

February 10, 2009

Mayor John Hickenlooper  
City and County Building  
1437 Bannock Street, Room 350  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mayor Hickenlooper,

We write you on behalf of Denver's Latino Commission ("Commission") concerning the recent appointment of Denver Public Schools ("DPS") Superintendent Tom Boasberg and the pending appointment of a Chief Academic Officer ("CAO") for DPS. This correspondence flows from the increasing frustration and unrest throughout the Latino community, not only in relation to the DPS situation, but also following the recent appointments of Senator Bennet and Mr. Bernie Beuscher.

The Commission is concerned that the process employed by the DPS Board in selecting Superintendent Boasberg did not adequately engage the Latino/a community. The Commission has impressed upon the School Board and Superintendent Boasberg that he sincerely listen to the Latino/a community in making his selection of a CAO and that he simultaneously employ a genuine, legitimate, inclusive and transparent search and selection process. Further, we have expressed the need to have a culturally competent CAO. Those two criteria in this process are critical for a multitude of reasons, beginning with the fact that DPS consists of 77.38% ethnic minorities—55.36% of which are Latinos and Latinas.

The Commission is committed to working with your administration in advocating for the Latino/a community of Denver. On behalf of that community, we respectfully request that you use your influence to ensure the criteria listed in this correspondence are met.

Sincerely,



Derek Blass, Co-Chair



Jim Chavez, Co-Chair