

Executive Order No. 3-06

Education Advisory Task Force

WHEREAS, the School Reform Commission, operating pursuant to an historic partnership agreement between the Mayor and the Governor as well as a Declaration of Distress issued by the Commonwealth Secretary of Education, has now been responsible for the governance, management and operation of the School District of Philadelphia, and hence the education of our children, since January, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia and its citizens have an enormous stake in the success of the School Reform Commission's efforts; and

WHEREAS, a fair and objective assessment of the School District's progress should be performed by an independent group of professional educators, education managers, concerned citizens and other stakeholders in our public school system; and

WHEREAS, such an assessment should be a constructive one, acknowledging not only the goals yet to be achieved but also the substantial progress made by the School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John F. Street, by the powers vested in me under Section 4-100 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby ORDER as follows:

Section 1. Task Force Created

There is hereby created, in the Office of the Mayor, an Education Advisory Task Force.

Section 2. Composition of Task Force

The Task Force shall consist of no fewer than twenty and no more than thirty-five members, to be appointed by the Mayor, as follows:

- (a) Co-chair, to be designated by the Mayor.

(b) No fewer than 5 members shall be parents of children currently enrolled in a Philadelphia public school.

(c) No fewer than 5 members shall be affiliated with a university or a college, including at least two affiliated with an education department.

(d) No fewer than five (5) members shall be recognized business leaders in the Philadelphia area.

An individual member of the Task Force may satisfy more than one of the foregoing criteria.

Section 3. General Responsibility and Duty of the Task Force

The Task Force shall be charged with examining and reporting on School District performance, with a special focus on those areas with the most direct impact on student performance and achievement, to determine the areas where the District has been most successful and to determine those areas where further improvements are needed, and to make recommendations regarding needed improvements.

Section 4. Specific Responsibilities and Duties of the Task Force

Organized in such subcommittees as the Chair deems necessary and appropriate, and utilizing such consultants as the Task Force deems necessary and appropriate, the Task Force shall produce a report to the Mayor analyzing the School District's progress in the following six major areas:

(a) *Governance.* The report shall assess the effects of shared responsibility between the State and the City; the impact on accountability; assess the extent to which parents and community leaders are concerned about the need for local control; and identify benchmarks that should be achieved to return the District to local control.

(b) *Financial and structural stability.* The report shall assess the adequacy of the District's operating and capital funding for both the near

and long term if it is to continue its progress and provide Philadelphia students with an education that will allow them to be prepared and competitive in the 21st century.

(c) *School reform models.* The report shall assess and compare the degree of success of the District's different reform models, including, but not limited to, education management organizations, charter schools, public private partnerships, "comprehensives," K-8 schools, and small high schools.

(d) *Human capital.* The report shall assess improvements in the quality of teachers and teaching, whether the performance and capabilities of principals and administrators have improved, what improvements are still needed.

(e) *School safety and climate.* The report shall assess whether schools are providing a safe environment for children conducive to learning; whether children and parents perceive their school environment as safe; and identify best practices that have emerged.

(f) *Community Partnership and Engagement.* The report shall evaluate the extent to which students, parents, and community leaders are supportive of the District's education program.

Section 5. *Timing and Deliverables*

No later than January 17, 2007, in addition to such interim or preliminary reports as the Task Force deems advisable, the Task Force shall transmit to the Mayor, with a copy to the President of City Council, a Report and Recommendations on Progress and School Reform in the School District of Philadelphia.

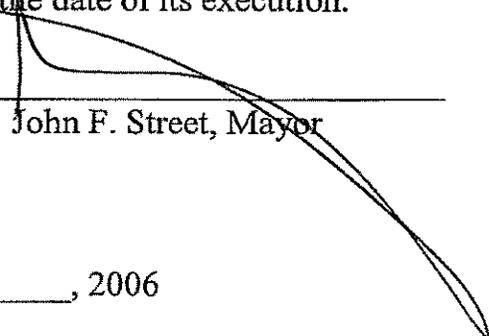
Section 6. *Funding and Staffing*

The Task Force shall be authorized to spend appropriations designated for the Mayor's Office, and shall hire and appoint such staff as may be necessary to perform its responsibilities. Wherever possible, the Task Force shall utilize existing personnel in existing departments, and all department

heads are hereby directed to provide the fullest and most complete cooperation and assistance to the Task Force to aid in the performance of its duties.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This order shall take ~~effect immediately from the~~ date of its execution.



John F. Street, Mayor

9/28/06

Date

Issued: _____, 2006