

Superintendent touts experience in urban schools

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schools financially at a rate of \$2,403 per ADM according to the latest financial data from the Public School Forum. At 20 students per classroom this translates to \$48,060 in local support per classroom. CMS has 17 high schools and spends millions of dollars to support them. Yet, the 2003-04 performance composites were disturbing."

drive me as an educator," he said. "The first thing is student achievement."



White

Gorman, who will take over as superintendent on July 1, signed a four-year contract Tuesday at a base salary of \$250,000. He could earn \$310,000 in salary and incentives, including an annual performance bonus of up to 10 percent of his base salary and \$35,000 payment to a retirement fund. School board Chairman Joe White said the deal is worth bringing an administrator of Gorman's skills to CMS.

"We have a winner in Dr. Gorman, and we're very pleased to have him on our team," White said. "If you

want to attract the best, you have to be willing to compete. We view this as an investment not only in Dr. Gorman, but in the future of our children and the community."

Gorman said accountability is another driving force for his administration. He wants to be held accountable for his actions-good and bad-and wants everyone that works with and for him to do the same.

Third, he said he plans to be responsive to the "publics."

"I put an 's' on that because...I need and want help. This job is too big for me to do alone," Gorman said, calling on the school board, teachers and individuals to work with him.

During a brief question and answer period, issues related to race were raised. Some audience members said concerns of black parents

seemed to be pushed aside in CMS and that until community racial problems are dealt with, closing the achievement gap won't work.

Gorman said he doesn't know what all of the specific issues are because he hasn't had those racial experiences. "I haven't walked a mile in someone else's shoes," he said. "But I'm willing to look at all solutions."

Though he was met with a warm reception at the breakfast meeting, some parents and community activists think that under Gorman, things will stay the same. Russell Alexander, founder of Children in Crisis, said "I see his idea, but I think he is going to sink in the same hole as other superintendents. He seems to want to make changes in the upper management and provide bonds as opposed to addressing

socioeconomic issues."

Alexander said black parents are going to have to get involved and take responsibility for their children's education if they expect to see change in CMS.

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Sudan: International help now welcome

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accepting or rejecting international forces. This has not been decided yet."

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said: "We look forward to working with the Sudanese authorities on the eventual transition to a U.N. force and also in the short-term on the strengthening of the African Union force currently in Sudan."

He reiterated Secretary-General Kofi Annan's comment on Friday that after the Abuja agreement "we would, of course, expect to have access given to a U.N. planning team that will need to go to Darfur."

Two rebel groups have rejected the accord backed by the African Union, United States, Britain, the European Union and the Arab League and skipped the signing ceremony in a hall at a Nigerian presidential villa Friday night.

Optimism was muted by that and a history of failure to live up to agreements struck over two years of negotiations in the Nigerian capital.

At the U.N., American Ambassador John Bolton welcomed the agreement but said U.N. peacekeepers would become essential if the agreement were to hold.

"Recognizing that this is a very positive development in Abuja, we now would like the government in Khartoum to follow through and give the necessary visas and other arrangements to allow the U.N. planners to go in," Bolton said. That would lead

to the strengthening of the African Union force during the transition, he said.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, who helped spur negotiators to agree to stop the killing, said the embattled East African region was far from safe even if the peace agreement were to take hold.

U.S. President George W. Bush intervened during the difficult negotiations, sending a letter to the leader of the largest rebel group, Minni Minnawi, with assurances that the United States would give strong support to implementation of the peace accord, help monitoring compliance, hold accountable those who do not cooperate and support a donors' conference for Darfur. Zoellick said in a telephone interview from Abuja with reporters in Washington.

In Cairo, Egypt welcomed the agreement and said it was ready to participate in the peacekeeping force that would monitor its implementation, according to a statement released by the Egyptian presidency. The statement called on all sides to honor the accord.

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa also welcomed the agreement and urged the rebel groups that opted out to reverse their decisions.

Moussa, in a statement faxed to the AP, expressed confidence that the agreement would end the violence and open the way for reconstruction and development.

Mulah said the agreement also would help in repairing relations between Sudan and Chad, strained over the flood of refugees from Darfur.

Beyond that, he told AP, he expected Minnawi, the head of the Sudan Liberation Movement, to play an important role in the peace process as a member Sudan's national union government.

Mulah said the agreement was not closed to other rebel groups who had refused to sign.

"The other parties still have a chance to do so, but if they refuse then they will be treated just like the Janjaweed (the anti-rebel militia the government was accused of backing) or any other outlaw factions."

"This is not a government stand, it is that of the international community, the AU, the U.N. and the U.S. They will not tolerate any violation of the agreement," he warned.

Separately, Sadiq el-Mahdi — the leader of Umma, Sudan's largest opposition party — criticized the accord, saying he expected future disagreements.

"The people of Darfur deserve a power- and wealth-sharing formula that correspond with their population. This did not happen," he told Al-Arabiya satellite channel.

But he added that having an international peacekeeping force could be a positive step.

"We hope that they would protect the peace and the security ... of the people of

Darfur. This sparks hope."

Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

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Black lawmakers can identify with immigrant workers' cause

By Beverly Pleasant
WAVE NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES — As immigrant rights forces gear up for a national march on Washington, the U.S. Senate is preparing this spring to debate the legislative measure in the eye of the storm raging throughout the country — H.R. 4437: The Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 — which the House passed on Dec. 16, 2005 by a vote of 239 to 182.

Ford (D-Tenn.), voted for it.

Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) is the only African-American in the Senate and the only CBC member yet to debate



Obama

and vote on the bill, but he has his opinions. In a written statement, Obama said: "My father came here from Kenya, and I represent a state where vibrant immigrant communities ranging from Mexican to Polish to Irish enrich our neighborhoods," he said.

The senator described H.R. 4437 as "a strong enforcement bill," which he says is necessary to secure our borders. He said that while security may start at our borders, it doesn't end there. "Millions of undocumented immigrants live and work here without our knowing their identity or their backgrounds," he said. "We need to strike a workable bargain with them. They have to acknowledge that breaking our immigration laws was wrong. They must pay a penalty, and abide by all our laws going forward.

They must earn the right to stay over a six-year period, and then they must wait another five years as legal permanent residents before they become citizens."

The senator said that for accepting those penalties, the country must allow undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows and step onto a path toward full participation in society.

"In fact," Obama said. "I will not support any bill that does not provide this earned path to citizenship for the undocumented population — not just for humanitarian reasons, but also because this is the only practical way we can get a handle on the population that is within our borders right now."

The Bush administration supports the House bill but also wants to create a new guest worker program permitting foreign citizens the opportunity to work in the U.S. on what it describes as jobs no U.S. citizen wants.

However, Obama said, "We cannot create a new guest worker program without making it as close to impossible for illegal workers to find employment. We do not need



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