

[Nick Bates' endorsing speech]

Hey, everybody. I'm Nick Bates. I've never really done anything like this before, so forgive me if I sound unprofessional. I'll just start out like this: I think you should endorse my mom, Carla Bates, for school board, because she has what it takes.

My mom knows a lot, she and I often have evening political science talks, among other things. She knows what people need, and she cares. She really cares about kids, take it from me. She can explain everything she wants to do, and she listens to other people. My mom doesn't just want this job for "publicity" or whatever, she really wants to help, and I believe she can.

My mom has worked very hard to improve the schools I've gone to in the past. She's fundraised, talked at meetings, and talked directly to administrators to help learning take place. She knows about kids, and she knows about adults. I think she would be perfect for a spot on School Board. Thanks for listening. And here's my mom, Carla Bates.

[Carla Bates' 2008 convention speech]

Hello Delegates, thank you for coming today! **My name is Carla Bates** and I am running for the Minneapolis School Board. I would be **honored** to have your support and **your vote** for the DFL endorsement.

Minneapolis has a long tradition of great public schools. Today many schools carry on this tradition and I celebrate our successes. But, today, it is also true that too many of our children are not achieving academically and the consequences for them and for our city are huge. I am running because **I know we can do better** to help all of our kids be successful.

I grew up in a town of about 10,000 people. My mother and I were on welfare. And I escaped from the stresses of poverty and my mother's mental illness by going to school every day.

And it is school that saved my life. One of my first teacher-heroes was my 7th grade reading teacher who introduced me to the world of ideas, to history, to theatre and to possibilities. She encouraged me to make the arts and sciences part of my intellectual world and to see myself as part of something larger. She taught me how to think.

And she introduced me to stories about people who changed their worlds and made them better. She gave me a poster with the caption "Arise, go forth and conquer." And from her I learned that I could make a difference.

And from these gifts – how to think and believe in myself - I have been able to create a life of meaningful work and a strong family.

I want my three children, **who all attend Minneapolis public schools** and **all of our children**; to develop the knowledge, confidence and passion they need to "arise, go forth" and build a better life for themselves and their community.

I've spent over ten years working hard as a parent activist in **our schools**. Through my work I have learned about education policy and financing. Many consider me one of the most knowledgeable people not on district payroll on Minneapolis Public Schools today. I also bring skill sets sorely needed on our board – I have grappled with special education and I actually do instructional technology for a living. My commitment to special ed and instructional technology make me unique in this candidate field.

Now, I ask for **your support** to bring my experience, energy and passion to the Minneapolis School Board.

Over the past 8 years we have seen a lot of school communities in pain;

- schools closing,
- losing teachers to layoffs,
- cutting yet another program as resources become scarcer.

The achievement gap is greater here than just about anywhere in the country. Our schools are not preparing **all** of our students to participate in the 21st century economy.

We can do better!

As a School Board member I will listen to the people – listen with my heart first – and use my knowledge and experience to translate what I hear into **action**. I will focus my efforts around my 3 Rs for effective school boards: **Relationships, Resources and Results**.

First R is relationships: The School Board must be focused on building honest, productive **relationships**. We can do better – but only if we learn to work together: the board and the administration must see parents and teacher as partners. Without trust real reform will not occur.

The second R is resources: We are **rich** in resources in the district.

- Our teachers and administrators, custodians and bus drivers are some of the best in the nation.
- And our students are absolutely outstanding: they are beautiful in their diversity and inspiring in their resiliency.

But to do better, we must manage our resources more wisely and then communicate our need for more resources more effectively. The Board has the duty to get students and teachers the resources they need to focus their energy on learning.

And, the third R is for results: we must show results! And the goals set by the strategic plan are a good place to start –

- 80% proficiency in reading;
- 80% in math;
- and a 75% reduction in the achievement gap.

My **commitment to results** drives me to seek a spot on the School Board.

Public education is the promise that one generation makes to another. As adults we promise our children to support them and guide them into adulthood. It is our duty, our challenge to keep this promise.

I promise **you** that when I am elected to the Board with your endorsement - I will bring the **full measure** of my **energy, dedication** and **experience** to help Minneapolis Public Schools to **do better!**

Please vote for me, **Carla Bates**, for the DFL endorsement today. Working **together** we **can do better**.