

In Defense of Principal Kermit Carolina

The discipline imposed on Kermit Carolina comes as no surprise to us. We have stated from the beginning that this investigation was orchestrated by John DeStefano because of Mr. Carolina refusal to support his re-election bid.

We have stated from the beginning that this investigation was a witch hunt led by Attorney Floyd Dugas a financial supporter of the Mayor's re-election campaign who was clearly bias in his role as an investigator.

Clearly we are not surprised by the way this matter has been handled by the superintendent, who once again has proven his willingness to follow orders from his political master. As far as we are concerned not one person should have been disciplined based on this sham investigation.

The discipline imposed was done for one reason and one reason only – to ensure that the Mayor's blunder in going after Principal Carolina for political reasons was not exposed.

We strongly believe if we did not hold onto the card with the threatening note written by John DeStefano and sent to Principal Carolina last September, Principal Carolina would have been placed on administrative leave immediately following the Emergency Board meeting.

If the charges were so serious – why did it take 8 months to investigate the claim?

If the charges were so serious why did Dr. Mayo assume the role as lead investigator months after the initial allegations were already investigated and the investigation already completed?

This investigation was a joke. In fact, the allegations surrounding the courses taken at Riverside clearly shows that Dr. Mayo doesn't even know what goes on in his own District. Specifically speaking – at our meeting with Dr. Mayo we presented the master course list which clearly shows that all high schools in the District offer the same courses. So the allegation regarding changing a basic level course to a college level course could not have happened because there are no basic level courses for regular education students in the District.

The meeting with Dr. Mayo and the Chief Operations Officer for the District –Will Clark - was obviously a Kangaroo Court. They already had their minds made up and merely allowed us to go through the formalities to give the appearance that they were interested in what we had to say. Clearly, they were not.

Let me be clear – we are not accepting any discipline imposed by the District. We are going to the mat! The Mayor has played bully ball for far too long and someone has to stand up to him. They have intimidated individuals to the point where there hardly any political dissent whatsoever in this city. We are tired of this and we will fight to the bitter end to clear Principal Carolina's good name.

Finally we find it hypocritical that the Mayor with the support of the superintendent can engage in all kinds of questionable practices including the District's well known patronage system; the coercing of District employees to contribute to Mayor's election campaigns; the Magnet School Lottery system, which we believe should be thoroughly investigated as should the reports made to the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement Board regarding certified teachers and their assignments in the District; yet they want to hold Mr. Carolina's feet to the fire regarding flimsy allegations at his school.

If Dr. Mayo was held accountable for all that is wrong with this District he should have been fired as superintendent a long time ago. But because he's useful as a political hack for the Mayor's political ambitions he conveniently remains as the Mayor's faithful servant in the Black community. If the Mayor and Dr. Mayo want a fight they will get one. We are not backing down one iota.

I know this about Mr. Carolina – as one of my dearest friends – if he made a mistake he would be the first to take his medicine and apologize. That is not the case here. Never has Principal Carolina been accused of cheating or have his integrity called into question.

Mr. Carolina is not accepting this discipline or responsibility because he did nothing wrong. Further for him to accept responsibility is to allow the Mayor to once again maneuver his way around a conflict that he started due to his own vindictive nature. We will not accept any deal that will accommodate John DeStefano. He thinks by disciplining Kermit Carolina it vindicates him. It does not.

It does however demonstrate the abuse of power on the part of his office and that of the superintendent. But their power does not frighten us. Because we believe in a higher power- one that is rooted in TRUTH! And we stand with that power.

And the truth of the matter is this: Neither the Mayor or Dr. Mayo believes in Kids First. In this District it's "The Mayor's First" and everyone else is tied for second. Well that ends today!