



**House of Representatives
State of Tennessee**

NASHVILLE

GARY MOORE
State Representative
50th Legislative District
Davidson County

35 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
State and Local Government
Consumer and Employee Affairs
Calendar and Rules

MEMBER OF SUBCOMMITTEES
Elections
Employee Affairs

April 15, 2010

The Honorable Karl Dean, Mayor

Members of the Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Courthouse

Nashville, TN 37201

Dear Mayor and Members of the Metro Council,

I have serious concerns about the budget that the Metro Nashville School Board has presented to your office. Specifically, the Board recommends that nearly 700 support personnel – primarily custodians and groundskeepers – be outsourced and managed by a private contractor, rather than remain city employees.

There are several problems that I have with this proposal. Neither Dr. Register nor the Board, who both have cited approximately \$5 million in “savings” with this outsourcing proposal, have presented a cost-benefit analysis or any kind of impact study to show the actual savings to the city. As you know, these workers will take a significant pay cut once they go to work for a private contractor and they’ll have to pay more out of pocket for health insurance and retirement benefits. Will outsourcing lead to lower sales and property tax revenues for the city? Will it lead to more use of our emergency rooms for healthcare, more public assistance, more food stamps, and more unemployment benefits? None of these factors have been addressed and they need to be.

There is also the issue of who is being affected by this proposal. As I understand it, close to 90% of the custodians affected are minorities.

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Finally, the question of whether privatization is a good thing for our schools should be the subject of some scrutiny as well. Private companies exist first and foremost to make a profit, not serve the best interests of the community; and there are scores of examples all across the country of how quality has been sacrificed during the trend towards privatization. In this case, we are talking about a group of workers who are in direct contact with young children every day. Will a private company put the kind of emphasis on safety and background checks that MNPS does now? Maybe they will at first, but once they are locked into a contract, they can and will cut corners to improve their profit margins. Right now, you have direct control over these employees. You will lose that control once you have turned them over to a private contractor.

It seems to me that the larger repercussions on our community have not been factored in by this budget proposal and I ask you both as a private citizen and as an elected official who represents working families in Davidson County to consider alternatives that do not include the outsourcing of these positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

State Representative Gary W. Moore

House District 50

copy: Metro Council