The Problem with Chicago's Public Education

Commentary by James Montgomery, Esq.

The School System in Chicago is under educating our Black children.

1. The curriculum, at best does not meet the needs of Black Students.
2. The Teachers tend to have lower expectations of Black Students.
3. Many Black Students are raised by a single parent, which limits parental involvement in educating and raising the children.
4. Many Black Boys have no male role model in the home, and also, at School.
5. The paucity of Black male Teachers in the system further deprives Black Boys of an opportunity to interact with a Black Male Role Model.

The High School dropout rate is 7% higher for Black students and the graduation rate is approximately 20% less. (2023 CUL State of Black Chicago)

78.56% of Freshmen enter High School on track. The drop out rate is 10.59%. The graduation rate is 72.28%. 42.73% enroll in College. 54.79 remain enrolled in College.

The Impact of Chicago's Public School Failures

1. The undereducation and miseducation of Black children.
2. The disproportionate percentage of Black Student dropouts.
   a. Less likely to be hired.
   b. More likely to resort to the streets.
   c. A process of proliferating the City Streets with drug trafficking, burglaries, shootings, murder and mayhem.
   d. Disproportionate numbers of Blacks in jails and penitentiaries.
   e. Higher death rates from violence and crime.
   f. Problems that Police Officers, Prosecutors and Judges cannot solve alone.
   g. Higher taxes to support the Criminal Justice System.
3. An undereducated work force in a more highly technological world.

Dangerous Policies of City and State Government which is likely to exacerbate the Problem.

The State legislature – at the behest of Mayor Johnson and the Chicago Teacher Union recently passed legislation creating an unpaid Elective Board to oversee the Chicago Public Schools. It created 10 School Districts from which 20 Board Members would be elected by January 2026. Demographically there are 6 predominantly Black Districts, 5 Latino Districts,

A person seeking to run for election must file a Petition with 1,000 registered voters. One can run for Congress with 400 signatures.

There are four basic interest groups who seek like-minded candidates to support financially and otherwise. They are White, Latinos, Blacks and The Chicago Teachers Union.

It is very costly to run in a contested election in Chicago. Political contributions come from affluent organizations and people and persons with discretionary income.

This hurdle – campaign costs – is not likely to be abundant in the Black and Latino communities. Thus, even though the Public Schools are 85% Black and Latino, the remaining 15% has the best opportunity to elect a Board of their persuasion.

The Intent of the Legislation

Our Mayor, a former Employee of CTU, was recently elected in a runoff election after being funded by Millions of Dollars and many man hours by the Chicago Teachers Union. One can be assured that the control of this newly created elected School Board by the Mayor and the CTU is a given. One clue is that the November election will elect only 10 Board Members. The Mayor will appoint 10 of the new members along with the President of the Board. The second group of elected Board Members will be elected in January 2026.

Thus between 11/24 and 1/26 the Mayor and CTU are in Clear Control.

What does the CTC and the Mayor want to do during this period of Total Control?

1. To Close all Charter Schools and bring the revenue under the Control of the Board.
2. To require all Public School Children to attend their neighborhood School.

Why do they want to revert back to the neighborhood School System and banish Charter Schools?

1. To provide 50 million dollars to raise teacher's salaries. (Chicago Trib. Edited)
2. To avoid the embarrassment of the success of many Charter Schools.

Action Required

We must communicate to the Black and Latino families that they have a critical interest in what the Political Powers are doing to harm our children.

We have to provide the communication and we must point our families to the means of effectively opposing these forces.

How do we do it?

Identify all organizations in the Black and Latino communities that purport to foster the interests of our respective peoples. Provide them with the information we have and ask them to join with others to devise tactics to address the issues.