Statement of Ald. Bob Donovan
October 30, 2007

It's Time to Dissolve MPS

The Governor And The Mayor Need To Take Over MPS Now

Today's announcement by Superintendent William Andrekopoulos that he will ask the school board for a 16.4% increase in property taxes is the last step in the long road we've been down with Milwaukee Public Schools.

For a school system where enrollment has been and is still on the decline, I must ask where is this money headed? We cannot keep throwing good money after bad into a system on the decline. MPS has not generated the graduation or retention rates that would indicate they are a successful governing agent for the school system. It's truly time for the state to step in and let Governor Doyle and Mayor Barrett become the stewards of our school system.

Moreover, with a tax increase of this size on the table, MPS should pay its own tab with the Milwaukee police officers stationed in schools. To ask city property owners to shoulder this tax burden **and** pay for the police who work in the schools where student behavior is also on the decline is wrong. Andrekopoulos says the money will improve student achievement and he "feels bad about" what it means for taxpayers. Does he feel bad about what such a huge tax hike does to senior citizens on fixed or limited incomes?

MPS doesn't have the track record to warrant this kind of tax hike. It doesn't have a strong record period. It's time to intervene in a system that has run off course for far too long.

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