



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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February 28, 2011

TO: New Orleans Legislative Delegation
New Orleans City Council
Orleans Parish School Board
Recovery School District Employees
New Orleans Charter School Operators and Leaders

FROM: Paul G. Pastorek
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Appointment of Recovery School District Liaison

As many of you know, Superintendent Paul Vallas will be leaving the Recovery School District (RSD) at the end of the school year. Superintendent Vallas has done an amazing job at great personal sacrifice for the benefit of New Orleans children for nearly four years (more on that later). He continues to have my full faith and confidence and will continue to serve the RSD as its Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer. However, as Superintendent Vallas prepares for the transition ahead, I feel it is important to have a liaison to provide support to the RSD from my office. Additionally, I feel it is important to have someone who can troubleshoot issues that may come up from time to time as we near this transition period.

Consequently, effective Monday, February 28, 2011, I am appointing Patrick Dobard as my personal Liaison to the RSD. I expect that if you or your constituents have any concerns that cannot be worked out with Superintendent Vallas or RSD staff in the ordinary course, you will feel free to contact Mr. Dobard directly.

Mr. Dobard will be detailed to New Orleans for the next several months as needed but will continue to serve as the Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). He has served in that post for nearly three years, having served most immediately as my Confidential Assistant. In 2007, when Superintendent Vallas came to New Orleans, Mr. Dobard assisted in our efforts to bring in a new leadership team, worked diligently to address community concerns, served as a main point of contact for the Legislative Delegation, and led efforts to install humane restrooms and kitchens that served hot food in schools as we sought to open numerous schools in the City.

Given these and other experiences in the LDOE, I have asked him to devote his full time and attention to New Orleans to support the RSD staff in organizing and facilitating the needs of the community as related to our schools.

Mr. Dobard will represent the LDOE in all matters regarding the RSD, and I ask that you contact him for any issues, suggestions, or concerns. He will handle these matters appropriately on my behalf. If for any reason this does not address your needs, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Mr. Dobard may be reached at 225-505-3504 or by email at patrick.dobard@la.gov.

I look forward to building on the momentum we have already established within the City and the RSD as we strive to educate children at an even faster pace and higher level.

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