

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



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Councilmember At-Large

August 8, 2008

Chairperson Marsha Warden and Members
Metropolitan Board of Public Education
2601 Bransford Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Re: Funding for Implementation of Redistricting Plan

Dear Chairperson Warden and Members:

I believe that as elected officials we owe it to our constituents to be open and honest, and to make every effort to fulfill promises we make to the public. The discussions surrounding the recently-adopted Student Assignment Plan have been filled with promises by certain Board of Education members as justification for supporting the plan. As the term for two current Board of Education members comes to an end, I feel it is important that the sitting Board take the necessary action to ensure that these promises are fulfilled.

A key aspect of the Student Assignment Plan that was used to justify the adoption of the plan centered around \$6 million of additional resources for the Pearl-Cohn cluster. According to the plan, these additional funds are to be used to reduce the student-teacher ratio, add advanced placement classes, increase the number of guidance counselors, purchase technology equipment, and provide differentiated pay for teachers. It is my understanding that neither state law nor the Metropolitan Charter allows the Metropolitan Council to "earmark" funds for specific projects or programs to be implemented by the Board of Education. Further, it is my understanding that state law requires that all appropriations from the schools reserve fund be approved by the Board of Education prior to Council action. Thus, only the Board of Education can request the Council to appropriate funds out of the schools unappropriated fund balance to be used to implement the Student Assignment Plan.

Therefore, I am respectfully requesting that the Board of Education vote at its August 12, 2008 meeting to request the Metropolitan Council to appropriate \$6 million from the schools unappropriated fund balance for implementation of the Student Assignment Plan. I am further requesting that if and when these funds are

