

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community calls for the resignation of Providence Schools Superintendent's Senior Advisor
Community calls the Providence Delegation to end the state takeover of Providence Public Schools

Date: 11/28/22

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Organization: Community First Coalition

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Today, the community of Providence - families, students, legislators, community organizations, and other community members - are expressing our concerns regarding issues in the Providence Public Schools, as well as the state intervention in the district. The community has received numerous complaints from employees within the school department. The first being reports of violation of Federal Laws pertaining to student grading policies. Since then, complaints of retaliation, discrimination, racism, low morale, and intimidation tactics to name a few, are at an all-time high. The Providence School Board received an anonymous letter from eight high-level administrators describing professional misconduct of the Superintendent's Senior Advisor. After a review of the reports, it has been determined that the trust of our Executive leaders has been broken. We, the community, are convinced the overall intervention and the factual conditions of PPSD while under the takeover, has exasperated the already depleted morale of our school community.

The Senior Advisor specifically, has been accused of such retaliation, discrimination, racism, and intimidation tactics. In 2017, a 40-page civil rights lawsuit was also filed against this Senior Advisor. These complaints from a previous employer mirror the complaints administrators are experiencing today. Although the lawsuit was settled out of court in 2019, a pattern of behavior has continued, directly resulting in the conflicts our district continues to face. Throughout the state intervention, we have seen poor hiring practices, constant and consistent negative reporting, and a lack of community involvement in our school district. Most importantly, we have also seen a decrease in RICAS and SAT scores. Unfortunately, the Commissioner continues to use the Crowley Act to prevent input and involvement from legislators, school board members, parents, students, and community members, resulting in the district performing at an all-time low. This takeover has FAILED to accomplish what it was set out to do in November 2019.

Due to the poor performance of the state intervention, and recent allegations against the Superintendent's Senior Advisor, the community will be holding a **press conference** and will address the following:

- **Immediate resignation of Providence Public Schools Senior Advisor**
- **Providence Delegation to bring an end to the Providence Public Schools State Intervention beginning September of 2023**
- **Removal of powers for the RI State Education Commissioner under the Providence takeover, upon return to legislative session in January of 2023**
- **A special Senate Oversight Committee hearing to discuss the overall status of the takeover and recent allegations into the Providence Superintendent's Senior Advisor**
- **An independent investigation regarding potential graduation inflation occurring in PPSD**
- **An independent audit of the metrics/outcomes of the takeover**

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Details for Press Conference

When: Tuesday November 29th, at 8AM

Location: 797 Westminster Street, Providence RI, 02903

Attending:

Pilar Mccloud - CEO and Founder of A Sweet Creation Youth Organization

Tiara Mack - Rhode Island State Senator

Gerard Catala - President Elect of the NAACP

Gary Dantzler - RI Executive Director of BLM

Dwayne Keys - Providence Resident and Southside Community Advocate

Angel Lopez - Community Organizer

Roberto Gonzalez - Founder of Steam Box

Gloria Johnson - Community Organizer and Longtime Providence Resident
