

The Status of Black Education in Charleston and America Community Meeting

Sponsored by: The South Carolina Campaign for Achievement Now (South Carolina CAN)

Held at: Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC

February 2, 2017

Observer: Barbara Griffin

AGENDA

Welcome: Cheryl Cromwell – South Carolina Can – Parent Organizer

Moderator: Kevin Johnson (former NBA 3-time all-star for Cleveland Cavaliers; Three-time mayor of Sacramento, CA)

Panel: Tim King, Michele Rhee, Eric Mahmoud, Pastor Michael Phillips and George Parker

Presentation of Data: Mr. Johnson provided a slide presentation and data outlining the academic performance of African-American students in Charleston and the nation. The data provided was in support of the meeting theme that education for African-American students in Charleston and across the nation is “in crisis”.

Presentation by Tim King - Tim King is an African American educator and non-profit leader, and the founder and CEO of [Urban Prep Academies](#), a network of all-male charter public high schools in Chicago. Mr. King and Urban Prep have received national attention for the fact that since the school's first graduating class in 2010, 100% of its graduates have been accepted into a four-year college or university. A video presentation was provided.

Presentation by Pastor Michael Phillips – Pastor Phillips is the pastor of the Kingdom Life Church in Baltimore, MD. He described how his church and congregation became involved with developing a Charter School (Green Street Academy) in Baltimore that is located in a church-owned facility. Pastor Phillips focused on the opportunity of the faith-based community to provide leadership through involvement in the education system.

Presentation by George Parker – Former President of the Washington, D.C. Teachers Union, Mr. Parker discussed how he came to support Charter Schools and education reform, despite his long-term opposition.

Presentation by Eric Mahmoud – Mr. Mahmoud is founder and president of Harvest Network of schools, a group of high-performing Charter Schools in Minneapolis, MN. Mr. Mahmoud described the highly structured approach to education.

Presentation by Michele Rhee – Ms. Rhee is an American educator and advocate for education reform. She was [Chancellor](#) of the [Washington, D.C. public schools](#) from 2007 to 2010. In late 2010, she founded [StudentsFirst](#), a [non-profit](#) organization that works on education reform. Ms. Rhee focused her remarks on the criticality of high performing teachers.

Keynote Speaker – Roland Martin – Mr. Martin is an American journalist, syndicated [columnist](#) with [Creators Syndicate](#), and author. He is a commentator for [TV One](#) and the host of [News One Now](#), a one-hour weekday morning news show on the network. Mr. Martin expressed his position that action to improve the status of African-American student academic performance was needed immediately. He expressed support for a more citizen-lead education system. He framed his position as one in support of student academic choice. He urged the audience to become involved in education.

Hosted by esteemed reporter Roland Martin and former mayor of Sacramento Kevin Johnson, the panel will also feature special guests Tim King, Michele Rhee, Eric Mahmoud, Pastor Michael Phillips and George Parker. Here's what you need to know: