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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 2:28 PM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE: UFT CS blog

;-) had the same reaction to their quote. Btw, check out Village Voice story on colocation of lower lab and ps 190.

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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 2:21 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** FW: UFT CS blog

As I said, wait and watch . . . .

.....  
<http://nyccharterschools.org/meet/blog/406-uft-hypocrisy-2>

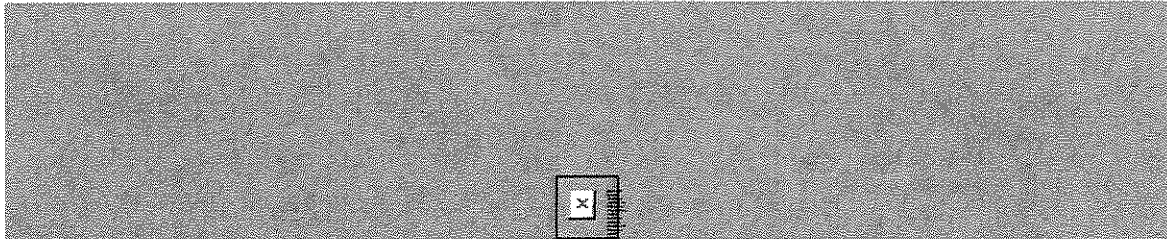
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**Michael Regnier**  
Associate Director of Policy & Advocacy

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006  
T: 212.437.8354 F: 212.227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

It's about great public schools.

**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2010 10:01 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: Procrastinators of the edu-world unite! George Miller is February's Ed Reformer of the Month



## Rep. George Miller Named 'Education Reformer of the Month'

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

Friends,

Not only did this month blow right by, the fact that we all have to cram a month's worth of work within 28 days (fewer if you count snow days) makes things even more tense than they should be on this last Friday night of February. So in the spirit of better late than never, a couple of quick notes from DFER-land:

1. We are totally fired up to announce that **Rep. George Miller (D-California)**, influential chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, and an inspiration for many of us when it comes to standing up for meaningful reform in public education, has been named DFER's "Education Reformer of the Month" for February.

Yes, I meant to send this out weeks ago... but think of all the interest you earned on the contribution you would have made back then to support Congressman Miller's work. (See #2 and #3 below for ideas on how you could spend the interest/arbitrage/windfall.)

When it comes to education warriors, Rep. George Miller is a warrior's warrior. DFER is proud to recognize Congressman Miller's impressive work as chair of the Education and Labor Committee, especially in drafting and fighting for the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) act. Rep. Miller's steadfast dedication to serious results in education is what makes him an effective leader in reforming America's education system. His tendency to side with the reform-disruptors rather than the reform-incrementalists makes him an recipient especially worthy of our "Education Reformer of the Month" award.

Because Congressman Miller has been such a lone wolf for a long time on education reform, he essentially represents all of us - no matter what state we call home. His steady leadership of the Education and Labor Committee has been critical in moving the ball up the field.

Please send some education-reform love (where you put the decimal point in your contribution should be based on your ability) to Congressman Miller via DFER's "Ed Reformer of the Month" page at: <http://www.actblue.com/partner/dfer>

Whether you can give \$20 or \$2,000, every click through the contribution page sends a strong message!

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.

2. For the small subset of folks on this email list who are in the "anal-retentive/stickler for rules" category, please skip to item #3 below. For the rest of you, please don't let yourself be fooled into thinking you may only support DFER's "Ed Reformer of the Month" in the exact month that seems to be staring you in the face. They ALL could use your help, no matter what month it is. And when you give through our page, education reformers get credit for your contribution. Take a look at our previous deserving winners and give them the equivalent of a financial group hug with DFER.

(For those of you who live in New York or happen to care about what happens in New York for any reason at all, Mr. November and Mr. December could really use your help - especially as New York's political system continues to spiral out of control.)

For a complete list of previous winners you really need to support:

<http://www.actblue.com/partner/dfer>

3. If you have already shown appropriate edu-love (\$\$\$) to the Ed Reformers of the Month please consider assisting our political action committee, Democrats for Education Reform:

[https://www.mediamezcla.com/campaign\\_engine/3.0.2/process\\_cc.php?id=www.dfer.org](https://www.mediamezcla.com/campaign_engine/3.0.2/process_cc.php?id=www.dfer.org)  
Thanks for helping keep us rolling!

4.) California is in the NYC House! Our September winner, **California Sen. Gloria Romero**, will be in New York City next week for a couple of events. If you like/work in New York and would like to meet up with Sen. Romero, drop me an email and I'll get you the details.

5.) March 11<sup>th</sup> NYC fundraiser for **New York Sen. Ken Johnson** (Mr. December). Please consider supporting a great guy who took a major stand for reform in January by resisting the New York State Legislature's attempt to torpedo the state's "Race To The Top" application by destroying the state's charter school law. (You charter crazies owe him big time, and we'll be keeping track of who shows up!)

Drop me an email if you'd like more info on how to show appropriate appreciation to the Senator.

More later. Thanks for all that you do for education reform. Have a great weekend.

Joe

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?"

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.

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.

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.

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



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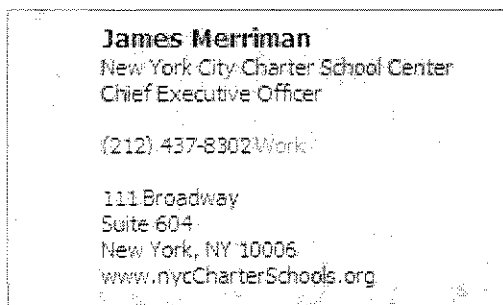
**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2010 8:09 AM  
**To:** White John  
**Subject:** New Contact Information  
**Attachments:** James Merriman.vcf

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](http://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.



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James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2010 2:16 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** INVITATION: March 11 Reception for NY Sen. Craig Johnson



**Please join**  
**Joe Williams**  
**For a reception in support of**  
**New York State Senator**  
**Craig M. Johnson**  
**Thursday, March 11th**  
**6:00 - 8:00pm**

**To RSVP please call**

**or email**

- Yes, I will attend and make the maximum contribution of \$9,500.
- Yes, I will attend and make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other amount).
- I will be unable to attend, enclosed please find my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please contribute online at <http://www.actblue.com/page/dferdec09> or make Checks Payable to:

Friends of Craig Johnson

c/o Hudson TG

220 Lafayette Street

New York, NY 10012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to Friends of Craig Johnson are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. The contribution limits are as follows:

Corporations: \$5,000 per calendar year (subject to NYS aggregate limits for corporate contributions).

Individuals & all other non-corporate entities: \$9,500 per election cycle.

Corporations, other entities, and individuals are strictly prohibited from reimbursing another person for contributing to Friends of Craig Johnson.

For more information:

(212) 655-9532 phone

(646) 417-7315 fax

This email was sent to [J.Klein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:J.Klein@schools.nyc.gov).



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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2010 11:58 AM  
**To:** Duffy Michael; Boyer, Phoebe  
**Cc:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** RE: Charter Center Board

Will provide next week—out of office after this afternoon.

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

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---

**From:** Duffy Michael [<mailto:MDuffy12@schools.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:43 AM  
**To:** Boyer, Phoebe; James Merriman  
**Cc:** Joel I. Klein  
**Subject:** Charter Center Board

Phoebe & James,

Thanks for taking the time yesterday afternoon to talk through some of the issues involved in meeting what I think are two critical needs for the Center's board:

- (1) diversity that reflects the families that are served by NYC's charter schools; specifically, board members from the African-American and Latino communities; I think this need is immediate, and the lack of this diversity hampers the board's credibility;
- (2) board members who have an understanding of advocacy and grass-roots organizing; people who can help James and the Center to connect to elected officials, particularly in the next few critical months as a cap lift is debated in Albany, and who understand what is involved in mobilizing parents;

As the result of the conversation Phoebe said that she would circulate an analysis of the board's current composition and the desired backgrounds and skills sets needed from prospective board members. I look forward to getting that.



I am still concerned that the board is not moving with sufficient urgency to meet the challenges of an increasingly hostile environment for charters.

Michael

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**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2010 6:32 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: Jim Rex

yes, but in low-key, non-visible way.

he had a war with the voucher folks a few years ago and i don't want to wade into it with them. (the issue never goes away for me, no matter how i deal/don't deal with it.)

also am waiting on green light from jim clyburn.

On Tue, Mar 2, 2010 at 6:28 PM, Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)> wrote:  
U going to help?

--

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 03, 2010 11:01 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: A Tale Of Two Johnsons And A Rotherham



Greetings from Rhode Island, where the education reform world continues to amaze.

A couple of quick updates for you today:

1. Congratulations to Eric Johnson, DFER's "Education Reformer of the Month" for January, for winning his race for Texas' House of Representatives last night. Thanks to all of you who supported his race through our site, and thanks to incumbent Terri Hodge, for graciously pleading guilty to a felony last month and became unable to serve. This was a crucial race for Texas education reform.

As the Dallas Voice reported:

*Johnson's historic campaign featured comprehensive grassroots effort never before seen by residents of District 100. His campaign called over 4,800 voters and knocked on the doors of over 6,200 voters.*

*"I'm very grateful to my dedicated volunteers who were with me every step of the way," Johnson said. "They joined me block walking on the coldest days in January and came into the office after long days at work to make phone calls."*

*Johnson also received unprecedented financial support from over 750 contributors. More than 65 percent of contributors gave \$100 or less, and over 130 contributors to the campaign had ZIP codes that fall in District 100.*

*"In such tough economic times, I've been amazed by people's generosity," Johnson said.*

2. On to another Johnson, New York Senator Craig Johnson, please see the invite below:

**Please join**

**Joe Williams**

**For a reception in support of**

**New York State Senator**

**Craig M. Johnson**

**Thursday, March 11th**

**6:00 - 8:00pm**

To RSVP please call \_\_\_\_\_ or email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend and make the maximum contribution of \$9,500.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend and make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other amount).

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be unable to attend, enclosed please find my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please contribute online at <http://www.actblue.com/page/dferdec09> or make Checks Payable to:

Friends of Craig Johnson

c/o Hudson TG

220 Lafayette Street

New York, NY 10012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information:

(212) 655-9532 phone

3. And last, but not least, our semi-regular 'Where Is Andy Rotherham Update':

**U.S. History Education and Civic Engagement**

Featuring

**E.D. Hirsch, Jr.** Retired Professor of Education and Humanities, University of Virginia

and

**Andrew J. Rotherham** Co-Founder and Partner, Bellwether Education and Author of Eduwonk.com

Wednesday, March 31, 2009 — 2:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Suffolk University Law School

120 Tremont Street

Boston, MA

A panel of education and policy experts will be in attendance to discuss the issue of U.S. History education and civic engagement.

Moderating the panel discussion will be Eugenia Kemble of the Albert Shanker Institute.

Panelists will be Linda Nathan, Lynne Munson and Sandra Stotsky.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

A book signing with Professor Hirsch will follow.

Please RSVP by March 24 to Shannon Garber at [sgarber@pioneerinstitute.org](mailto:sgarber@pioneerinstitute.org) or 617.723.2277 ext. 217.

This email was sent to [jj@schools.nrc.gov](mailto:jj@schools.nrc.gov).



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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 2:01 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: New York and RTTT - Which finger will be lifted?

 Dear Education Warrior:

I have been fielding a lot of perplexed calls and emails asking how in the world New York made the list of finalists in the federal “Race To The Top” extravaganza. In one press account I was accurately quoted as saying I was “baffled” and in another I was accurately quoted as being enthusiastic that we could use this good news to take things to the next level and achieve meaningful change in the New York Legislature.

Baffled and enthusiastic. That’s me. (It happens to me all the time: When my kids do their homework without my prodding, to cite just one example, I am both baffled and wildy enthusiastic.)

So after months of work around the country on the Race To The Top, I share New York State Chancellor Merryl Tisch’s sentiments, as conveyed by the *New York Times* this morning: Being listed as a finalist is great news for New York, but we haven’t won anything yet. And I (like Chancellor Tisch) continue to believe we have some work to do this Spring in the Legislature if we are going to bring home the bacon for New York’s public schools.

Does anyone in New York really believe we are there yet? (Insert chirping sound here.)

I still feel the same way that I did back in August when I posted about this on the National Journal blog (<http://education.nationaljournal.com/2009/08/are-the-race-to-the-top-requirement.php#1345087>):

*“If New York doesn’t lift a finger and it gets funding in the Race, Obama and Duncan will essentially be lifting a finger (you know which one) to all of the other states that are doing everything they can to show they are ready for change and reform.”*

I just can’t imagine they want to do that.

We have three months before the June 1 deadline for Round 2. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Joe

This email was sent to [joel@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:joel@schools.nyc.gov).





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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 5:25 PM  
**To:** ... williams:  
**Subject:** Re: A FEROCIOUS DEBATE

I agree.

---

**From:** Whitney Tilson  
**To:** Eva Moskowitz ; Klein Joel I.; Charlie Ledley  
Joe Williams ; John Petry ; Ravenel Boykin Curry

**Sent:** Fri Mar 05 17:16:02 2010

**Subject:** FW: A FEROCIOUS DEBATE

I am ONLY sending this to you 6 – please don't share or I'll get in trouble – but The Lottery ROCKS!!! You are especially great, Eva!

On Fri, Mar 5, 2010 at 4:02 PM, Whitney Tilson wrote:

I watched it, but got distracted near the end, so wanted to re-watch that part, but the password has expired. Can you send me a new one?



Thanks!

WT

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010 at 5:49 PM, Whitney Tilson <

wrote:

I'd like to see whatever you can send me.









---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2010 5:35 PM  
**To:** White John  
**Subject:** time to talk for 10 minutes?

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 8:32 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Reminder: Tomorrow's reception for NY Sen. Craig Johnson



**Please join  
Joe Williams  
For a reception in support of  
New York State Senator  
Craig M. Johnson  
Thursday, March 11th  
6:00 - 8:00pm**

To RSVP please call \_\_\_\_\_ or email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend and make the maximum contribution of \$9,500.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend and make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other amount).  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will be unable to attend, enclosed please find my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Please contribute online at <http://www.actblue.com/page/dferdec09> or make Checks Payable to:

Friends of Craig Johnson  
c/o Hudson TG  
220 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10012  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information:  
(212) 655-9532 phone

This email was sent to [joewilliams@dfer.org](mailto:joewilliams@dfer.org)



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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2010 9:16 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: What was underneath the sticker???

Friends:

I was struck by the comment that appeared in the *NY Times* over the weekend from Zeph Capo, a union boss with the Houston Federation of Teachers.

The story, if you didn't see it, looked at growing frustrations with President Obama among teacher union bosses nationwide.

"I ripped the Obama sticker off my truck," a pissed-off Capo told America's newspaper of record.

Hmmm. What do you suppose was underneath this Obama sticker??? Could it have been a... Hillary sticker?

The Houston Federation of Teachers, like many teacher union locals around the country, did NOT support candidate Barack Obama in the primaries. It is important to remember, despite attempts to re-write history that are in full swing in teacher union HQ's all over the country, that teachers unions spent MILLIONS trying to make sure that Barack Obama did not become president. The prolonged presidential primary where the unions were decidedly trying to keep Hillary Clinton's presidential aspirations on life support, lawsuits to close down Obama-friendly polling places, etc.

By the time candidate Obama survived these prolonged AFT-NEA attacks, he had also built the most incredible INDEPENDENT fundraising machine we have ever seen in American politics.

If you think back to candidate Obama's speech at the Democratic National Convention, the symbolism was rich: Obama chose to address the public, in a stadium that was a long hike from the Pepsi Center where the party convention had been held. There was a clear break between the party's convention, and the candidate's acceptance speech. Obama was Obama. At that moment, he didn't need the traditional party apparatus as much as it needed him.

How could someone running for office on a "change" agenda have done anything different - especially when a lot of the people running the party never wanted to see him as the nominee anyway?

The next time you hear a teacher union official whine about how hard they worked for Obama, make sure you give them an aggressive "crazy eyes" kind of look. Ask them what sticker is under the Obama sticker on their truck. (Remind them that President Obama basically gave them \$100 million to save their asses/jobs in the stimulus package last year. And that if anything, it is the union leaders who owe Obama at this point.)

Seriously - practice your crazy eyes look right now in the mirror. It's fun and doesn't cost anything.

Have a great Friday. We'll be sending out our March "Education Reformer of the Month" in a few hours. Stay tuned.

Joe

This email was sent to [jkibin@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jkibin@schools.nyc.gov).



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**From:** <> [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2010 9:46 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: Correction, BILLION not MILLION

Dear Crazy Eyes:

Per the email I just sent, where I said that President Obama gave the teachers unions \$100 million to save their asses/jobs in the stimulus package even though the union bosses spent millions trying to make sure he did not become President of the United States... I meant BILLION.

President Obama gave them \$100 BILLION. With a B.

And the bosses have the nerve now, to act like a bunch of spoiled toddlers because the president is trying to save public education?

Wowsers.

Have a great Friday.

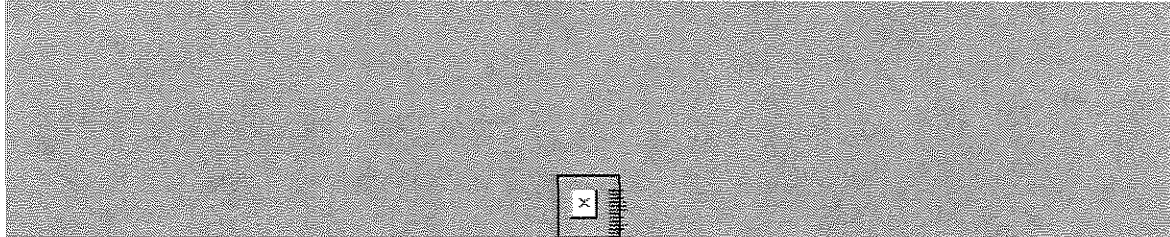
Joe



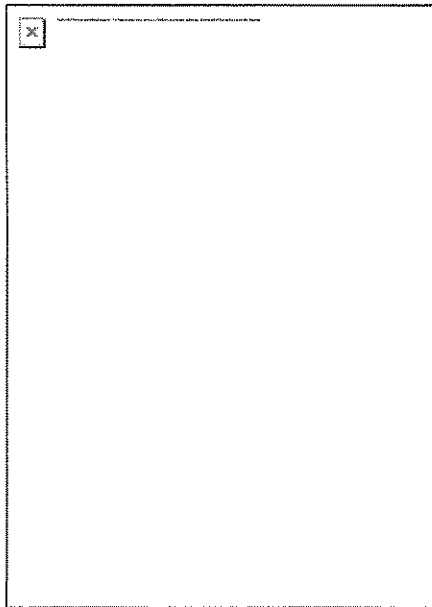
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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2010 2:47 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: Peralta Named Ed Reformer of the Month for March



## Jose Peralta Named March 'Education Reformer of the Month'



Jose Peralta, a charter school parent and member of the New York State Assembly from Queens, is running in a special election next week (March 16<sup>th</sup>) to replace Senator Hiram Monserrate, who was recently booted from the Senate following his conviction for dragging his girlfriend's body through the lobby of his apartment building.

A first-generation Dominican-American, José's

## Wanted: 1,000 Good 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

parents came to the United States in search of the American dream and a better life for their children. His parents worked hard to sustain their family on the wages of entry-level positions: his father a bank teller and his mother a seamstress at a sweatshop. They struggled to ensure that their children received a quality education that would provide them with opportunities and would instill in them the value of public service.

José is a product of his parents' sacrifice and has spent a lifetime working to ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to succeed.

A proud graduate of Queens Public schools, including PS 14, IS 61 and Flushing High School, José was the first Latino Student Body President of Queens College.

After graduating, Peralta began a career giving back to the community he loves through public service. As a community liaison in the New York State Assembly, José worked to make government more accessible to the families of Queens, solving problems and helping people in need. He then served as the Director of the Commission on the Dignity for Immigrants at the New York City Central Labor Council, representing over 1.5 million union members. Under Peralta's direction, the Commission championed the mission of empowering all immigrants in a variety of ways, including registering over 20,000 new citizens.

In 2002, at the age of 30, José Peralta was elected to the New York State Assembly. He supports efforts to lift the cap on the number of public charter schools, as well as efforts to make sure students in public schools have access to the best quality teachers. He would make an excellent addition to NY State Senate at a time when that body needs all the smart/committed folks it can get.

Please show your support by [contributing today](#).

To see a list of previous winners, [click here](#). (They could use your support too!)

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**Have You Signed DFER's Statement**

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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. But now 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?”

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.

It's easy to help. You can start winning the war by

## of Principles?

Make your voice heard. Signing on allows us to show that there is a growing force within the Democratic Party that is pushing for change in K-12 education.

Make sure you sign up today if you haven't already.

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.

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.

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



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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 4:46 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: ESEA Blueprint: Plenty of Obstacles, Political and Otherwise



## **Statement from Democrats for Education Reform on President Obama's "Blueprint for Reform"**

**Washington, D.C.,** March 15, 2010 - The Administration's rollout of its plans for ESEA reauthorization will continue this week as President Obama today officially sends his "blueprint" for NCLB overhaul to the Hill, and Secretary Duncan testifies at no less than three hearings before various Congressional Committees on Wednesday and Thursday.

President Obama devoted his Saturday radio address to his ESEA plan, following "sneak preview" Power Point presentations and briefings with key interest groups and reporters late last week. On Saturday night at 5:00 p.m., the Department electronically distributed the actual 45-page "Blueprint for Reform."

"We are equal parts cautious and optimistic. Overall we see much to like," said Charles Barone, director of federal policy for DFER.

Continued Barone, "Piecing together what's on paper with what we've heard in briefings and conversations with key Administration officials, we think it's a reasonable attempt to maintain a delicate balance between competing aims: to respond to both real and perceived problems with current law; to sustain the law's success in highlighting achievement gaps and to prod state and local reforms to close them; to redouble efforts to improve school leader and teacher effectiveness; and, to fundamentally restructure chronically failing schools.

"The Administration certainly has its work cut out for it. It has to ease discomfort with a law that has identified roughly a third of schools in the U.S. as 'in need of improvement' while at the same time acknowledging that more or less half of all students who graduate high school and enter college require remedial education in reading and math.

"It has to do more to promote local innovation and autonomy and at the same time be mindful that in the vast majority of schools that have been identified as chronically low-performing, state and local school officials have not undertaken the fundamental reforms necessary to fix the structural problems that stand between millions of children

and a high quality education.

"By far the biggest obstacles, though, are political. Despite an attempt to incorporate many of the changes sought by teachers' unions and school administrators, there was serious blowback over the weekend from both major teachers' unions.

"Are teachers' unions distorting what's in the plan? Or did they tear a page out of their old playbooks without reading the blueprint?"

"Both the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers had previously stressed that they will take a tough look at union policies to improve teacher effectiveness and remove underperforming teachers. Both have stated that they want a 'partnership' with government to improve public schools. But, based on their rabid comments over the last few days, and in fact over the course of the entire debate over Race to the Top and ESEA, it turns out that their definition of 'partnership' is terribly unproductive.

"Over the course of this year, DFER will continue to work with those policymakers, advocacy groups, and rank-and-file educators who want to put an end to this kind of nonsense and escape the stranglehold that out-of-touch leaders have over our public schools. We will be following the ESEA debate and legislative action closely, and will measure the success or failure of that effort against the principles we laid out two weeks ago, in conjunction with 17 other school reform organizations.

"In the final analysis, on issues like accountability, teacher quality, and school turnarounds, it will come down to this: can Congress and the President reach agreement on a bill that puts the long-term interests of parents and children first? Or will they succumb to political pressure by adults who have a vested interest in blocking real change? This is the ultimate standard against we will measure any ESEA legislation."

[Click here to download the "Statement of Principles on ESEA" that DFER and other reform groups support.](#)

[Click here to download ESEA Issue Brief #1, on Accountability.](#)

*The following are statements delivered over the weekend by President Obama, Dennis Van Roekel, president of the National Education Association, and Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers:*

**President Obama:**

"Reforming our schools to deliver a world-class education is a shared responsibility - the task cannot be shouldered by our nation's teachers and principals alone. We must foster school environments where teachers have the time to collaborate, the opportunities to lead, and the respect that all professionals deserve. We must recognize the importance of communities and families in supporting their children's education, because a parent is a child's first teacher."

**Dennis Van Roekel, president of the National Education Association:**



"The NEA cannot support this plan... We were expecting school turnaround efforts to be research-based and fully collaborative. Instead, we see too much top-down scapegoating of teachers and not enough collaboration."

**Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers:**

"Right now, this doesn't make sense, so we're surprised. From everything that we've seen, this blueprint places 100 percent of the responsibility on teachers and gives them zero percent of the authority... Teachers should be empowered and supported -- not scapegoated."

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



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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 8:20 AM.  
**To:** Cantor David; Keaney Maura  
**Cc:** White John  
**Subject:** Fw: UFT charter school

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**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Emary Aronson ; Geoffrey Canada ; Jeffrey Litt ; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich ; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer  
**Cc:** Christina Brown  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 17 08:06:25 2010  
**Subject:** FW: UFT charter school

SUNY is recommending a short term three year renewal of the UFT charter school, citing its record of mixed results with improvements over time.

Here's my post with link to the report.

<http://www.nyccharterschools.org/meet/blog/459-mixed-review-for-uft-charter-school>

.....  
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](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 6:29 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perkins will be announcing a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools

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

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

**From:** Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)>  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 17 17:43:41 2010  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perkins will be announcing a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools

**From:** Walcott, Dennis [<mailto:DWalcott@cityhall.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 5:23 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Fw: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perkins will be announcing a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools

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**From:** Williams, Steve  
**To:** Walcott, Dennis  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 17 17:17:13 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perkins will be announcing a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools

Steve Willlliams  
Mayor's Office of State Legislative Affairs----- Sent from my BlackBerry  
Wireless Handheld

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**From:** DiBacco, Michelle  
**To:** Lasher, Micah; Williams, Steve; 'Mulligan, Tim' <[MulliganT@omb.nyc.gov](mailto:MulliganT@omb.nyc.gov)>; Gonzalez, Christopher; Gorton, Matthew; 'Speiller Lenny' <[LSpeiller@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:LSpeiller@schools.nyc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 17 17:14:39 2010

Subject: FW: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perkins will be announcing a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools

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From: [MajorityConference.News@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:MajorityConference.News@senate.state.ny.us)  
[<mailto:MajorityConference.News@senate.state.ny.us>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 4:39 PM  
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Perkins will be announcing a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools

For Immediate Release March 17, 2010  
Contact: Cordell Cleare | [ccleare@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:ccleare@senate.state.ny.us) | 212-222-7315

MEDIA ADVISORY:

Chairman Bill Perkins Announces April 22nd Public Hearing on Charter Schools

Funding & relationships with affiliated companies to be examined;

Diane Ravitch to testify

The Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions will be holding a public hearing to look at the books of companies affiliated with charter schools. This hearing will review the corporate practices of both not-for-profit and for-profit corporations that partner or contract with charters. The hearing will examine how charters are spending money, on what, and how much profit there is in charter schools.

The Committee has received and is investigating reports suggesting corruption, self-dealing, the manipulation of test scores in charter schools and the politicization of the charter school movement. Joining the hearing as a key witness will be nationally renowned educator Professor Diane Ravitch, former charter school supporter now turned critic.

Senator Bill Perkins, Chair of the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, will discuss these reports and announce the Committee's public hearing to be held April 22nd.

Who:  
Senator Bill Perkins

When:  
Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 11:45 a.m.

Where:  
Capitol, outside Senate Chamber, 3rd Floor

###

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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2010 8:01 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Listen to DFER's Charlie Barone on NPR's 'On Point' With Tom Ashbrook, 11 a.m. EST today



Friends:

Just wanted to alert you that Charlie Barone, DFER's federal policy guru and resident disc jockey, will appear live on NPR's 'On Point' with Tom Ashbrook at 11 a.m. EST today to talk about the Obama administration's attempts to reauthorize the federal No Child Left Behind Law.

Audio of the show will be archived after 3 p.m. today at:  
<http://www.onpointradio.org/2010/03/beyond-no-child-left-behind>

Have a nice day.

Joe

This email was sent to [joeklein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:joeklein@schools.nyc.gov).



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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 11:23 PM  
**To:** Dennis Walcott; Keaney Maura; 'HWolfson@cityhall.nyc.gov'; 'mlasher@cityhall.nyc.gov'  
**Subject:** Fw: FYI - Educators 4 Excellence

---

**From:** Ellen Winn  
**To:** Klein Joel I.; [williams](#) ; Ellner Brian; Tom Vander Ark ; Bennet Ratcliff ; Marcus S. Hall ;  
[cerf](#)  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 23 18:37:59 2010  
**Subject:** FYI - Educators 4 Excellence

I wanted to be sure you all knew about this newly formed group.

Two 3<sup>rd</sup> year TFA corps members in NYC just launched Educators 4 Excellence as an “independent voice” for teachers in NYC. They are tackling “last in, first out.”

<http://www.educators4excellence.org/>

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 31, 2010 11:41 AM  
**To:** Lasher, Micah; [joewilliams@dfer.org](mailto:joewilliams@dfer.org); [phillips](#)  
**Cc:** [marrone](#)  
**Subject:** shared space

Please don't circulate.

Geoff C talked with MM yesterday. MM called him to complain about his op-ed (you should have let me know you were going to do this . . . . blah, blah blah (somehow coming from Randi, this line had force, coming from Mulgrew it just sounds absurd)).

Geoff mentioned the parent vote provision. MM disclaimed responsibility for it—wasn't us that wanted that. Then asked Geoff what he would do (what language would you put in). His team asked my advice for a response which was:

First, don't give language but say the following in a phone conversation:

The clearly right thing to do is stop the inequity of charters not getting facility funding—and that would relieve pressure on co-locations. But we don't have the money right now to do that.

Second, we already dealt with co-location on the mayoral control extender and clearly those provisions have teeth and we have seen that with the lawsuit. UFT backed that deal and can't back out now.

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
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T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

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---

**From:** James Merriman <JMerriman@nyccharterschools.org>  
**To:** Lasher, Micah; murphy  
joewilliams@dfer.org <joewilliams@dfer.org>

**Cc:** peterson

**Sent:** Mon Apr 05 10:01:31 2010

**Subject:** RE: legislation

The current law provides for a CSD preference for all schools, and does not distinguish between type of school.

This was a change from a citywide preference that existed before cap lifted/law amended in April 2007.

---

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**

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**From:** Lasher, Micah [mailto:MLasher@cityhall.nyc.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, April 05, 2010 10:00 AM

**To:** James Merriman murphy

joewilliams@dfer.org

**Cc:** peterson

**Subject:** Re: legislation

I am thoroughly confused.

1. Is there in current law, a CSD preference -- either mandatory or optional -- for high schools, or for any schools? I thought there was not -- that all admissions was citywide.

2. My understanding of our legislation is that it does not change current enrollment as it relates to geography, except to create a zoned option for K-8 schools. Is this correct?

3. Is anyone arguing for a change to the bill as sent to the senate?

Micah C. Lasher  
Director of State Legislative Affairs, City of New York  
(212) 788-8820 or (518) 447-5200  
mlasher@cityhall.nyc.gov

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Lasher, Micah; ; nurph  
; joewilliams@dfer.org <joewilliams@dfer.org>

**Cc:** peterson  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 05 09:56:10 2010

**Subject:** RE: legislation  
Understood. My point here is let's leave as is (with mandatory CSD preference). If someone makes a huge deal about this then one thing. I haven't heard a peep that this is a major or even minor issue.

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

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**From:** Lasher, Micah [mailto:MLasher@cityhall.nyc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 05, 2010 9:53 AM  
**To:** murphy; James Merriman; | joewilliams@dfer.org  
**Cc:** peterson  
**Subject:** Re: legislation

Except that we don't do CSD pref for high schools anymore, other than what we inherited. Under Joel, I believe we've started exactly two high schools with CSD pref, and in both cases, they were new buildings that the City Council wouldn't approve without it.

Micah C. Lasher  
Director of State Legislative Affairs, City of New York  
(212) 788-8820 or (518) 447-5200  
mlasher@cityhall.nyc.gov

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

From: Peter Murphy  
To: James Merriman  
joewilliams@dfer.org <joewilliams@dfer.org> Lasher, Micah;  
Cc: peterson  
Sent: Mon Apr 05 09:01:42 2010  
Subject: RE: legislation

Ok - you read it as I did.

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

From: James Merriman  
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 8:44 AM  
To: ; Lasher, Micah; joewilliams@dfer.org  
Cc: Peter Murphy. peterson  
Subject: RE: legislation

Would rather keep the csd preference for high schools (as it currently is now for all schools). Bill changed it to citywide preference. Ideally, like the ability of the charter (with authorizer approval) to choose.

.....  
.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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

From: Bill Phillips  
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 8:43 AM  
To: James Merriman; Lasher, Micah; joewilliams@dfer.org  
Cc: murphy peterson  
Subject: Re: legislation

Guys,

Lost me on the phrasing - not been a source of controversy, but we want to change it? (I think you mean you want it changed, but just confirm.)

This gets harder now that we gave them the bill. You guys are missing the dynamic. They wanted simple. We gave more complex in areas where we know they will get pushback. We snuck in the k-8 and we will just have an argument. The hs piece is like the k-8. Can only do that so many times.

Cc'd peter because he's been keeper of the bill language, and ken because he's the guy who receives the "what us all this other stuff" questions.

On 4/5/10, James Merriman wrote:

- > Another change that must be in there: the right of high schools to either
- > have citywide or CSD preference. For many it will enhance their ability to
- > convince the community that they are an asset. This has not been a source
- > of controversy and is working-we should let it be and give choice.
- >

>

.....

.....

>

> James D. Merriman

> Chief Executive Officer

>

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> 111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006

> T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763

> [www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)<<http://www.nycchartercenter.org>>

>

> It's about great public schools

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Sent from my mobile device

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**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Monday, April 05, 2010 6:57 PM  
**To:** Ellen Winn  
**Cc:** childress; fuller; Klein Joel I.; Michael L. Lomax; Janet Murguia; romer; Amv Wilkins; Drucker Romy; John Donohue; Hank Dowling-Jones; Delia Pompa; cushman; Marcus S. Hall; Natalie Fay Green  
**Subject:** Re: Resolution for the Education Equality Project Board of Directors -- Action Required

i voted yes on all.

joe

On Mon, Apr 5, 2010 at 6:31 PM, Ellen Winn wrote:

Hello EEP Board:

I hope this note finds everyone well.

I am writing with an update, a piece of business, and to give you an early heads-up that we'll be planning an in-person Board meeting for May. All dates and details still TBD.

Things are continuing to go very well at EEP, with lots of work under-way and lots more being planned.

On the program side, we have been working with a number of other education, civil rights, advocacy, and research groups to keep the equity agenda top-of-mind for federal and local policymakers. You likely saw our [open letter](#) to the President, Secretary of Education, and Congress regarding ESEA reauthorization, signed by 18 groups. (A number of the organizations you lead – DFER/ERN, UNCF, NCLR – were part of this effort.)

At the request of many organizations and advocates from the civil rights and education fields, we are working with DFER on a series of “facts and myths” documents related to our core principles – accountability, teacher effectiveness, and charter schools. We released the [accountability memo](#) in early March. We've been working to keep the USDOE connected to the advocacy/reform worlds, helping them talk to local advocates, facilitating their relationship with new groups, and sharing information about on-the-ground efforts (e.g., the Parent Trigger). Finally, we continue to support a number of local education advocacy groups in their work by sharing our resources, providing technical assistance, and connecting them with key education leaders. As part of this effort, we recently translated our [Parent Hand-Out](#) into Spanish.

We continue to make use of all possible forms of social media to build the EEP movement. Our [website](#) is still

expanding, but already a go-to source for information on the achievement gap. We have a mailing-list of 75,000 supporters who we communicate with frequently and extremely active Twitter and Facebook presences. The Board's Co-Chairs and I have made many appearances on behalf of EEP, in person and in the press, including: the McNeil Lehrer Report, Morning Joe, a Governor's Luncheon in St. Paul, MN where Dr. Lomax and Governor Palenty debated the achievement gap, the Alliance for Excellence in Education, the EdTrust conference, the National Journal's education experts blog, the Yale School of Management's Education Leadership Conference, New Profit's Gathering of Leaders, the Foundation for Excellence in Education's annual conference, an *Atlantic Monthly* education debate, etc.

Organizationally, we are focused on fundraising, strategic planning, and building our overall capacity, which brings me to the business side of this note. As an outgrowth of our meeting last summer (in Boston) and ongoing conversations, it's become clear that we need to solidify and specify EEP's role, goals, and model. To that end, we have begun work with the Bridgespan Group to build our operational model and 3-year plan, and to refine the nature of our partnerships with UNCF and NCLR. Bridgespan has deep knowledge of the education, advocacy, and nonprofit sectors. After extensive background work and analysis, I am confident that they are the best group for the job and that this is the right time for us to engage in this work.

Attached you will find a Resolution ("EEP Board Resolution 4.2.10") asking you to approve four things:

- 1) The creation of an Executive Committee made up of the three Co-Chairs of EEP's Board (Klein, Lomax, and Murguia). As detailed in our bylaws (attached) the Executive Committee will have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board. This will greatly reduce the number of resolutions I need to bring to the full Board for unanimous approval, and will allow us to be a bit more nimble in our work.
- 2) Spending authority for the Director (me) to approve expenditures/contracts up to \$50,000 with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- 3) Approval of our engagement with the Bridgespan Group. Their scope of work is attached.
- 4) Approval of two identical partnership contracts with the National Council of La Raza and the United Negro College Fund. As we begin to work more closely with our partners they need funds to build their capacity for EEP-related work. Both are attached.

If you agree to these resolutions, simply email me your "yes," and of course, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

As ever, my deepest thanks for your help – Ellen

895 Broadway, 5th floor, NY, NY 10003

Office: 212.253.2021 |

Fax: 212.260.9058

Email:

Website: [www.edequality.org](http://www.edequality.org)

Become a Facebook fan: <http://www.facebook.com/EdEquality>

Follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/EdEquality](https://twitter.com/EdEquality)

--

Joe Williams

Executive Director

Democrats for Education Reform

24 W. 46th St. Suite #4

New York, NY 10036

[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Monday, April 05, 2010 8:23 PM  
**To:** winn childress fuller;  
'michael.lomax@uncf.org'; 'jmurguia@nclr.org'; 'romer@collegeboard.org';  
'AWilkins@edtrust.org'; williams  
**Cc:** Drucker Romy; Donohue Dowling-Jones ;  
pompa ; cushman ;  
hall  
**Subject:** Re: Resolution for the Education Equality Project Board of Directors -- Action Required

---

**From:** Ellen Winn  
**To:** Klein Joel I.; Michael L. Lomax ; Janet Murguia ; romer  
; Amy Wilkins ; williams  
**Cc:** Drucker Romy; John Donohue ; Hank Dowling-Jones ; Delia Pompa ; cushman Marcus S. Hall ;  
Natalie Fay Green  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 05 18:31:13 2010  
**Subject:** Resolution for the Education Equality Project Board of Directors -- Action Required  
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press, including: the McNeil Lehrer Report, Morning Joe, a Governor's Luncheon in St. Paul, MN where Dr. Lomax and Governor Palenty debated the achievement gap, the Alliance for Excellence in Education, the EdTrust conference, the National Journal's education experts blog, the Yale School of Management's Education Leadership Conference, New Profit's Gathering of Leaders, the Foundation for Excellence in Education's annual conference, an *Atlantic Monthly* education debate, etc.

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- 4) Approval of two identical partnership contracts with the National Council of La Raza and the United Negro College Fund. As we begin to work more closely with our partners they need funds to build their capacity for EEP-related work. Both are attached.

If you agree to these resolutions, simply email me your "yes," and of course, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

As ever, my deepest thanks for your help – 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](http://www.edequality.org)  
Become a Facebook fan: <http://www.facebook.com/EdEquality>  
Follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/EdEquality](https://twitter.com/EdEquality)

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2010 11:34 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE: Kerri

Yeah, she's terrific, our loss.

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2010 11:16 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Kerri

Would reach out by phone but understand your first day back and didn't want to trouble you.

Kerri told me that she spoke with you. Obviously, we are thrilled to have her, and I'm equally sorry that you will not. I think she can be a huge help to the effort.

Best,

J.

.....  
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](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

It's about great public schools

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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2010 2:06 PM  
**To:** White John; Nadelstern@aol.com  
**Subject:** FW: Deborah Meier

<http://www.harmonyeducationcenter.org/dmi/sponsors.html>

so how many of the schools that are sponsors of a symposium about how to take our schools back in the era of mayoral control were created as a result of mayoral control?

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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It's about great public schools

<http://www.harmonyeducationcenter.org/dmi/index.html>

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Friday, April 09, 2010 11:38 AM  
**To:** \_merriman  
**Cc:** Drucker Romy  
**Subject:** Re: Strat plan

Sure, Romy will set

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 09 11:35:53 2010  
**Subject:** Strat plan

Permission to set up an hour with you to talk about it, get feedback and discuss fundraising?

.....  
James D. Merriman

Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**

111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006

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It's about great public schools

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Friday, April 09, 2010 12:33 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: WAPO

great work!

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010 at 6:34 AM, Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)> wrote:  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/08/AR2010040804802.html>

--  
Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 09, 2010 3:31 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Invite: Joe Williams's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday/Reception for Rep. Jared Polis, Saturday, April 24th

Dear Ed Reform Warrior:

I'd like to invite you to celebrate my 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday by attending a special NYC reception for Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colorado.)

In the year since Congressman Polis was sworn in and assigned to the House Education and Labor committee, he has proven to be an extremely effective partner for reform. As the only member of Congress who has actually started his own charter school, Rep. Polis hit the ground running and emerged as a key voice in backing President Obama's school reform agenda.

Most noteworthy, Rep. Polis has led the way to help expand and replicate successful charter schools through the federal ALL Star act. This is the kind of pro-reform legislation that will be a game-changer once we get it passed.

Please join me to celebrate 40 wild and wacky years and to appropriately thank Rep. Polis for being a great friend, a valued charter champion and for his continued leadership on education reform issues. Even if you can't attend, please consider supporting Rep. Polis' work by contributing through the link below.

**When:** Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 4 to 6 p.m.

**Where:** The Half King, 505 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., NYC

**Contribution levels:**

- Tickets: \$100
- Friend: \$500
- Education Warrior: \$1000

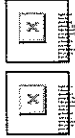
To purchase a ticket and RSVP, visit: <http://www.actblue.com/page/joebdaypolis>

Contributions go toward the Jared Polis Victory Fund.

Thanks and have a great weekend!

Joe

This email was sent to [WJF@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:WJF@schools.nyc.gov).



**[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)**

---

**From:** Duffy Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2010 7:57 AM  
**To:** 'James Merriman'  
**Cc:** White John; Bill Phillips; Listhaus Aaron; Grant Christina; Carson Benjamin; Haynes Aquila  
**Subject:** RE: Common Charter Application

James,

Thanks for the candid email....I think good communication between us helps support charter schools and by extension parents and students....looping in Aaron, Ben, Aquila and Christina who have worked on the Common Charter Application.

I sent out the email to all 99 charter schools (and the 27 authorized to open next year) about the Common Charter Application shortly after getting off the phone with a lawyer from Advocates for Children....she told me that she and her organization would be pursuing the case of any parents who were turned away from schools because they had submitted the Common Charter Application....this was the basis for my admonition to charter boards that they ran a risk of being sued if they denied such applicants.

The Common Charter Application has been created and circulated by the Department not in its role as authorizer but rather as a district interested in making sure that all parents have access to public charter schools....not just the parents who speak English, who attend a parent information session, fill out a 7 page application, who first provide a birth certificate or who happen to encounter a particular school's recruitment efforts....the Common Charter Application is available on the Department's web site and most importantly in the Borough Enrollment Centers where many parents turn for information about where to enroll their kids.

No doubt the wording and format of the Application can be improved....we worked with lawyers at both SUNY-CSI and SED on this first version....our idea was to keep it simple, and confined to one page....any ideas or comments you have about how it can be improved would be used to make a future version better.

As a former charter board chair and a former charter school executive director, I treasure charter autonomy....but I know that charter autonomy doesn't trump the obligation that charter schools have to be public and open to all....there are limits to charter autonomy....practices that have the effect of limiting access, like the refusal of a Common Charter Application, run counter to the obligation that charters have as public schools.

My email to schools elicited dozens of comments from schools who were enthusiastic about the Common Charter Application and let me know that they had already received many of these applications--applications that they likely would not have otherwise received....at a time when charters are under attack for keeping out certain kinds of students, the development of the Common Charter Application and its use by parents is, I think, a pretty strong rejoinder to charter critics.

Michael

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



From: James Merriman  
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 6:11 PM  
To: Duffy Michael  
Cc: White John; Bill Phillips  
Subject: FW: Common Charter Application

Michael,

Let me say first what doesn't really need saying. We back 100% the intent of the common application and openness to all parents. It's the right way to go. And my guess is that we will see something emerge that will put the right people in charge of that process at the state level.

But that said, this is a reap what you sow situation. You developed this thing internally without consulting schools or us or the association. You pushed it out hurriedly and at the last minute. And it is no surprise then that schools (probably not authorized by you) won't cooperate. When the law says that charter schools are independent and autonomous, it means something. When you high-handedly try to superintend them, they will push back--even when the intention is right.

What I find really troubling however is your assertion of legal liability. Not sure whether this is "Duffy's Treatise on Education Law" or you bothered to actually consult with your counsel. But I certainly don't think you're right about your legal conclusion except in the narrowest sense that by publicizing the issue it does leave the schools open to someone filing a lawsuit--something that your efforts have now made more probable.

I know what you are going to say: if they just do the right thing, then the problem is solved. But if charters always did the thing that central authority told them to do, we'd end up with district schools. Right now in not accepting the application they are well within their rights, even if maybe not well advised. There was a right way to get this done. Unfortunately, that's not the way you went about it.

J.

Dear NYC Charter School Board Leader,

The New York City Department of Education has developed a Common Charter Application that can be used by any parent to apply to any charter school in the City.

The idea behind the Common Charter Application is to provide an easy way for parents to get into the city's charter schools. We took the added step of translating the application into 8 languages to provide greater access to English Language Learners and eliminate the under-enrollment

of ELL students in charters.

Some charter schools have enthusiastically embraced the Common Charter Application. The Uncommon network of charter schools, for example, prominently states on its web site that they are, "also accepting the 2010-2011 New York City Common Charter School Application." The soon to open Cultural Arts Academy has added its logo and now uses the Common Charter Application as its only application.

With the deadline for student application for this year's lottery fast approaching, I have received several calls from parents who have encountered charter schools that have flatly refused to accept Common Charter Applications. Some parents have been told that their children will not be entered into the school's lottery for admission and instead will be put directly on a charter school's waiting list.

Not only does this policy run counter to a charter school's obligation as a public school to be open to all students, I believe that it leaves a charter board vulnerable to being sued by a parent or group of parents who have been denied admission in this way.

Before your school conducts its lottery this year, check with your school leadership and staff to make sure that every student application is included and access to a place in your school-regardless of the form of their application-is guaranteed to all students.

Sincerely,

Michael Thomas Duffy

Director, Charter School Office

---

**From:** White John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2010 1:06 PM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** NYSUT charter report

You seen anything?

John C. White  
New York City Department of Education  
(212) 374-5580

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2010 7:55 PM  
**To:** 'joewilliams@dfer.org'  
**Subject:** Re: andrew cuomo bfast friday

Will ck

---

**From:** [williams](#)  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Wed Apr 14 18:55:37 2010  
**Subject:** andrew cuomo bfast friday  
Joel:

Hope you are well. Not sure if you will be near the Regency on Friday morning, but we're doing a small charter school bfast with Andrew Cuomo. He should get there around 8:30. Feel free to pop in, if you're nearby.

Joe

--  
Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2010 6:51 AM  
**To:** williams  
**Subject:** Re: Great job on Morning Joe

Thanks

----- Original Message -----  
**From:** Joe Williams <[joewilliams2@gmail.com](mailto:joewilliams2@gmail.com)>  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 06:49:24 2010  
**Subject:** Great job on Morning Joe

Way to sneak LIFO in.  
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

**From:** Grant Christina [<mailto:CGrant11@schools.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** Niomi Plotkin; Amy Ruck  
**Cc:** James Merriman; Michael Duffy  
**Subject:** Thanks!  
**Importance:** High

Niomi and Amy,

A huge sincere THANK YOU for all of your help at last night's New School Open House. Aside from having great materials on hand your collective ability to manage such a large crowd of individuals interested in the charter process really continues to be a testament to why we have such success in opening new schools in New York City.

I know it's not often that folks say thank you for what seemingly is your job, but I really wanted to personally thank you for such hard work and flexibility.

All the best,  
Christina

**Christina Grant**  
Deputy Director | Charter School Office  
NYC Department of Education | Room 413  
Phone: 212.374.6780 | Fax: 212.374.5581 | [cgrant11@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cgrant11@schools.nyc.gov)





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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2010 6:58 PM  
**To:** williams  
**Subject:** Re: This is something

Choice.

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**To:** Whitney Tilson ; Klein Joel I.; Duffy Michael; Eva Moskowitz ; White John; 'joewilliams@dfer.org'  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 19:05:25 2010  
**Subject:** Re: This is something  
She blames the school's woes on ELL kids.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

---

**From:** Whitney Tilson  
**Date:** Fri, 16 Apr 2010 22:54:35 +0000  
**To:** 'jklein@schools.nyc.gov'<jklein@schools.nyc.gov>;  
'MDuffy12@schools.nyc.gov'<MDuffy12@schools.nyc.gov>;  
moskowitz moskowitz  
'JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov'<JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov>; 'joewilliams@dfer.org'<joewilliams@dfer.org>  
**Subject:** Re: This is something

PLEASE tell me this is LDH's school. If so, I'm going to have so much fun with this...

---

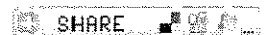
**From:** Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>  
**To:** Duffy Michael <MDuffy12@schools.nyc.gov>;  
moskowitz White John <JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov>; Joe Williams <joewilliams@dfer.org>;  
Whitney Tilson  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 15:44:13 2010  
**Subject:** This is something

## Stanford loses bid to renew EPA charter schools

*Ravenswood trustees cite poor academic performance, but leave room for reprieve*

by [Chris Kenrick](#)  
Palo Alto Online Staff

Stanford University was rebuffed Wednesday in its bid to renew the charter of a struggling East Palo Alto elementary school it oversees.



Citing poor academic performance and ineffective behavior management in the classroom, trustees of the Ravenswood City School District voted 3-2 to deny a new five-year charter to Stanford New Schools. The Stanford-affiliated nonprofit operates an elementary



school and a separate high school, which together serve about 550 students from East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

"Whether your name is Stanford or something else, it's all about the data," trustee Larry Moody told a standing-room-only audience of parents, teachers, students and Stanford professors who had come out to support the schools.

"Certain levels of performance had to be adhered to."

Trustees left open a chance that the two Stanford schools could survive for at least two more years, but only under strict supervision. They asked Ravenswood Superintendent Maria De La Vega to work out terms of such a deal with Stanford, and bring it back to them for a final decision.

Wednesday's vote came after passionate, sometimes tearful, pleas from parents, students and Stanford professors to save the school community they have taken years to build.

"Our babies can't be reflected in a spreadsheet. Our spirit is way too big for a list," said Lola Rockwell, whose granddaughter, Najwa, is a third grader at the school, East Palo Alto Academy.

"We've poured our hearts, sweat and spirit into this school. Where will my child go if you close our academic world down?"

The vote also followed conflicting interpretation of reams of often-contradictory state data.

Stanford argued that its state Academic Performance Index "similar school ranking" scores of six in 2006-2007 and seven in 2007-2008 technically qualified it for automatic renewal under state criteria. A drop in that score to three in 2008-2009 was attributable to "a significant change in the group of state-identified similar schools," Stanford said.

In recommending against charter renewal, Ravenswood Superintendent De La Vega viewed the same data differently.

Saying the 2006 to 2008 scores represented only the better-performing Stanford high school, she argued that the drop in the 2009 score reflected a serious "downward drag" of including the poor-performing elementary school in the score.

"In a technical sense I suppose we could say they have met the criteria," said San Mateo County counsel Tim Fox, summarizing De La Vega's analysis.

"However, the overarching question for charter renewal is whether the charter petition represents a sound educational program and whether the charter petitioners are likely to succeed in implementing the program it describes.

"So when the data show there's a problem -- even if they technically meet the metrics -- it's a matter of consideration for the board."

Trustees expressed frustration that the K-12 charter renewal came as an all-or-nothing package, failing to distinguish between the higher performing Stanford high school and the struggling elementary school, which has operated for a shorter time.

Stanford officials insisted that, if given a few more years to succeed, their recently implemented reforms would put the elementary school on a sound footing and provide community benefits for years to come.

"We understand our elementary school has not performed as well as it should, and we know we have work to do," Stanford School of Education Dean Deborah Stipek said.

"We've dedicated ourselves to that in very serious ways this year with excellent support from the district. If you look at how well the high school was doing in its first three years of existence -- if it had been reviewed at that moment -- you probably would have denied it.

"Its API (Academic Performance Index) scores were actually lower than our elementary school is. It takes a few years to get going in the right direction."

Stipek noted the Stanford high school has a 96 percent college acceptance rate, that 53 percent of its graduates are admitted to four-year colleges and that Stanford raises several hundred thousand dollars a year to provide college scholarships for its high school graduates.

When parents pleaded they would have few alternatives if the charter schools are shut down, Ravenswood officials seemed annoyed that the improving quality of the district's own neighborhood schools are frequently overlooked.

"All the right things are in place in the Ravenswood district," said Aaron Williamson, a Stanford graduate and president of the Ravenswood Teachers Association.

"In fact, all the other schools in the Ravenswood district have higher scores than the charter does.

"You have seven other schools to choose from in this district. We'd welcome you with open arms, and the parents would welcome you."

Trustee Saree Mading, herself an administrator at another charter school, East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS), said, "I'm a big charter fan, but I'm so tired of hearing that what you've accomplished at Stanford New Schools, EPACS or Edison (charter school) is not able to be accomplished right here within the Ravenswood City School District.

"That is why I ran (for school board). Because I know it can be accomplished right here in our own schools.

"When I see how parents have run from one school to the next, not staying to build a community, it frustrates me."

School board chairwoman Sharifa Wilson said the district was embarrassed recently when the state's list of "worst-performing schools" contained three schools from Ravenswood -- two of them charters. One was the Stanford elementary charter (Stanford has appealed, according to the Stanford Daily) and the other was a charter shuttered in 2008 for poor performance.

"We have a responsibility to see that the children from this community are receiving a good quality education and, it frustrates me also, we are measured by these scores and are held accountable for your failure," Wilson said.

Philanthropist, volunteer and former teacher Tashia Morgridge, who has been active in the district since the 1980s, urged the board to renew Stanford's charter.

"We're all here with the same goal -- the education of the children of Ravenswood," Morgridge said.

"This is humbling, challenging work. Success does not come easily or quickly. The district knows this. Stanford knows this. That means we work harder."

With changes now in place, Morgridge expressed confidence the Stanford elementary school would substantially improve.

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A subsequent motion, asking the superintendent to return with a plan for a possible two-year extension under heavy supervision, passed 4-1, with the support of all trustees except Wilson.

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2010 7:28 PM  
**To:** Tilson  
**Cc:** williams  
**Subject:** Re: This is something

Yep. The kind of thing Ravitch supports.

---

**From:** Whitney Tilson  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Cc:** williams  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 19:25:21 2010  
**Subject:** Re: This is something  
I assume the story here is loosey goosey PC ed school horseshit getting smacked by reality?

---

**From:** Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>  
**To:** Whitney Tilson  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 16:01:14 2010  
**Subject:** Re: This is something

Tis indeed

---

**From:** Whitney Tilson  
**To:** Klein Joel I.; Duffy Michael; moskowitz White John; 'joewilliams@dfer.org'  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 18:54:35 2010  
**Subject:** Re: This is something  
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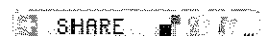
**From:** Klein Joel I. <JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>  
**To:** Duffy Michael <MDuffy12@schools.nyc.gov>; moskowitz( moskowitz ; White John <JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov>; Joe Williams <joewilliams@dfer.org>; Whitney Tilson  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 15:44:13 2010  
**Subject:** This is something

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