



# The Teacher's ADVOCATE!

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## Stop Teacher Cleansing! Dr. Hall, Welcome To Kosovo!

On July 8, 1999, **Dr. John Trotter**, MACE's Executive Director, welcomed Atlanta's newly arrived superintendent, **Dr. Beverly Hall**, to **Kosovo**! The occasion was **Dr. Hall's** first community board meeting in Atlanta. The meeting was ho, hum and fairly boring -- until **Dr. Trotter** got up to speak! **Dr. Trotter** opened his speech with the following welcome: "Dr. Hall [it's] good to have you down here in Atlanta -- you thought you were coming down to Georgia, didn't you? But, really, what you came down to -- you came down to Atlanta, **Kosovo**, or Atlanta, **Northern Nepal**, or Atlanta, **North Korea**, or Atlanta, **Rwanda**!" **Dr. Trotter** explained to **Dr. Hall** that, like most Georgia board members, the Atlanta board members really don't know what's going on in the schools. He used the analogy of a cruise ship, explaining that Atlanta board members are on the deck of the cruiseliner (school system) enjoying their umbrella-adorned daiquiris and their mint juleps (translated: their crushed ice water and their nice, color-coded school board minutes) while all kind of chaos and confusion is going on down in the engine room (translated: students are regularly cursing out teachers and physically assaulting them while many administrators are not only incompetent but also abusive, petty, capricious, retaliatory, and arbitrary in their dealings with teachers). The last captain of this titanic school system, **Ben Canada**, recently abandoned the ship. Here's



Will Dr. Hall be more of the same?

hoping that **Dr. Hall**, the new captain of this sinking ship, will stop the mindless and idiotic blaming of the teachers (or, mates) for the treacherous field of icebergs wherein the ship is navigating. Here's hoping that **Dr. Hall** will put an end to the insanity and that she'll work with Atlanta's dedicated teachers -

- who teach in a war zone, by the way -- and that she will stop the teacher cleansing and the teacher-genocide in Atlanta!

**Dr. Trotter** addressed the fact that the Atlanta administrators (and ultimately the school board) routinely violate the laws passed by the Georgia legislature. **Dr. Trotter** stated: "The people of Georgia elect all these fine legislators to pass laws -- but Atlanta just ignores them. They [the Atlanta administrators] act like they are in Northern Nepal. They act like they never ever heard of these laws." **Dennis**

**Yarbrough**, MACE's Field Director, gave to each board member a copy of Georgia's grievance law (**OCGA 20-2-989.5 et.seq.**) as well as a copy of Atlanta's local grievance policy -- which, by law, must comply with the state statute. **Dr. Trotter** broke it down and read with the board members the law and the Atlanta policy and showed how the latter flagrantly violates the former. For example, the state law says that each grievance policy must contain an anti-reprisal provision. Atlanta's doesn't. Perhaps this is why Atlanta administrators (principals and executive directors) apparently are so bold in transferring teachers who have deigned to file grievances in Atlanta. **Dr. Trotter** told the board that the teachers who spoke against the horrible conditions at **Bethune** and **Grove Park** elementary schools ended up being transferred to the four corners of Atlanta.

**Dr. Trotter** told **Dr. Hall** and the board members that when the **MACE** staff picketed at **Sylvan Middle School**, eight police officers and five squad cars arrived -- and **Dr. Trotter** bluntly informed them that this was "a Category One Free Speech Forum, protected by the U.S. Constitution." How-

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How can the school board justify breaking the Georgia laws?

**WARNING! 18 USCS Sec. 1702** states: "Whoever takes any letter, post card, or package out of any post office or any **authorized depository**...before it has been delivered to the person to whom it was directed, with design to obstruct the correspondence, or to pry into the business or secrets of another, or opens, secretes, embezzles, or destroys the same, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than **five years**, or both." In Atlanta, **School Board Policy GBS-R** specifically states: "Employee organizations shall be provided bulletin board space in a central location, and the use of **employee's mailboxes** and the school mail for the dissemination of organization information and notices." The **U.S. Supreme Court** has held that school board policies against unions using internal mail and billboard facilities are unconstitutional (Garland decision, 1989). The Georgia law states: "A person commits the offense of theft by taking when he unlawfully takes or, being in lawful possession thereof, unlawfully appropriates any property of another with the intention of depriving him of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated" (**OCGA 16-8-2**). **Administrators: You have been warned.**



# Check Out This List!

## Toughest Teaching Tours

MACE would be remiss if it did not warn its members of hazardous teaching assignments. Based upon our observations, we feel that the following schools should be avoided, if at all possible, because of disruptive student behavior, student violence, a lack of administrative support for teachers, administrative incompetence, and/or administrative harassment of teachers. These are MACE's opinions. Take'em or leave'em. MACE is just trying to serve you by giving you fair warning.

### Elementary Schools

1. D. H. Stanton (Atlanta)
2. Bethune (Fulton)
3. M. Agnes Jones (Atlanta)
4. Grove Park (Atlanta)
5. Carter Woodson (Atlanta)
6. Bethune (Atlanta)
7. Randolph (Fulton)
8. Church Street (Clayton)
9. Oliver (Clayton)
10. Boyd (Atlanta)
11. Crabapple Crossing (Fulton)
12. Toney (DeKalb)
13. Bob Mathis (DeKalb)
14. Hapeville (Fulton)
15. Lee Street (Clayton)
16. Lake City (Clayton)
17. Oak Cliff (DeKalb)
18. Peachcrest (DeKalb)
19. College Park (Fulton)
20. A. D. Williams (Atlanta)
21. Herndon (Atlanta)

### Middle Schools

1. Sylvan (Atlanta)
2. McNair (Fulton)
3. Parks (Atlanta)
4. King (Atlanta)
5. Kennedy (Atlanta)
6. Coan (Atlanta)
7. Walden (Atlanta)
8. West Fulton (Atlanta)

9. Flynt (Griffin-Spalding)
10. Woodland (Fulton)
11. Sequoyah (DeKalb)
12. Babb (Clayton)
13. Price (Atlanta)
14. Baker (Muscogee)
15. Stewart (Douglas)
16. Camp Creek (Fulton)
17. Hancock (Hancock)
18. North Clayton (Clayton)



# MACE.

**Don't Teach Without It!**

### High Schools

1. Riverwood (Fulton)
2. Columbia (DeKalb)
3. Therrell (Atlanta)
4. Southside (Atlanta)
5. Washington (Atlanta)
6. S. W. DeKalb (DeKalb)
7. Riverdale (Clayton)
8. Banneker (Fulton)
9. South Atlanta (Atlanta)
10. Clarkston (DeKalb)
11. Crim (Atlanta)
12. McEachern (Cobb)
13. Harrison (Cobb)
14. McNair (DeKalb)
15. Stone Mountain (DeKalb)

### Dishonorable Mention:

1. Tara ES (Clayton)
2. Campbell ES (Fulton)
3. M. D. Roberts MS (Clayton)

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