

Alderman Says “If They Want a Fight Over Mayoral Control of MPS then Bring it On!”

**Statement of Ald. Bob Donovan
August 24, 2009**

With the very future of the Milwaukee Public Schools (and the educational fate of tens of thousands of city students) hanging in the balance, I'm disappointed that special interests and those inclined to pander to them are now chiming in on the possible switch to mayoral control of MPS.

Before I address the pandering let me first state clearly and unequivocally that although Mayor Barrett and I have differed on many issues over the years, this is certainly not one of them. I stand 110% behind the switch to mayoral control. For years I've called for this critical change, as Milwaukee and its public school students have suffered for far too long under the system's existing mismanagement, dysfunction and mediocrity. It's long overdue, and I'm prepared to fight those who will stand in the way of this badly needed change in direction.

With the ripple effect of positioning and announcements caused by Governor Doyle's announcement that he will not seek another term, we're seeing pandering on the MPS control issue coming from previously unheard from individuals. Where were they on this issue before that possible next coveted political office suddenly became available? And, special interests are looking to protect their corner of the MPS cookie jar – and this just months after a consultant's review detailed rampant waste and inefficiency in the MPS non-instructional, overpaid bureaucratic morass. Completed at the behest of Governor Doyle, Mayor Barrett and former DPI chief Elizabeth Burmaster, the report methodically details waste that should have been discovered years ago by the overpaid bureaucrats who've been running the system. Let's also not forget that the review revealed that there are 65 central office MPS bureaucrats making more than \$100,000 per year, and that the district has been buying \$100 pencil sharpeners!

Lastly, there are some who are saying that the move for mayoral control is racist. I believe it is racist to do nothing and to continue to allow our minority-majority student population to receive an inadequate, substandard education that does little to prepare them for a future of success and achievement.

Milwaukee – this switch to mayoral control of MPS is critical – please join in support of Mayor Barrett as he moves forward to make it happen.

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