

FORUM



Motivational Moments

Nigel Alston

Does it mean teachers at exemplary schools put forth a greater effort or developed a more effective plan for improvement? Maybe the leadership at one school really makes the difference!

I propose a different approach. At the end of the school year, we exchange the principal, staff, and teachers of a low-performing school with those of an exemplary school. Goals and objectives and a plan of improvement will be established and measured at the end of the next school year.

If progress is made at the low-performing school, we should pay a higher cash incentive. We will save the state from having to come in and evaluate the school and allow them more time to be creative. If the exemplary schools' performance declines, we definitely have a cause for concern, and a developmental plan is in order.

What I think will actually happen is close to the same results will be accomplished in each school.

The heart of Senate Bill 1139 is to improve student performance. That is a must, and we can't accept less. However, responsibility is not solely the responsibility of teachers and administrators — it's the community's.

Nigel Alston is an executive for Integon Insurance Company.

strate your ability to perform, while some of your peers at another location receive certificates of recognition, and even monetary rewards, for meeting or exceeding expected growth.

You are a teacher in the public school system and you have experienced the first year of the ABCs of Public Education. It is more commonly known as the School-Based Management and Accountability program (SB1139) passed by the General Assembly in June 1996.

The program focuses on strong accountability, emphasis on high educational standards, teaching the basics and maximum local control.

I have not heard from a teacher or an administrator who is unwilling to be held accountable for producing results; however, they risk losing the most under the ABC program for students failing to make progress. You can't fire parents. And what about the responsibility of the students?

What concerns me is this: Teachers and administrators at low-performing schools may be dismissed and the school taken

over by the state because students' performance did not meet or exceed expectations. I agree that teachers and administrators should be held accountable; however, the levels of recognition in part reflect factors other than actual teaching and management practices at a given school, according to Irv Besecker.

I agree. Irv, a teacher at West Forsyth High School, says, "It reflects more on the demographics and socioeconomic realities of the individual school."

If this is the case, we can't place too much emphasis on exemplary schools, nor can we place too much blame on low-performing schools.

I'd like to know what knowledge the State Board of Education has a corner on that will allow it to take over a school, dismiss a principal, develop a plan and turn the school around. Certainly we possess the knowledge and skill at home.

And where will we get the additional teachers if a school continues to be low-performing and the teachers are dismissed.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REZONING OF PROPERTY
CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM**

The Board of Aldermen will consider requests to amend the City of Winston-Salem Zoning Ordinance by rezoning property as shown below:
DATE: DECEMBER 15, 1997 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Board of Aldermen Chamber, City Hall

- Petition of David B. Rierson; from RS-12 to LB-S (Restaurant (without drive through service)); property located at the northeast corner of University Parkway and Cherry Street, W-2186.
- Petition of The Salvation Army for property owned by DHD Associates from RS-7 to GB-S (Retail Store, Specialty or Miscellaneous); property located at the southeast corner of University Parkway and 27th Street, W-2185.
- Petition of Blackwell Associates for property owned by Albert A. Turner and Bobigene P. Turner from RM-12-S (Nursing Care Institution) to Site Plan Amendment; property located on the northwest side of New Walkertown Road/US311 approximately 60 feet southwest of Addison Avenue, W-2190.
- Petition of Shugart Enterprises, LLC, Limited Power of Attorney for property owned by Carl L. Lanier, Jr. Trustee; Linda Bingham Trustee; Manley Oscar Dobbins; Charles M. Rothrock; Wiley C. White Jr.; and Doris White; property separated into two separate tracts of land - Tract from RS-9 and RM-18 to MU-S (Manufactured Housing Development; and Child Day Care Center) for property located on the northeast side of Willard Road approximately 1200 feet southeast of Fanning Road/Green Oaks Drive intersection and on the south side of Fanning Road approximately 900 feet east of Willard Road; Tract 2: from RM-18 to MU-S (Manufactured Housing Development; and Child Day Care Center) for property located on the north side of Fanning Road approximately 1,050 feet east of Willard Road and along the south side of the I-40/US 311 interchange, W-2191.
- Petition of Indera Mills Company; Brookstown Mill Restoration Venture; and Lillian M. Lumley; property separated into two tracts of land - Tract 1: from G1 to GB for property located at the southeast corner of Marshall Street and Wachovia Street; Tract 2: from G1 to GB for property located at the southwest corner of Marshall Street and Wachovia Street and at the northwest corner of Marshall Street and Maple Street, W-2192.
- Petition of Flow Motors, Inc. and James W. and Bobbie Strader; from RM-18, HB-S (Furniture and Home Furnishings Store), and HB-S (Outdoor Display Retail) to HB-S (Food or Drug Store; Outdoor Display Retail; and Home Furnishings Store - TWO PHASE); property located at the southeast corner of Peters Creek Parkway/NC 150 and Brewer Rd. and at the southwest corner of Brewer Road and Cliff Street, W-2194.
- Petition of the City of Winston-Salem; from RS-Q to RM-12-S (Residential Building, Multifamily - TWO PHASE); property located on the east side of Dunleith Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets, W-2195.
- Proposed Final Development Plan by L.E.C. Properties for property owned by Linwood L. Davis and Nisbet Family Partnership for an Apartment Development (Crowne at Fairlawn) in a RM-8-S (Residential Building, Multifamily - TWO PHASE) Zoning District; property located at the northwest corner of Silas Creek Parkway and Fairlawn Drive but does not include the corner parcel at this intersection; property is also known as "Tract 6 of the Sunnynoll Development", W-1519.

The Board of Aldermen will also consider the following amendment to the Unified Development Ordinances:
1) Proposal to amend Chapter A Definitions Ordinance and Section 2-6 Accessory Uses of Chapter B Zoning Ordinance of the UDO regarding Storage Trailers and Greenhouses - UDO-34.

Prior to the hearing, interested persons may obtain any additional information which is in the possession of the City/County Planning Board in that office at City Hall on weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Interested citizens will be given an opportunity to be heard.
All requests for appropriate and necessary auxiliary aids and services must be made within a reasonable time prior to the hearing to Angela Carmon at 727-2056 or TDD No. 727-8319.
THIS MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON CITY TV-13
Renee P. Rice, Secretary to the Board of Aldermen.

A voice of reason?

The front cover of the December issue of *Carolina Review*, a monthly publication distributed on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill, bears a photograph of Ward Connerly. Above his name is the headline "A voice of reason." Connerly, of course, is the University of California

who led the charge to pass the California Civil Rights Initiative, more commonly known as Proposition 209. North Carolina has now entered the same debate. Although writers at the *Carolina Review* dubbed Connerly "a voice of reason," his critics have not been so kind. One man attending Connerly's speaking engagement last week in Chapel Hill described Connerly as "an embarrassment to black people." Here's an excerpt from one of the many columns Connerly has written on affirmative action:

"While most Americans can unite on their acknowledgment that race is a problem demanding the immediate attention of the nation, we are deeply divided on how we resolve that problem. There is no public policy that has greater potential to rip the fabric of American democracy than affirmative action, as it has evolved... Do we desire who get selected for government jobs, contracts and educational opportunities on the basis of party,

unethical appointments? Or do we believe that every person should be given an equal chance to compete and the competition should determine the outcome? So we ask you, our readers, which is it? Is Connerly to be hailed as a reasonable man or convicted of treason in the court of public opinion? We'll publish your responses. Write Letters to the Editor, *The Chronicle*, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

Race Reconciliation Will Take More than Just Talk

Think Tank

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich

make sure that black voices are clearly heard on the subject of racial reconciliation and what it actually requires.

For example, meaningful remediation of racism calls for action on sentencing parity between crack cocaine and powdered cocaine violations — sentencing parity, not just reduction to a smaller ratio. Recommendations for ratio reduction rather than ratio elimination, are viewed by some as "... an example of liberals hanging black folk from a low tree."

Tensions between police and the black community are labeled "racist" by many black leaders who, moreover, view the increasing brutality and violence of policemen against blacks as more than civil rights violations. These encounters, which have always been felonious, are the single most pernicious aspect of American racism. Examination of

practical remedies to this circumstance certainly is within the mandate of the President's Race Commission and could help to establish the commission's relevance.

Policies to enhance community development banks and to support local efforts by small community-based banks are critical. The President's Race Commission might well start by inviting the testimony and case examples of the numerous neighborhood-based local banks, which can provide a briefing on their successes and on the national supports which they require. Other steps that could further racial reconciliation are education resource increases; policy revisions to support meaningful and fair Welfare reform; and a curb on purposeless, biased and unstandardized testing of public school students. Currently being promoted as optional tools for establishing educational

standards, these proposed tests are regulated and monitored by no one in particular. They are viewed by black leaders as Trojan horses for academic tracking. Racism often finds inadvertent vehicles for its advancement.

But beyond these more programmatic, operational considerations, the federal government has a constitutional responsibility to enforce existing civil rights laws that guard minorities, and to provide the equal protection under the law guaranteed to all Americans. It is a new-age, states-rights ideology, black leaders charge, that permits the resegregation of schools and of communities to occur under the camouflage of devolution. It is racial malice, say BLF leaders, for reactionaries and the media to advance the concepts of racial preferences and quotas, as though these illegal practices accurately reflect the black community's demands for constitutionally mandated equal access and equal justice.

Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich is executive director and CEO of the Black Leadership Forum Inc., a confederation of the nation's 21 largest and oldest civil rights and service organizations. Her Think Tank column is syndicated to NNPA's membership.

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