

Green light for CMS change

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him. Moreover, he is very familiar with many of the CMS operational aspects because of his previous legal role with the district.

"It is my view that in choosing Mo, I got the best of both worlds: an insider's knowledge with an outsider's perspective. I think he was the most logical choice for this position."

Although he's short on day-to-day experience, Green, like Gorman, has undertaken a whirlwind tour of the district to get an idea of its challenges.

"Is it necessary that I have been an educator to be in this role. I would say no it's not and in some ways it is refreshing and good to have someone who hasn't been on that track the whole time because I can start to see some things that others who have been on that educational track would say 'that's the way we do it in education' may not be able to see."

Said Gorman: "As anyone who's ever talked to Mo knows, he's extremely bright and capable, with a quick and thorough grasp of big issues and the little details that underpin them."

One of Green's early tasks is working with principals, who have often been at odds with CMS administration over issues ranging from test-

ing to discipline. "They can communicate with me directly and I'm going to be responsive to them directly," he said. "Dr. Gorman has already talked about being responsive to the sense of within 24 hours being responsive to the community. Well, the same should hold true within our own organization. If a principal has an issue, we should try to be responsive."

"In a very real sense, CMS employees are the heart of its operations every day, whether it's in a classroom, on a bus or behind a cafeteria lunch counter," Gorman said. "Mo's ability to listen and treat everyone with respect will serve him well in this capacity. He and I will also work closely together as we try to address concerns at each school, and those are almost always community concerns that involve parents, students and teachers."

CMS is in transition as a mostly urban district with a sizable middle class base Suburban communities

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CMS Superintendent Peter Gorman on Chief Operating Officer Maurice Groen

around Charlotte deal with school overcrowding while inner-city campuses face a widening gap in experienced teachers and facilities. Mounting pressure from state and federal mandates for academic achievement makes educating every child up to potential is more difficult. For Green, a New York native and son of a teacher, that's CMS's primary mission.

"The external pressures, there's an easy way to deal with them and that is to educate every child to a high level," he said. "If we are doing our jobs as well as we can do it, then the rest of that will become a non-issue. For the educators that don't want to educate every child then those are not the ones that I'm revering. The ones I'm revering are the ones that are desirous and are in fact doing everything they can to educate every child to a high level."

Green answers to Gorman, but they are working in tandem. They've appeared at press conferences together and meetings across the county. Gorman is the district's front man, and Green is OK with his role.

"I'm not in it for Mo Green and so the spotlight for anything good that happens with our organization certainly should be on (Gorman)," he said. "I understand that my

role is to help with the day to day operations so that what he is saying in the community actually comes true and he is looking for me to help do that."

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 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR
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 Matthews Town Hall, Hood Room
 232 Matthews Station Street
 Matthews, NC
 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2006
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