



**For Immediate Release**

Aug. 11, 2009

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**"Keep Reform Alive"**  
**EduPAC Reconvenes More Than 30**  
**of Atlanta's Most Influential Organizations**  
**To Screen and Endorse Slate of Candidates**  
**For Atlanta Public School Board Elections**

*EduPAC Builds on 15-Year Track Record  
Of Helping to Elect Qualified Candidates*

ATLANTA - A nonpartisan committee representing more than 30 of Atlanta's most influential organizations has reconvened to screen and endorse a slate of nine qualified candidates for the Atlanta Board of Education. **Their recommended slate is expected to be released in early October.**

This year's EduPAC campaign theme is "Keep Reform Alive."

"Voters need to know that school boards play a critical role in making sure our students get the education they need to compete in a global economy," said William "Sonny" Walker, founder and principal of Sonny Walker Group and co-chairman of EduPAC. "EduPAC has a 15-year track record of positively influencing school board elections, with 80 to 100 percent of EduPAC-endorsed candidates winning election. Once again during this election cycle, we will carefully screen candidates and recommend a slate of nine people who will keep reform alive and serve our children and this city well."

EduPAC is a nonpartisan, independent political organization governed by a board of directors composed of volunteers from the business, civic and faith-based community. Members include the Metro Atlanta Chamber, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, the Atlanta Business League, YMCA, Atlanta Education Fund, Atlanta Urban League, Georgia Aquarium, Leadership Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific, H.J. Russell & Company, Bank of America and others. **A full list of board members is below.**

"Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall has worked hard to reach the halfway point in total reform of an urban K-12 public school system," said Paula Lawton Bevington, principal of Bevington Advisors, LLC,

and vice chairman of EduPAC. "It is critical that she have well-qualified, fully committed board members to keep reform alive and complete the job."

Since 1993, the EduPAC board has reconvened every four years to endorse and support a slate of nine candidates who will provide effective governance to the Atlanta Public Schools system and to educate the public on the important role of school board members.

EduPAC is always led by some of Atlanta's top business and civic leaders. In previous election cycles, notable leaders such the legendary baseball great Hank Aaron helped with EduPAC's public awareness campaign and former Ambassador Andrew Young assisted with phone banking.

Over the next two months, EduPAC's board of directors and other stakeholders will be interviewing candidates for the Atlanta School Board. In early October, EduPAC will formally announce the slate of candidates it is endorsing.

For more information about EduPAC, visit [www.edupacatlanta.org](http://www.edupacatlanta.org). You can also follow our progress on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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**Following is EduPAC's 2008 board of directors:**

- **William "Sonny" Walker, co-chairman of EduPAC;** founder & principal, Sonny Walker Group
- **Curley Dossman, Jr., co-chairman of EduPAC;** president, Georgia-Pacific Foundation
- **Paula Lawton Bevington, vice-chairman of EduPAC;** principal, Bevington Advisors, LLC
- **Sam A. Williams, secretary treasurer of EduPAC;** president, Metro Atlanta Chamber
  
- **Donna Aldridge,** business developer, GV Financial Advisors
- **Clara Axam,** project director, Enterprise Community Partners Atlanta
- **Leona Barr-Davenport,** executive director, Atlanta Business League
- **Veronica Biggins,** partner, Hodge, Niederer, Cariani, & Lindsay
- **Jim Breedlove,** vice president, Fernbank Museum of Natural History
- **Rep. Roger Bruce,** vice president, Atlanta Life Financial Group
- **Samra Coote,** director, community relations, Atlanta Education Fund
- **John Grant,** national chairman, 100 Black Men of Atlanta
- **Joseph Handy,** vice president, education & guest services, Georgia Aquarium
- **Eston Hood,** senior vice president of operations, YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Inc.
- **Angie Howard,** senior human resources director, Hyatt Regency Atlanta
- **Nancy Flake Johnson,** CEO, Atlanta Urban League
- **Milton Jones,** president, Georgia Bank, Bank of America
- **Mary Long,** community activist
- **Thema J. Malone,** president, The Atlanta Council of PTA's
- **Kent Matlock,** president, Matlock Advertising & Public Relations

- **Esther Michaels**, CEO, Vital Resources International, LLC
- **Pat Upshaw-Monteith**, president & CEO, Leadership Atlanta
- **Greg Pridgeon**, chief of staff to the mayor, The City of Atlanta
- **Jerome Russell**, president, H.J. Russell & Company
- **Michael Russell**, CEO, H.J. Russell & Company
- **Stewart Williams**, president & CEO, Butler Street YMCA
- **Yvonne Wiltz**, owner, VonCreations, Inc., Event Management and Marketing
- **The Very Reverend Robert C. Wright**, pastor, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### **Ex-Oficio**

**George Goodwin**, retired - Manning Selvage & Lee

**Penny McPhee**, president and trustee, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

### **Legal Advisor**

**Dewitt Rogers**, attorney, Troutman & Sanders LLP

### **Staff**

**Rene Webb Pennington**, vice president, Atlanta Education, Metro Atlanta Chamber

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