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Six Common Sense Steps to Begin a Bradley Tech Turnaround

Statement of Alderman Bob Donovan

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The recent decision by Bradley Tech administrators to ban cell phones at the school is certainly welcome and long overdue. However, the sad reality is we've been down this road before. Back in 2007 (see **attached 2007 MPS news release**), MPS initiated a get-tough policy following another major incident at the school. Evidently, it didn't work. This "incident-spurs-reaction" cycle is a familiar pattern at MPS.

When all hell breaks loose, MPS responds with the appropriate rhetoric and relying on the short memory of the public. And then, in no time at all, things slide back to the "normal" chaos. Of course this time we are told that it's all different and they really mean it – after all, we have a new superintendent.

Well, Mr. Superintendent, if you are serious about turning Tech around, I'd like to suggest six simple common sense steps to begin that process:

- 1) Dump the bad apples – 90% of the problems at that school are being caused by a small percentage of trouble makers. The question remains - where should they be sent? Simple answer – to Reform School – and that's your next project.
- 2) Require Bradley Tech students to pass an entrance exam and present a letter of recommendation from a former teacher.
- 3) Students should be expected to maintain at least a "C" average or risk transfer.
- 4) Initiate a dress code – preferably school uniforms. It is simply outrageous the way some students dress for school. If they look like slobs and thugs, they generally behave that way.

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- 5) Implement “in house” suspensions that require students to report to the school, where they would be supervised while making up missed assignments, reading, and writing papers. Currently, when a student commits an offense egregious enough to warrant a suspension, they’re merely let loose upon our streets to spread their joy wherever they go. This “freedom” creates a whole new set of problems for our community.
- 6) Lastly, if the administrators at Tech are really serious about reform, why not give a monthly update (publicly) of any progress that has been made toward achieving the newly stated goals? After all, we would never want our citizens, the parents of students or the taxpayers to be left in the dark. Would we?

As for whether we’ll be seeing any real reform at Bradley Tech, I’m not holding my breath.