

Vote

# JENKINS EXPRESS

October 11, 2006

Number 2 on the ballot for DC School Board President on November 7th



## DCPS' SPECIAL EDUCATION MUST STOP BEING ABUSED AND EXCUSED

by Timothy Jenkins

Our town is all up in arms because of the recent revelation that 4% of DCPS population, labeled "Special Education" students, eat up 15% of the school budget; and their average transportation cost to points outside the city has now reached the unsustainable level of \$18,000 each. Obscured in the drama of runaway costs for holding hearings, enrolling, and transporting students consigned to special ed is the likely misuse of that designation in the first place by escapist teachers who merely dispose of difficult ("non-submissive," "uncooperative") students. Then there's the puzzle of why DC has a volume of special ed administrative hearings estimated to be greater than the rest of the entire nation combined under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), more in one month than California holds in a year.

The answers to these troublesome questions lie in DC's silly bureaucratic structures, its habit for avoiding difficult decisions, the absence of systems of accountability and the leadership of the School Board's policy of putting their heads in the sand, rather than finding a solution.

For example, when a teacher has difficulty with a student, statistically more often a male adolescent, the subject is referred to a guidance counselor or psychologist for evaluation. Thereafter a report of findings to propose an individual treatment plan is required. With the volume of such referrals exceeding the work habits of the DCPS staff, plans that are routinely late trigger court proceedings by default that equally routinely result in court orders for privately provided educational services wherever available and at whatever cost. And DCPS must then bear the attorney's fees, pricey placements and door-to-door transportation costs to remote locations in Maryland or Virginia as specified by decree.

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**TIMOTHY JENKINS  
BLAZING A NEW  
PATH TO SAVE OUR  
CHILDREN!**



*Timothy Jenkins speaks at North Michigan Park candidate's forum  
October 4*

**"We must approach school reform as an all out community crusade to protect our children physically and psychologically; to introduce them to meaningful work and responsibilities; to make known to them their history and culture; to teach them to constructively channel their rage, as well as how to survive the random impact of trauma in their lives.**

**We must discover or invent new means to collaborate with young people to find nonviolent and better solutions to their problems through goal-oriented self assertion. Our efforts must exceed the mastery of tests to unlock our students' curiosity, creative talents, and hopes."**

*copyright Timothy Jenkins*



**VOTE**

for

**TIMOTHY JENKINS  
SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT**

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