

May 12, 2008

I am Pastor Robert McGee of Trinity United Methodist Church, and a leader in The Metropolitan Organization of Houston.

We represent fifty member institutions and thousand of families in Houston-Harris County.

There are nineteen schools in Harris County and two schools named after African American in Fort Bend County:

Billie J. Baines Middle School

Lynn Amstrong Elementary

Let me be clear, we believe in high standards and quality education for our children, we expect our children to be prepared for the twenty first century and participant in the economy.

We recognize the need for accountability, but we believe that the current system has gone to far.

It is punitive in nature that it does more harm than good.

For example:

- \* Quality teachers are leaving the profession.
- \* Six principles assigned in a ten year period.
- \* Far to many student/children are unprepared to further their education process.
- \* Fear in schools, teachers and students.

Testing is not in and of itself bad. We believe in testing students, teachers and school should not be drowned by test.

Let me encourage this Select Commission of Public School Accountability to be true to the understanding of education.

Education is not merely taking a test – but owe’s ability memorize and comprehend what he are she has learned.

Comprehension is ones ability to articulate what one has learned.

Conclusion