



Louisiana Federation of Teachers

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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August 10, 2009

Governor Bobby Jindal
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

You are surely aware of the controversy that has arisen over the divide between Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek and some organizations that advocate for public education. I believe that this disharmony is counterproductive and dangerous for public education.

Right now, teachers, parents and children are struggling to begin a school year in an extremely challenging environment. The last thing our children need at this moment is a bitter feud between the superintendent of education and the organizations that represent teachers and school boards. It is time for cooler heads to prevail.

As governor of the state, you are the only person with sufficient stature to get the stakeholders into a room to open a productive dialogue. I urge you to call a summit that includes our organization, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, Superintendent Pastorek, the Louisiana Association of Educators, and the Louisiana School Boards Association. Such a meeting would obviously not resolve all differences; however, it would help to create a framework for discussion of those differences.

There is a grave danger that the current situation could threaten the progress our schools and our children have made. This could make it even more difficult to cooperate in the future.

We hope that you will lend your skills and your leadership to this situation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Monaghan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Monaghan, President

Cc Pastorek
Louisiana Federation of Teachers Executive Board

A Union of Professionals Committed to Fairness, Opportunity, Access, and Real Accountability