



Kilgore For School Board

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News and Views: Financial Accountability on DPS Bonds Approved by Voters: 1860 Lincoln St.

September 3, 2013

Dear Voter,

Last November 6th, Denver voters approved a \$466 bond measure for the Denver Public Schools. A month later, Superintendent Boasberg announced the purchase of 1860 Lincoln Street for the Emily Griffith Technical College, the Downtown Denver Expeditionary School (DDES), and administration, citing the bond as the source of funds. However, with the exception of a nominal amount of funds for administration building maintenance, there were no funds in the bond for a new administration building.

As a member of the Citizen's Planning and Advisory Committee that assisted the district in developing the bond for consideration by the School Board and, ultimately, the voters, I was very concerned that this purchase, as proposed, was inconsistent with what DPS represented to the voters and that this, occurring in the first month after passage, could shatter the trust between DPS and Denver's voters.

Using publically available information, I performed an independent analysis of the transaction. My calculations showed that, in fact, \$9 million was diverted from bond funds intended for the Emily Griffith Technical College with over \$5 million going to the administration and smaller amounts benefiting the DDES and the Contemporary Learning Academy. Recognizing that I was working with limited information, I provided my analysis to district staff to verify my assumptions and analysis. Receiving no further information, I presented my findings to the Board on December 14, 2012. On December 20, the Board, with 4 out of 7 votes, approved the transaction without addressing the diversion of bond money contrary to the intent of the voters. Which promises to our students and voters will be broken because of this diversion of funds?

Now I serve on the Bond oversight committee and have continued to raise this question without any response from the administration. This is unacceptable. Our financial transactions should be transparent and our administration should be held accountable. Our board of education is not independent from the administration and does not hold the administration accountable.

Who loses? Voters, taxpayers, and most importantly, our families and children. We need independent-minded board members who will ask the right questions and not move forward until they get answers.

In the short time my opponent has been on the board, he has not shown any inclination to ask the hard questions. And why should he? He was recruited by the administration and his campaign is being supported by the same corporate interests and outside money that advocate for privatizing the Denver Public Schools.

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Page 2

That is why I am asking for your support. Families, students, and the community need a voice on the board. I will be that voice.

Sincerely,

Roger Kilgore
DPS Board Candidate District 4