



To: jmmatteucci@ajc.com
 cc:
 Subject: A Charge to Keep

Megan:

Consider this an exclusive interview and use all of it PLEASE! It can even be an op ed piece if the AJC wanted.

I am deeply saddened by the call for a recall or resignation of all board members but I understand the frustration and anger of our citizens in our current situation. Appendix B page 25 of the SACS report in the last paragraph states that "During the course of the investigation it was evident that a limited number of the board members demonstrate an understanding of the role of the Board and have made the commitment to operate within the legal parameters of the board's defined responsibility." However it also states that actions of any board member reflects on all board members and we must take responsibility and appropriate action to ensure the board effectively fulfills its' role. Every board member must look over their own records and determine whether or not they did everything in their power as an individual board member to take appropriate action to ensure that "we as a board" fulfilled our role. I believe that I have done my best using the following the examples:

-Professional conduct

- January Board Retreat- invited Mark Elgart for SACS training so that we could start off right

-March Board Meeting- invited GSBA to conduct training in Parliamentary procedure

-Support for stronger ethics policy and voted for it (twice)

-Support for resolution of investigation of land deal for fiscal responsibility

-Voted for elimination of the Committee structure to prevent micromanagement and issues within committees

-Presented and developed the Effective Governance Plan, which included stronger policy, intense training and the Superintendent Search process (ask for a copy of the plan and see what it entails)when I realized that things were getting dangerously bad and asked Mark Elgart to evaluate it and sanction before the Board so that see how seriousness of this process

-Led the charge on elimination of Third Party email resolution (which failed for lack of majority vote)

- Constantly reminded board members of our fiscal responsibility during budgets

- Sole board member that abstained from voting on CEP AND voted both times to throw the bids out.

-Reported to Tax Commissioner and Chairman of the County Commission of potential violations of residency with board members (you may call them and ask them if I did)

-Led the charge for resolution for ethics legislation

This is just to name a few. The one question I had always second-guessed myself with was in regards to censuring board members for their actions because I never believed that a written public censure or restricting travel would change behavior. I felt like it would have the impact of a slap on the wrist and I was proven right this weekend. The SACS report was in fact a 25 page written reprimand of the board and one of our board members chose to deem it a "farce and a sham", despite the damage and impact a statement like that would have on our children. That was most telling to me of how effective written censure would have been. As to resigning, I have been praying about that for quite some time and I realize that I want to ensure that our ethics legislation is passed to protect future boards and make sure that this is never allowed to happen again and securing a permanent superintendent that will bring about an administration of true education reform in this district much like Dr. Beverly Hall was able to accomplish and finally to implement the recommendations of SACS for systemic evaluation, assessment and reform for compliance. Then I can resign and lead the charge to ask my colleagues to do the same so that we can leave as a legacy a system that is brand new which can create a rebirth for this county. This can be accomplished by September if we aren't distracted by outside forces. Until then I have a charge to keep.