

I have decided to print this letter just the way it came to me. – Bobby R. Henry, Sr. Publisher

Mr. Henry,

In response to your editorial and follow-up questions, we respectfully request that you print the attached letter to the editor in its entirety.

Thank you,

John J. Sullivan

Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer

P: 754-321-2616

Cell: 954-261-8992

December 19~~8~~, 2023

Mr. Bobby Henry,

In response to the December 13, 2023, editorial titled “When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time,” I am offended by the suggestions and innuendos made. The opinion piece only gave voice to rumors by unnamed sources ~~in an attempt~~ to tarnish my character and reputation, and distract the District from its mission of being student-centered, teacher-supported and principal-led.

Since joining Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), what I have shown is that I am dedicated to listening to our communities and acting on behalf of our students, especially those in underserved areas of our county that have been overpromised and underdelivered. This focus has required very thoughtful consideration and intentional decisions. These decisions have been made with extensive collaboration with School Board members as well as members of my team to bring these unkept promises to fruition.

My commitment is to the students and their needs above ~~above~~ all else. This unwavering dedication has been my focus throughout my career and continues to be my driving force. It is increasingly clear that our District is making significant progress on all measurable fronts.

Over the past five months, we have made significant ~~significantly~~ advances in ~~in~~ construction projects that have been delayed for years. We have implemented numerous strategies to address the academic needs of students, reduced central office administrative costs, increased our focus on fiscal responsibility and established ethical approaches to our business practices. This advancement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our educators, administrators, and community members who strive for excellence in our schools. We will not be distracted from our mission by fabricated narratives.

My leadership style is grounded in mutual respect, empowerment of the individual and in building a team characterized not only by being leaders in their respective fields but for

reflecting the diverse communities that make up our great District. Since I became superintendent, it is evident that there has been a positive culture shift.

I respect and thank each School Board member ~~for as they have put~~ their confidence in me to transform BCPS ~~while~~ on our path to becoming an “A” District. Their perspectives are vital to achieving our objectives, and I am appreciative and receptive to their input. I maintain constant communication with ~~each~~ Board members s to ensure I receive concerns from ~~each of their his or her their~~ respective Districts and strategize the most effective ways to meet the needs of our ~~students and~~ communities, ~~and our students~~.

I categorically reject the suggestion that I ~~have 've~~ made a disparaging remark toward any member of the ~~B~~board or used any type of offensive language. That is not who I am nor ~~is it~~ who I have shown ~~myself~~ to be as a person, as a father or as a leader.

Attentively,

Peter B. Licata

Superintendent, Broward County Public Schools