



BUCKHEAD COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods, Inc., P.O. Box 11934, Atlanta, GA 30355

August 16, 2010

Mr. Paul L. Howard - Fulton County District Attorney

136 Pryor Street, SW - Third Floor

Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Paul:

It was great having our new Community Prosecutor, Hannah Chung, present to the BCN Board of Directors at our monthly meeting last Thursday, August 12th. Ironically, we ended up passing a motion during the meeting for her to present to you. The motion states that "the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods asks the Public Integrity Unit of the Fulton County District Attorney's office to investigate Atlanta Public School (APS) cheating." This motion was passed unanimously.

The vote was taken after over an hour of discussion in which the BCN board was informed of many causes for concern, but particularly that the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) did not have the power of subpoena to secure relevant documents and testimony of witnesses related to cheating in APS on the 2009 Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT). This lack of subpoena powers limited the scope and conclusions of the BRC's report of August 2, 2010, which was submitted to the Atlanta Board of Education and forwarded to the State of Georgia (Governor's Office of Student Achievement). While the Blue Ribbon Commission lacked subpoena powers, the District Attorney's office does not.

Many other issues were raised last Thursday evening regarding the BRC report and our overall Atlanta Public School system ranging from a lack of accountability (especially for personnel), reports of closed-door meetings, potential conflicts of interest, APS's role in the report's interview process, exorbitant per student cost for educating children in Atlanta, as well as many questions about the validity of testing benchmarks, performance bonuses, suspect APS graduation rates, dropout rates, and record keeping, etc. In addition, the BRC report (<http://www.atlef.org/crct/report/report.html>) only focused on one year and did not address possible multi-year patterns of behavior.

Atlanta's children are the victims and the taxpayers are footing the bill for the school and criminal justice systems. Please let us know when you can meet with BCN Representatives to discuss this matter.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim King, BCN chairman

404.966.2076

CC: Ms. Hannah Chung, Fulton County Community Prosecutor

Mr. Glenn Delk, BCN Education Chair