Received via email April 24, 2012

Ben/Frank,

I want to thank you for arranging for the meeting with the Governor today. It was great to have the "face to face" even though the time was too short. Since I was not given the opportunity to speak I want to share with you I continue to have two concerns that I believe the OEIB will need to tackle.

1. Institutional racism - Our school systems are plagued by this. In my former life as deputy superintendent when conducting a boundary study for a new school I had teachers testifying that they did not want ELL students being moved to their schools as a result of a new school boundary. I also facilitate racism dialogues at school districts for the Uniting to Understand Racism Foundation. In those dialogues some teachers have verbalized undocumented students should be returned to their country of origin regardless of state statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin. The OEIB , the chief education officer and the Governor need to ensure the achievement compacts include training on racism and it's affects on student/teacher relations and achievement.

2. Achievement compacts - I still believe districts will provide only a cursory effort on the development of their compacts. They will provide a million excuses but most likely will cite "limited resources" in really being able to impact the achievement gap. They did not close the achievement gap with the threat of sanctions (NCLB) so why would they feel compelled to do so now. We need a broad based committee under the direction of the chief education officer to review all compacts, and make recommendations for revision to ensure targeted sub groups achieve.
I would be willing to participate on such a compact group.

Please forward my concerns to the Governor and the OEIB.

Thanks,

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