

Statement of Ald. Bob Donovan
February 13, 2009

Yesterday's melee at Bradley Tech High School – which included a punch to the face for one of Milwaukee's fine police officers – is yet another sad example of just how out of control Milwaukee Public Schools have become.

The way Bradley Tech has degenerated is an insult to the tens of thousands of proud graduates of the former Tech, which served as a model school in Milwaukee for decades.

I am proposing that Bradley Tech be closed at the end of this school year so that we can start over. I propose reopening the school only as a true technical high school, with technical coursework in subjects such as computers, electronics, building/drafting/design, and even carpentry. Students would be required to take tests to get into the school.

Our businesses and industries are in dire need of workers who could gain valuable skills and know-how at a "new" Bradley Tech. If nothing else we owe it to our children and grandchildren to give them a public school that offers solid technical training, a place where they can gain the skills for jobs and careers that will offer a better quality of life.

I believe that is the kind of Bradley Tech we should create, because the current one is a disgrace that is likely causing Jane Pettit to turn over in her grave.

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