



## IN REACH, INC.

*Preparing Students for  
College, Work and Life*

# REVEALED!

Community-based organizations, educators, county officials and others helping young people pursue and achieve excellence in Prince George's County, Maryland

## In Search of Leadership

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**J**ust in time for the November 7th election where voters will be selecting several leaders including a new Prince George's County Board of Education (BOE), this issue of **RE-VEALED!** focuses on educational leadership. Read about where BOE candidates stand on the issues and how they intend to work with new CEO Dr. John Deasy if elected (pages 3-7).

As an organizational leader and parent, I am eager to see how the work of Dr. Deasy will affect our schools and communities. It is encouraging to see that he has a plan (see page 2) and is already taking steps toward improving the system. For example, the five percent payroll increase for educators as well as, after many years, an increase for substitute teachers, and creating the Parent Liaison position for all schools.

There is still much work to be done, however. Our principals, CEO and Board of Education must be held accountable for the decisions they make on behalf of our children. Of course, there is still the issue of the High School Assessment and adequately preparing students "before they fail" for the examination and the issue of schools not meeting the Annual Yearly Progress requirements. There are eighty four schools that have been identified for improvement.

Without effective leadership, the Prince George's County Public School System will not thrive, but simply maintain. It is important that we get involved anyway we can to help our students become healthy, productive, engaged and prepared individuals. Leadership, just as education, is not a 9-5 job.

Toni A. Smith, Founder and President

# CONNECTION



Dr. John E. Deasy, Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public School System, has outlined **Five Core Beliefs** around which he has framed his plan to advance the school system's mission to ensure that all students acquire knowledge and develop skills and understandings that will enable them to become productive citizens and lifelong learners in a technological, diverse society.

Below are the **Five Core Beliefs**. The full Plan of Action can be downloaded from the Prince George's County Public Schools Website, [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org).

- Children ARE our business—and THEY come first
- Parents are our partners
- Victory is in the classroom
- Continuous improvement in teaching, leadership and accountability is the key to our success
- EVERY member of this community shares the responsibility for successful schools

**On November 7<sup>th</sup>, residents of Prince George's County will vote for individuals to fill nine Board of Education seats, four at-large and five district. There will be at least eighteen names on the ballot.**

After the primary election in September, **In Reach** asked each of the remaining candidates to respond to the following three questions. On the next several pages are responses from some of those candidates.

1. *Dr. Deasy has outlined his strategy for improving the school system in Five Core Beliefs. While all five are unquestionably important, is there one that reflects your passion for serving more than the others? If so, which one and why?*
2. *What motivated you to seek a seat on the Board of Education?*
3. *Many boards require representation that reflect expertise in a particular field i.e. a medical board would consist of physicians, health professionals and individuals in allied fields. How has your background prepared you to lead an educational system?*

## DONNA HATHAWAY BECK, AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

1. I agree, all Five Core Beliefs are unquestionably important, however Core Belief #2, "Parents are our partners" reflects my passion for serving. Belief #2 and Belief #5, ("EVERY member of this community shares the responsibility for successful schools"), combined, better describe my concept of service because we must all partner to improve our system in a united effort.

As the parent of four children (now 21, 22, 24 and 26) I have seen, firsthand, the benefits of my involvement in their education. Children assign value to how their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc., spend their time. It is my belief that children who are exposed to parents who partner with schools will, in turn, become the parents who partner with their own children's schools. My volunteer commitment to education advocacy is my form of behavior modeling for the next generation of parents.

2. I began considering my role with the newly elected Board of Education about two years ago while advocating in Annapolis for the "9-district" form of representation. As a long-term 'Board Watcher', I felt I might be more useful to our system continuing to monitor the process from the audience. Parents and other advocates must actively – and sometimes aggressively – participate in an oversight role to hold our Board Members and superintendent accountable for their words and deeds.

I was, in many ways, drafted to seek a seat on the Board of Education by advocate colleagues and elected officials that I have worked closely with over the years. Even after I filed, I had some reservations about leaving my 'oversight' role; it is difficult to leave what is comfortable and what has provided some level of benefit for kids. I was 'content'. However, a recent sermon, conveyed the message that we must surrender complacency and accept challenges if we are to move ourselves and our community forward. I am on that mission, with that motivation, to use the skills I have acquired in almost two decades of advocacy work.

3. Much like physicians attend medical school for years to develop their particular expertise, I spent years specializing in the field of parent advocacy directly with the Prince George's County public school system.

I attended all Board of Education meetings for nine consecutive years (Nov 1996 - Nov 2003) and have regularly attended meetings thereafter. In addition, I attended meetings of the Management Oversight Panel for four years (1998-2002); County Council meetings and public hearings; CIP and operating budget committee meetings, work sessions and public hearings, among others.

## JEANA JACOBS, AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

1. We cannot and must not accept second-rate, substandard, and mediocre performance from educators, leaders, parents, and elected officials (to include the Board of Education), and expect achievement at the highest level.

"Continuous improvement in teaching, **leadership and accountability is the key to our success.**" This "core belief" means to me that we must raise the bar. We have a fundamental responsibility to provide students with comprehensive academic, vocational/technological and social skills that will prepare them to successfully integrate into society as productive, self-reliant adults. The Board of Education must develop and ensure implementation of policies related to academics, codes of conduct, personnel/labor matters, and fiscal accountability to guarantee that we are in sync with modern practices.

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2. As the School Board's Hearing Examiner, I have had the opportunity to see first hand some of the challenges faced by parents, school administrators, teachers, and students related to safety within our schools. I have had the overwhelming task of balancing the educational needs of the individual student who has been accused of breaching the safety of the school, with overall security concerns within our school system. *This responsibility has been one of the motivating forces in my decision to run for this office.* In addition, I have worked in the field of Corrections for the past 17 years and I firmly believe that society must do more to prepare individuals to be productive citizens and that responsibility begins with the educational system. As the first person in my family to obtain degrees at the Bachelors and Doctorate level, I appreciate the significance of role models and I understand that education is crucial for survival in our society.
3. The Board of Education, in my opinion, must consist of leaders who have demonstrated knowledge, expertise, and experience in education! I strongly encourage citizens to take a very detailed look at the educational attainment of candidates along *with* direct experience in the field. I come not only as one who understand the sacrifice and discipline required to attain higher educational degrees, but one who has practical experience as well.

### **ROSALIND JOHNSON, DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE**

1. I taught successfully in the Prince George's County School System for 35 years because I understood the changing needs of children and the world around them. I served as the President of the Prince George's County Federation of Teachers for 12 years and held other officer positions for more than 18 additional years within that professional organization. I served the American Federation of Teachers, the Maryland Federation of Teachers and Prince George's County Schools as a teacher trainer in the area of using learning styles and teaching styles to create classroom success for students.

In order to achieve our goals, the children must have **highly skilled teachers and administrators**. Today, too many teachers are struggling in the classroom and they are leaving the teaching profession. This serious problem, not only exists in Prince George's County, but also across the nation. Thus, we must make teachers and administrators real decision makers in how we deliver instruction to children. Teachers and administrators must **continually be in-serviced** and evaluated to ensure that they have the cutting edge skills that are needed to raise the performance level of our students. They cannot do this alone. They must have continuous parental involvement in the lives of the children that attend our schools. Teachers and administrators must be valued for what they do. In these ways, teacher and administrator retention will improve and grow.

2. My motivation to seek a seat on the Board of Education is rooted within the answer to question #1 and my essential belief that Prince Georgians are ready to make the hard decisions and do the hard work to make our schools better.
3. As stated, I worked within the Prince George's County Public Schools since 1968. I am a graduate of the Prince George's County Schools. I have lived in this county since 1954 (age 9). I have seen all of the changes that have taken place: segregation, desegregation, magnet schools, massive development; rise of economic prosperity; decline in test scores, teacher and administrator flight and sadly, hopelessness. Through all of that, I have seen countless success stories in student achievement and I have played a role in students' successes. I am a member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Redevelopment Authority. I have been president of my community association. I founded a Child Support Organization. I am the Liaison to the Lazarus Foundation whose mission it is to provide computer systems to disadvantaged students. Lastly, I know that the resources are here. I know that we can do better. I am committed to making a difference.

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## **AMBER WALLER, DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE**

1. "Every member of this community shares the responsibility for successful schools."

I would pick this particular statement because it encompasses the other four beliefs stated. When I think of community, I think of students, parents, teachers, community and business leaders, elected officials, church and civic organizations. When these groups of persons diligently seek and take an active part in the success of our schools and ensure that all students receive a quality education, it takes care of the other beliefs that Dr. Deasy has stated.

2. My motivation for seeking a seat on the Board of Education is to be an effective voice for the students, parents and teachers in Prince George's County.

Effective, concerned, caring and always mindful of ensuring that the current needs of the students are first and foremost by providing a qualitative education for all that enter the system. I am a parent of a very successful Prince George's County public education student who is now matriculating at Morgan State University. Parents must be encouraged to participate and become actively involved in the learning process of their children at a very young age and must continue through high school and even college.

It's imperative that the schools be "parent friendly" and it is vital in the growth and development of the children, that parents and teachers know and be fully aware that the standards of the home and school are getting the attention as needed.

3. My background has prepared me to lead an education system because I firmly believe that getting a quality education is not an option, but a requirement. My many years of experience being employed in higher education and the corporate world required educational preparation, accountability, productivity and responsibility for the tasks, which were assigned to my charge.

Also, as a result of my experience I believe the focus should be on change while preparing students for college, work and life. I also feel that we need to revisit and ensure that students have an option to participate in technical and vocational educational instruction and internships. All students should have an education to prepare them for a workforce so that they will be able to provide for themselves and family if they choose whether it be academically or vocationally.

## **HEATHER ILIFF, DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE**

1. Schools are only as good as the community demands them to be. If we are to succeed in becoming a national leader in closing the achievement gap, we must take seriously the Core Belief that "EVERY member of this community shares the responsibility for successful schools." As the primary policy-making body that is accountable to the voters and the community, the Board of Education sets the tone and the expectations for parent and community engagement in education. For too long, the community in Prince George's County has not been fully invited into the educational process – and some communities feel they have been betrayed by the public education system. In order to get the help from the community that we need, the Board must fully engage and listen to the community and find many more meaningful ways for the community to be involved.

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2. I have been committed to education nearly all my life – as a youth, I served as the student member of the Board in Anne Arundel County. I am passionate about education because it is the foundation of healthy communities, a prosperous economy, and a vibrant democracy.

When I became a parent and my daughter started public schools in Prince George’s County, I immediately sought ways to become more involved. Our personal experience in the schools has been very positive, despite many negative rumors I heard prior to going in. My sense is, this is a school system poised for major positive changes. We now have a \$1.5 billion operating budget, a new CEO with a strong vision, and the potential for strong leadership on the newly elected Board of Education. If we do everything right – and that is a big “if” – we can become a national leader in closing the achievement gap. Strong leadership on the board is essential - I hope to play a positive role in making our Board of Education an effective policy-making body that is fully accountable to the community, and that is not self-absorbed by in-fighting and politics.

3. In addition to being an involved parent, I have international expertise in education reform, and a track record of local activism. Currently, I serve as Chair of the Education Advisory Committee in College Park, MD. I have organized numerous local forums on education and served as President of the Berwyn District Civic Association. Currently, I am the Deputy Director for Education at the Alliance for Nonprofit Management. Prior to that, I worked overseas for nearly a decade on education policy and reform in East-Central Europe where I gained experience in comparative education systems and large-scale change management.

I am a trained facilitator with experience in strategic planning, K-12 education policy, and adult learning, all of which will serve me well as a Board Member. I hold a bachelors degree in International Studies from The American University and a Masters in Political Science from the Central European University (accredited by University of the State of New York).

## **OWEN JOHNSON, DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE**

1. Having been a classroom teacher for over 20 years, I know where the victory is – it is in the classroom. What happens in millions of classrooms each day across Prince George’s County, across Maryland, across the United States, and across the world is what makes the difference – what has always made the difference – to innumerable students who will grow up or have grown up to be the adults of our many diverse cultures and societies. It’s truly what happens in the classroom.

If we as a system are to continue the growth and improvement that has always been a part of Prince George’s County even though we constantly are being faced with new challenges, we must look to the classroom teacher and what happens in that classroom for the answers. To that end, the school system must concentrate on putting the most qualified, the most dedicated, the most well prepared teachers into our classrooms and to provide them consistently with the most effective leadership and staff development possible. Victory truly is in the classroom.

2. My entire life has been one dedicated to the service of others, verified by my 32 years dedicated to the education of children in Prince George’s County, by my 20 years in the National Guard in protection of our country, by my membership in and involvement with numerous community organizations and causes. However, one experience in my life above all others impressed upon me the importance and necessity of providing for the children in our county a quality and consistent education, an endeavor of which I feel strongly I must continue to be a part. That experience was my having served in South America in the Peace Corps and having worked with so many of our

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international students and teachers.

The purpose of our public school system is to provide for all an education based in equity, in completeness, in success; the Board of Education is charged with assuring just that. I want to be a part of that assurance. I have lived in Prince George's County all my life; I'm not going anywhere. I believe that I have the possibility of living for about twenty more years and I want to make sure that those years are spent doing what I've always enjoyed doing, what I've always felt was what I was destined to do – to educate the children of Prince George's County. Membership on the Board of Education will allow me to participate in that endeavor in a manner unique from my previous experiences.

3. I guess the question might be "How has your background NOT prepared you to lead an educational system?" Having been a lifelong resident of Brandywine, Maryland, I have had the opportunity to be part of the many wonderful, often challenging, changes that have occurred in our county and in its school system.

In addition, my son Owen attended Prince George's schools for his entire educational career during which time I was an active participant in many parent groups and organizations. I know our school system like few other do – from the inside and from the outside, from the beginning to the present, from the perspective of a parent as well as an educator, as a taxpayer and as an employee. How has my background NOT prepared me to serve as a member of the School Board?

### **KATIE COSTELLO, DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE**

1. While they are all very important concepts, the concept that most closely reflects the role of a Board of Education Member is number 4, **continuous improvement in teaching, leadership and accountability**. Because the Board's function is oversight, if the Board performs its duties well, then children will come first, parents will be partners and the community will be involved in the success of the school system. But it is essential that the Board provide the necessary leadership and accountability to ensure that the system is constantly improving.
2. Our children are our most precious resource. How they are educated will determine their personal success and our success as a society. There cannot be a more important public service job than the care and education of children. Because I have a mature perspective on public service, I recognize this as an opportunity to serve rather than be served. If elected, I will take a team approach and be inclusive of all stakeholders in the school system, will research issues thoroughly and will seek parent, community and expert advice. I will serve with integrity and dedication. I strongly believe that our students deserve the best education available, for their own personal success and for the betterment of our community and our future. Our teachers deserve to be treated with respect and rewarded for the challenging work that they do. Our citizens deserve a public school system that is effective, efficient and accountable.
3. My training as an attorney, including the study of local tax issues and equality of education issues, my work experience with multiple layers of government and local elected officials, with mediation, financial analysis and personnel matters, and my personal interaction with students as a volunteer have made me well-suited to this challenge.

# Parent's Perspective

**Name:** Shellie M. Monroe

**Section of county I live in:** Greenbelt

**Where I grew up/went to school:** The first eight years of my life were spent in Upper Marlboro and I attended Riverdale Baptist Academy. My family then moved to Temple Hills where I attended Prince George's County Public Schools (Middleton Valley Academy, Roger B. Taney Middle School (now known as Thurgood Marshall Middle School) and Crossland High School. Afterwards, I studied Business Management at Prince George's Community College and Morgan State University.

**# of children I have and their ages:** One thirteen-year-old daughter (will be fourteen on October 31) who just started her first year of high school at Eleanor Roosevelt (we moved to Greenbelt from Temple Hills so that she could attend Eleanor Roosevelt).

**My activity with my child's school and in what capacity:** Currently, I serve as the PTSA Secretary at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. During the past two school years I served as the PTA President at Thurgood Marshall Middle School. For two of the three years that my daughter attended Middleton Valley Academy, I served as the PTA Secretary.

**Please feel free to add anything else you want readers to know:** Although I serve as the PTSA Secretary at Eleanor Roosevelt, I am an education advocate more than anything else. My passion is educating parents on how the school system works and empowering them to serve as their child's advocate. I am constantly learning and take great joy in sharing my knowledge and awareness with others.

**1. What do you believe are the strengths, if any, of the current BOE?**

The current BOE has made our school system more financially stable and eliminated the budget deficit.

**2. What three critical changes would you like to see the new BOE make?**

While there are certainly more than three critical changes that I would like to see the new BOE make, I will limit my response to three. In no particular order, they are:

- Ensure that there is impartiality amongst the schools when establishing the budgets and allocating other resources.
  - Re-establish and rebuild trust amongst the community.
  - Help set policies that further support high quality teacher recruitment and retention.
- 3. Do you think CEO Dr. Deasy's Five Core Beliefs will help bring about the change that will establish the PGCPS system as a model system in the state?**

Yes, I think that Dr. Deasy's Five Core Beliefs will help bring about the changes that will establish the PGCPS system as a model system in the state.

Two things will be key to the overall success of the Five Core Beliefs. First, it will take all of the stakeholders buying in and demonstrating these Five Core Beliefs. Second, there is accountability. Whenever any of the stakeholders do not uphold these Five Core Beliefs, some type of corrective action should take place. All of the stakeholders need to recognize that we are a vital part of the success equation for our school system.

**4. How do you feel about the upcoming BOE elections and the (remaining) candidates?**

I am excited by the mere fact that Prince George's County has a new CEO and will soon have a new BOE and am eager to see what the future holds. I must say, I was surprised by some of the results of the Primaries. Just like the original ballot included some very strong and weak candidates; so does the final ballot. I am eagerly awaiting the results of the upcoming November General Elections!

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**5. I recently attended a forum for school Districts 2 & 3 Board of Education candidates and one of the candidates from District 3 spoke about providing “parental guidance” in response to the lack of parental involvement. What do you think should be the role of parents in the educational careers of their children? Do you think the lack of “parental guidance” is the missing ingredient in the improvement of our schools? Why/Why not?**

I think the role of parents in the educational careers of their children should be one of an advocate. I think the first step is for parents to become educated. I know that parents are busy. However, we have to focus on our children and **MAKE** the time to attend parent/teacher conferences, PTA meetings, public forums on education, read various periodicals to stay abreast of education news, etc.

Parents need to know exactly what the requirements are for obtaining a high school diploma. Many of our parents still don't know about HSA, Student Service Learning hours, etc. Parents need to become more assertive and take a more active role in the educational careers of their children. Many of our parents blindly trust educators, guidance counselors, politicians, etc. to make decisions and take actions that are in the best interest of their children. They are allowing these individuals to play the primary role in the educational careers of their children. **THIS INSANITY MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY!**

Another way that parents can participate in the educational careers of their children is to lead by example. Many of our students don't read because they don't see anyone at home reading. Many of our students don't think that education is important because no one at home is impressing upon them that education is the key to success.

I think that the lack of “parental guidance” is **one** of the missing ingredients in the improvement of our schools. I believe that the school system needs to do a better job of reaching out to parents, keeping them in the loop and abreast of what's going on by disseminating more information and doing so in a more timely and effective manner, maintaining more open lines of communication, being more parent-friendly, conducting more interactive workshops for parents, etc. However, another missing ingredient in the improvement of our schools is parent and community involvement. As I previously mentioned, we have to **MAKE** the time and get involved in education. We also have to become more assertive in our quest for knowledge and information.

**6. Where does community fit into the success equation of our schools (i.e. active PTA's, assistance from community and faith-based organizations, local businesses, etc)?**

The community is a critical piece to the success equation of our schools. All of our school's need the participation of its parents, guardians, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, churches, businesses – we need **EVERYONE** to become involved in at least one school. There is entirely too much work to do for anyone to think that he/she has nothing to contribute. Whatever you are good at; take that skill and share it with a school. I think that if we had more parent and community involvement we would begin to see signs of more successful schools and a more successful school system.

# OFFICIALLY SPEAKING



**Beatrice P. Tignor, Ed.D.**  
Chair, Board of Education

Beatrice P. Tignor, was appointed as a member and Chair to the Prince George's County Board of Education by former Maryland State Governor Parris N. Glendening and former County Executive Wayne K. Curry on June 1, 2002.

Dr. Tignor is currently the Director of the Montgomery County Office of Procurement, is a graduate of George Washington University, and has worked as an elementary classroom teacher, a professor in higher education, and a senator and delegate in the Maryland General Assembly.

Dr. Tignor's commitment to her profession and her community has earned her many service awards including Educator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, a Presidential Award, Prince Georgian of the Year, an award from Soroptimist, and the Seagram's National Award for Meritorious Service to name just a few.

**I**n mid summer, I sat down to converse with Dr. Tignor about her thoughts and hopes for the future Board of Education as well as the accomplishments and challenges faced by the outgoing board.

## **What has been the Board's greatest success?**

There have been many successes.

We have been able to decrease the \$80 million budget deficit and will leave the new Board with a \$60 million surplus, the first in four years. Certainly the talent of this board knew what needed to be done and handled money appropriately. We have also been able to raise test scores incrementally, not shooting to the top but a steady progression. If ranked by progress (on test scores) Prince George's County would be ranked #1.

## **What would you have liked to have done better as the chair of the Board?**

I would have liked to have had more time for community involvement—engaging parents, businesses and the community. I would have liked to spend more time helping teachers to understand the value of true parental involvement.

## **What are your thoughts about parental engagement? Do you see this as the missing link in the improvement of the school system?**

I see parental involvement as a link, not the missing link but a link. It exists but not to the capacity that is needed. Many talk about parental involvement but do not know what it means. It's not just coming in to help a teacher in the classroom. It really does take a village. I think we have forgotten about our roles in the community and that we need everyone.

## **What is your vision and hope for the future Board of Education?**

My vision and greatest hopes are that they are team players and engage in the role that a Board of Education is supposed to. I hope that they do not try to micro manage and that they do what a Board is suppose to do in the areas of making policy decisions and in dealing with board issues, and also that they hold the CEO accountable.

## **What do you believe are the top three qualities of an educational leader?**

1. That s/he is an instructional leader not a building manager.
2. That his/her effective communications includes active listening.
3. That s/he is not afraid of a challenge and see challenges as an opportunity.



# In Our Schools

**Mr. Kenneth Calvin**

Principal, Nicholas Orem Middle School

**L**ong before I thought about interviewing Mr. Calvin, there was a positive buzz about him in the community. Quickly becoming a fixture in the Hyattsville community, he has been at Nicholas Orem for two years. Mr. Calvin graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Engineering before becoming a Military-Army Intelligence Officer. He always enjoyed working with children and decided to pursue a Master in Guidance Counseling.

Mr. Calvin taught in elementary schools in Baltimore before coming to Prince George's County. In the county, he has worked as a guidance counselor and at Drew Freeman Middle School. I interviewed Mr. Calvin not long after the start of the new school year.

## **What is your vision/philosophy on leadership?**

I believe all children can learn and an environment conducive to that is a combination of instruction and hiring capable teachers. You have to like children to do this job well and children have to respect you.

I want to change the perception [of the school] in the community. Since I have been the principal, suspensions and fights are down.

## **How are you preparing your staff to embrace the vision set forth by Dr. Deasy?**

I am working to change the culture of the school. I require positive interaction between teachers, students and other staff at all times. The Principal is not just an instructional leader or responsible for building maintenance, but above all a leader!

I believe my leadership style and the way I empower those around me helps me to build support in the community. This support helps me prepare my staff to embrace the vision set forth by Dr. Deasy.

## **How can communities support educational leaders in their overall job of educating and preparing students for life?**

More support from businesses would really help. For example, businesses could provide assistance with tutoring and helping with homework.

Currently, Nicholas Orem has a partnership with Crescent Cities Rehabilitation Center on East-West Highway where students provide volunteer work and we have a partnership with the University of Maryland. There are others, but we could always use more.

## **Do you think the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is a help or hindrance to the educational system?**

I think the method in which the state of Maryland uses to interpret NCLB makes it a hindrance. It is unrealistic to test non-English speaking students after only being in the system for one year and think that they can pass standardized tests such as the MSA—many of these students can't even speak English!

I think high standards are good, but you also have to be realistic. The gaps in learning are a major issue and we are particularly challenged around test-taking because of it. I was able to hire a bi-lingual teacher this year to provide greater assistance with helping non-English speaking students to reach goals.

## **As Prince George's County prepare for a new elected school board, what is your greatest hope for the new leaders?**

My concern is that there are no standards. Anyone can be on the school board regardless of their background. My greatest hope would be for the new board to set standards.



## IN REACH, INC.

5604 16th Avenue  
Suite 202  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
240.274.9748

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**Toni A. Smith** Editor  
**Samantha Pope** Proofreader  
**Tom Houston** Web Master

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN SEARCH OF BOARD MEMBERS

Entering its seventh year, **IN REACH** seeks to assemble a strong team of passionate and dedicated leaders to build organizational capacity, primarily through raising funds, to advance its mission and best serve its primary target audience, teenagers.

For detailed information about the Board and an application, please visit the website, [www.inreachinc.org](http://www.inreachinc.org), to download the Board of Director's Prospectus or call Toni Smith, 240.274.9748.

### IN REACH'S NEW BLOG

Often I meet parents, usually mothers, who express some feelings of isolation, I created **A Place for Parents** in response to this. I hope to encourage more parents to join in on-line conversations where they can express their thoughts and feelings about whatever they want and to have others provide support. Still in the early formative stages, my vision for **A Place for Parents** is that it will become the premiere local on-line community for parents.

Visit **A Place for Parents**,  
<http://www.inreachinc.blogspot.com>  
today to start an on-line conversation!

### FIRST FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

On Wednesday, October 25, 2006, **IN REACH** held its first fundraiser, An Autumn Wine Tasting, at the Newton White Mansion in Mitchellville, Maryland. The event was a success and we would like to thank all of supporters, sponsors and volunteers. We would especially like to thank our junior sponsor, the Washington Area Women's Foundation, for helping to make the event possible.

Please visit their website,  
<http://thewomensfoundation.org>, to learn more about the important work they are doing in the metropolitan area.

