www.oapcs.org



The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools and the Ohio Grantmaker's Forum, with generous support from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announce:

National Best Cooperative Practices Between Charter and Traditional Public Schools Conference September 27 - 28, 2010 Hyatt on Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio

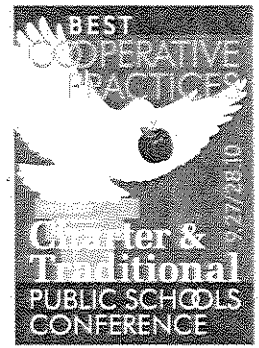
America's global challenges include preparing students to compete in the economic opportunities of the 21st Century. America can little afford zero-sum arguments that set charter schools and traditional schools against one another. The question is not which "public structure" is better equipped to deal with our educational challenges but how can both structures benefit one another to transcend differences and meet our 21st century educational challenges?

- Who is innovating and how can both traditional public and charter schools work together to transcend differences and meet our 21st century educational challenges?
- What are the best examples of charters and traditional schools working together leveraging their special attributes, capacities and know-how to advance our nation's educational effectiveness?

The conference production process will involve the selection and publication of 50 best cooperative practices from across the nation, celebrating these examples and helping us to move beyond the "heat" to the bright "light" of cooperative innovation and ideas.

For more information, please contact:
Amy Black, National Conference Manager
(614) 744-2266, ext. 226
ablack@oapcs.org

Selection Committee Members:

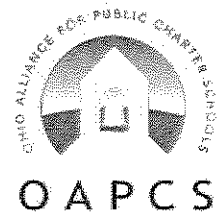
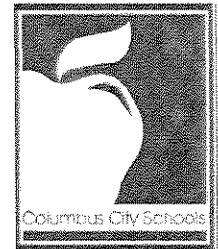


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OAPCS

Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools

March 20, 2012

NAME
TITLE
ORG
ADDRESS
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CSZ

Dear... ,

As we enter a new decade, we face the enormous challenge of preparing *all* students to be globally competitive for the economic opportunities of the 21st century. Yet even with this shared need, tension between charter schools and traditional public schools has had a tendency to generate more heat than light with regards to education reform and accountability. America can little afford such zero-sum arguments.

There is an undeniable and compelling need for more cooperative enterprise between charter schools and traditional publics. The question isn't which structure is more innovative or more equipped to deal with global challenges, but how can both structures benefit one another to transcend differences and meet our 21st century educational challenges?

The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools and the Ohio Grantmaker's Forum, with support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, have partnered to find solutions to these challenges. We are compiling the best examples of charters and traditional schools working together, leveraging their special attributes, capacities and know-how to advance our nation's educational effectiveness. We will showcase these best cooperative practices to education leaders and policymakers at a ***National Conference on Best Collaborative Practices between Charter and Traditional Schools***, in Columbus, Ohio, September 27-28, 2010

In order for us to select these transcendent, cooperative practices, we need the expertise of education and organization leaders.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to join the NBCP Selection Committee. This select group of leaders will make the determinations regarding which best cooperative practices will be exhibited at the September conference and published for further distribution. **Join us for the first NBCP Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 25th at 12 EST. Meeting details will be forthcoming.**

Someone from my office will be calling you next week to answer any questions about the initiative and your participation on the Committee. Enclosed, are documents that explain the project and the responsibilities of the Committee.

Best regards,

William J. Sims
CEO and President

From: Klein Joel I.
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 3:47 PM
To: James Merriman
Subject: RE: HELP -- this morning's call!

James, thanks for the offer but this is too early in the school year to take time away for an out-of-town speech. Best,
Joel

From: James Merriman [<mailto:JMerriman@nyccharterschools.org>]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 3:30 PM
To: Klein Joel I.
Subject: FW: HELP -- this morning's call!

Joel,

On behalf of Bill Sims, head of the state association in the good old buckeye state, I'm asking you if you would be a keynote speaker at this conference, which is funded by Gates and which Fordham, among others, will participate. I think it is great if you could do this and we could expand the conversation around district/charter cooperation, a subject more on my mind of late as you can imagine.

Bill is an extremely competent guy and so I feel confident that it will be a solid event and I can tell it will have the full backing of the Columbus biz community, which is not insubstantial. My guess is that it draws a large national audience hungry for a bit of a break in the fight.

The date for the keynote is 9/27. Let me know and/or you can reach out to Bill yourself.

j.

James D. Merriman
Chief Executive Officer

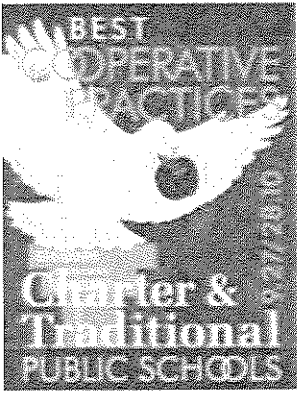
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It's about great public schools

From: Bill Sims
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 1:47 PM
To: James Merriman
Cc: Amy Black
Subject: RE: HELP -- this morning's call!

James,
Thanks again for making the ask of Joel Klein.

The conference is:



I've attached an working "sell sheet" with initial co-hosts but this list will of course grow.
I've also attached the invitation letter we have used to invite members of the BP selection committee.

Thanks again and will be anxious to hear.
--Bill

William J. Sims
President and CEO
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OAPCS
An Alliance for Choice and Quality Education
2010 STATE CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE
COLUMBUS, NOVEMBER 11-12

From: White John
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:56 AM
To: James Merriman; Klein Joel I.
Subject: RE: FYI

James, the schools will be notified of a solution to the issue tomorrow. I'll call you to discuss.

From: James Merriman
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 8:35 AM
To: Klein Joel I.; White John
Subject: FW: FYI

Opportunity has started to mobilize.
Media/rally/etc...scheduled to hit a week from Tuesday.
They haven't heard anything from DOE.