

That's when he reached out to Edward W. Robinson, Jr., the renown historian, professor, U.S. Senate-appointed first black member of the Federal Reserve, Pennsylvania governor-appointed Deputy Secretary of State, Mayor-appointed Assistant Managing Director, attorney, and—most pertinent—the author of the first Philadelphia curriculum for teachers of African history, called “The World of Africans and Afro Americans.”

In fact, it was Robinson who, in 1967, proved to superintendent Mark Shedd by documented scientific experimentation that, when children were taught about the beauty, grandeur, sophistication and intellect of their African ancestry, their mathematical achievement went from an “average of Cs to high Bs.” In order to improve and excel, those students needed to know that the first human on the planet was from the Nile Valley region of East Africa 200,000 years ago. They needed to know that geometry, calculus and algebra came out of Africa. They needed to know the truth, which is precisely what the doctors—I mean the students—ordered. This was the cure. And they inspired Palmer and Robinson to organize and compile it. But much of it has been sitting stagnant in the labs for 44 years instead of being distributed in the schools, despite the fact that as recently as 2004, the superintendent requested and approved it for infusion into the official school curriculum.

In honor of the 44th anniversary of those enlightened black students' fight for complete education, a demonstration will be held on November 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the school district building at 440 North Broad Street. It will be headed by today's students, along with Palmer and Robinson, to demand the immediate distribution of that proven cure. The 'ritin's still on the wall, next to the readin' and the 'rithmetic—and the revolution continues.

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**June 14, 2011**

**DOLLAR BOYZ**

[“THIS FRIDAY JUNE-17TH@WALTER D PALMER CHARTER SCHOOL 6TH&GIRARD 7:30PM TO 11:30PM”](#)

YouTube

“DOLLARBOYZ & Hitmakers Records Presents: School is out, Summer is here! First Annual Last Day Of HighSchool Party at Walter D Palmer Charter School.”

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**Feb 7, 2012**

**Philadelphia Tribune**

“Advocates criticize school district cuts”

Damon Williams

Headnote

Education administrators, others try to make sense of service reductions

While the School District of Philadelphia may not quite be in its death throes as a result of a thousand cuts, its recently announced decision to slash after-hours programs, and to eliminate weekend hours altogether will hurt plenty.

The district has deemed these cuts necessary to close the gargantuan \$61 million budget gap by June.

"We are moving forward with the plan to curtail evening hours. Usually, our buildings are open until 9 p.m., and we will curtail that by an hour," said district spokesman Fernando Gallard. "That means the programs that are running in those buildings have to either run an hour shorter or [we have to] shift the programming an hour earlier.

"We are also closing the buildings for the weekends, so those running programs will not be able to unless they can pay for the costs of opening the building."

In other words, community groups and others who have had free use of the district's buildings will now have to pay. That goes for everything from weekend chess and basketball clubs to ESL and music programs during the week.

"This does not mean that schools will not be allowed to have programming," Gallard said. "Each school (or programming sponsor) that pays for the extra time can use it."

Gallard said the district is making everyone pay their fair share - noting that the individual schools pay the district for staffing and administering the programs, along with other logistics - but that doesn't make the decision any more palatable for those involved in educating the city's youth.

"Well, I think this is very sad; it's obvious that if these groups had the money, it wouldn't even be a question, but we know these community groups don't have the money," said Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, chair of the City Council Education Committee. "Schools and recreational centers are the only places they have in the community. The mayor recently talked about youth violence and compar[ed] it to the Ku Klux Klan, but I remember W.E.B. DuBois wrote that a community in trouble will soon turn on itself, and if we have kids with nothing to do and no recreation centers, it will foster more of the violence we are currently seeing."

Many educators see these cuts - coupled with the district's recent gutting of its security force, along with news of the district's lack of nurses - as sending the wrong message to school children.

"So what are we going to do with these kids after school?" mused Veronica Joyner, the founder and chief administrative officer of the Mathematics, Civics and Sciences Charter School, Inc. on North

Broad Street "All these programs were put in place to give kids a safe haven. Now, they will hang on street comers, and it will probably lead to more break-ins and more violence in the community.

"The violence in the city, for and by youth, will increase," Joyner added. ". . . which is contrary to Mayor Nutter, who is trying to get rec centers to stay open for the kids. This is contrary to what schools are supposed to do."

Joyner will hold a press conference today in front of district headquarters to talk about the impact of these cuts. And she is dismayed that the state is decreasing its educational funding while building new jails.

"We've cut schools, but invested in three new prisons" throughout the state, Joyner said. "So the money they take from schools is going to the prisons."

"I think it's a Band-Aid approach," said Dr. **Walter D. Palmer**, a longtime educational advocate who founded the **Walter D. Palmer** Leadership Learning Partners Charter School in North Philadelphia. "They're laying nurses off, laying police off; it's all about cutting as opposed to being proactive."

The apparent conflict between the district's mandate to educate the city's youth and its obligation to trim its budget gap is glaring. Gallard has said these rounds of cuts will save the district \$2.5 million, but for some, those cuts will come with a hefty price.

Old folks say 'penny-wise, pound-foolish;' that \$2.5 million could save lives," Blackwell said. "I know our leaders mean well, but what does it really save?"

Joyner believes that the expenses accrued by saving the \$2.5 million will end up costing tax payers more on the back end, if one factors in the costs of prosecuting, incarcerating and rehabilitating the youth who get arrested or otherwise find trouble without the existence of neighborhood rec centers.

Black Men at Penn, Inc. President Chad Lassiter echoed Joyner's concerns.

"It's going to have a detrimental effect on the youth; we're saying we want young people to stay out of trouble and be involved in positive things - but now we're turning our backs on them by closing these after-school programs and rec centers," said Lassiter, also a longtime social worker, educator and advocate who focuses on the ramifications of various social policies as they relate to minorities.

"I think [these cuts] are appalling ... the same way we can find money to buy out an underperforming superintendent, you can find the same money to fulfill the promise of a better future for our children."

But is it possible for the district to balance its books without encumbering the learning and social enrichment of its students? Probably not without some help - but Lassiter has an idea.

"I think we need to have our civic, philanthropic, business and sports communities intersect with one another to find the money to keep these valuable programs going in an era when young people need these quality programs the most," Lassiter said. "There's no time for excuses; it's time to leverage professional relationships to put up the money to continue to foster hope."

Sidebar

Veronica Joyner in the lobby of Mathematics, Civics and Science Charter school.

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**Feb 10, 2012**

**Philadelphia Tribune**

"Parents decry school safety cuts"

Damon Williams

Cuts to public school programming, a shortage of nurses and the recent dismissal of more than 90 security personnel equal the last straw for Parents United For Better Schools and its president and founder, Veronica Joyner.

"We are concerned with the drastic cuts by the district to bridge its budgeting gap," Joyner said during a press conference Tuesday outside School District of Philadelphia headquarters on North Broad Street. "This is a very sad day, and parents need to be outraged. Our children's safety is at stake."

Fellow education advocate Dr. **Walter D. Palmer**, founder of the **Walter D. Palmer** Leadership Learning Partners Charter School, joined Joyner at the podium.