

January 29, 2018

Attention:

Honorable James Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia
Otis Hackney, Mayor's Office of Education
School Board Nominating Panel Members
Prospective School Board Members
Members of the Chamber of Commerce
Philadelphia Education Fund Staff, Board and Supporters
Read by 4th Campaign Staff, Partners, and Supporters

Re: Roadmap for Growth: Exploring Business Engagement in Philadelphia's Schools

A "Roadmap for Growth" that excludes parents, teachers and community members is illegitimate. Only Chamber of Commerce affiliates were able to purchase the \$35 tickets required to attend tonight's event. As such, it is our duty to protest this event and insist on local control that honors the will of the people.

- School governance must be transparent.
- Schools are not charities.
- Teachers come before technology.
- Children are not human capital.
- Education is not workforce development.

Our demands are as follows:

1. No private "stakeholders" who have financial dealings with the Philadelphia public school system will sit on any policy boards or committees. The voices and needs of students, teachers, and parents must take precedence over those of private interests, including corporations and non-profit organizations.
2. No public official or employee of the school system or school board may be present at any closed-door meetings where public education business or policies are discussed. Public education policy and business will NOT be developed in any venue that restricts public access. All provisions of the open meeting laws will apply: nothing about us without us.
3. Philadelphia's corporations and non-profits are obligated to pay their fair of taxes and PILOTs and vigorously advocate for the full public funding that is needed to make our neighborhood schools whole.
4. Establish a clear public commitment to early literacy by reducing class size, restoring school libraries with librarians, and providing reading specialists to all schools. Refuse technological solutions, like Waterford UPSTART, and adaptive online learning systems that isolate and data-mine children.
5. The City of Philadelphia must take a public stand against the use of social impact finance "solutions" including Pay for Success contracts and social impact bonds to fund early childhood education, K12 education and workforce development. Public schools should be funded with PUBLIC dollars, not philanthropy or venture capital.

We request the Mayor's Office of Education issue a public response to the above demands by February 9, 2018.

Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools: <https://appsphilly.net>
Caucus of Working Educators: <http://www.workingeducators.org>
Wrench In The Gears: <https://wrenchinthegears.com>