

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

Telford Telescope: “My bold bid for the board”

By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



In my August 27 interview with the 14th Congressional District Democrats' DPSCD board-candidate endorsement committee, they asked if I was familiar with the 1999 state takeover of Detroit Public Schools. I answered that I'm VERY familiar

with that unwarranted take over - DPS had a surplus then of \$114 million, and our students' test scores were at the state midpoint--but we had passed a \$1.6 billion school bond, and Lansing Republicans were greedily eyeing that money. I opposed the takeover in a column I wrote, and I signed a flyer opposing it. I'd retired from the deputy superintendency in Rochester, and I was directing the PEACE-for-Youth program at Central United Methodist Church and serving on non-profit boards, after having directed Wolverine Human Services' education programs, Team for Justice, and Detroit SNAP (Safe Neighborhoods Action Plan) working out of a police mini-station on Chene. (While I serve on the 14th District's executive board, it surprisingly declined to endorse me--but thankfully, DPD activist Helen Moore did, and so did Michigan's National Action Network president, the Reverend Charles Williams.)

I dutifully answered the 14th's question regarding whether I have children in DPSCD. My son Steve attended Finney, my stepson Michael attended Western, and my daughter Katherine attended school in Rochester, where I was deputy superintendent in the 1980s and 90s. I've always felt that educators' children should attend school where the educator worked. The 14th asked about my connections to Detroit and its public schools, where I've been involved since I entered kindergarten at old Estabrook in 1941. I told them I'm a DPS graduate, a triple WSU grad, and I began my teaching and coaching in DPS--working consecutively in seven high schools and a junior high between 1956 and 1969 and again in this century--and I've been a DPS building administrator and central-office administrator--including as executive director of the Southwest Region (got fired from that job by then-chief academic officer Kay Royster for challenging her counterproductive policies), executive director of community affairs (got

fired by a chief of staff for opposing her muzzling my 14 community liaison officers), and superintendent pro bono under the good elected board (got fired by the emergency financial manager in 2013 when PA 436 and enabled him to become fully powered emergency manager and disempower that good board). I'm now DPSCD's Poet-in-Residence--I go to schools and share my poetry. My home school is Southeastern, where I team-teach a class. I'm a DFT member again for the first time in many a year. I've superintended and assistant superintended in suburban districts where I was attacked by community bigots for hiring black administrators, and I've taught education courses at Oakland U. and at WSU -- where I was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2001--

When I was Superintendent,
I wasn't independent--
So I'll run to be a member
Of the school board in November!

not for my NCAA All-America sprinter status but for my perennial civil-rights crusading. My platform is LITERACY: I want our students to read as well as I can--and I assured the committee that I'm free to attend all board meetings and visit schools frequently. -- and that when I was superintendent, I was out in the schools every day.

They asked if I'm willing to put the students first. I answered that Of COURSE I'll put the students first! Any educator who DOESN'T shouldn't be trying to educate children -- he/she should be lawyering for Quicken Loans or peddling used cars or selling whirly-bird helicopters on a street corner. I put students first by being a journalist watchdog over DPSCD and over legislators in my columns, and via my activism with National Action Network, with Helen Moore's Keep The Vote / No Takeover, and with my radio shows on WCHB AM 1340 Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., which I also post on my Facebook page. I strive in myriad ways to get our children the same quality of education in DPSCD that I got in DPS, and by trying to ensure that students and staff don't contract the virus. All three incumbents running to retain their seats voted to open schools unsafely, and under their watch, DPSCD's 3rd-grade reading scores remain the nation's worst. As a board member, I'll push to implement the research-based, field-proven program that will return the test scores to the state midpoint, and beyond. The emergency financial manager blocked me and the good board from instituting that program in 2012.

My heart and soul have always been with the children of Detroit.

Contact Dr. Telford at (313) 460-8272, DrJohnTelforEdD@aol.com, or 8900 E. Jefferson, Detroit 48214 to get signed copies of his Detroit-oriented books. His website is www.AlifeontheRUN.com.

Spoofed internet domains and email accounts pose cyber and disinformation risks to voters

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are issuing this announcement to help the public recognize and avoid spoofed election-related internet domains and email accounts during the 2020 election year.

Spoofed domains and email accounts are leveraged by foreign actors and cybercriminals and can be easily mistaken for legitimate websites or emails. Adversaries can use spoofed domains and email accounts to disseminate false information; gather valid usernames, passwords, and email addresses; collect personally identifiable information; and spread malware, leading to further compromises and potential financial losses.

Cyber actors set up spoofed domains with slightly altered characteristics of legitimate domains. A spoofed domain may feature an alternate spelling of a word ("electon" instead of "election"), or use an alternative top-level domain, such as a ".com" version of a legitimate ".gov" website. Members of the public could unknowingly visit spoofed domains while seeking information regarding the 2020 election. Additionally, cyber actors may use a seemingly legitimate email account to entice the public into clicking on malicious files or links.

The FBI and CISA urge all members of the American public to critically evaluate the websites they visit and the emails sent to their personal and business email accounts, to seek out reliable and verified information on election information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Verify the spelling of web addresses, websites, and email addresses that look trustworthy but may be close imitations of legitimate election websites.
- Seek out information from trustworthy sources, verifying who produced the content and considering their intent. The Election Assistance Commission (<https://www.eac.gov>) provides a vast amount of verified information and resources.
- Ensure operating systems and applications are updated to the most current versions.

- Update anti-malware and anti-virus software and conduct regular network scans.
- Do not enable macros on documents downloaded from an email unless absolutely necessary, and only then, after ensuring the file is not malicious.
- Disable or remove unneeded software applications.
- Use strong two-factor authentication if possible, via biometrics, hardware tokens, or authentication apps.
- Do not open e-mails or attachments from unknown individuals. Do not communicate with unsolicited e-mail senders.
- Never provide personal information of any sort via e-mail. Be aware that many e-mails requesting your personal information appear to be legitimate.

The FBI is responsible for investigating and prosecuting election crimes, malign foreign influence operations, and malicious cyber activity targeting election infrastructure and other U.S. democratic institutions. CISA helps critical infrastructure owners and operators, including those in the election community, remain resilient against physical and cyber threats. The FBI and CISA provide services and information to uphold the security, integrity, and resiliency of U.S. electoral processes.

VICTIM REPORTING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The FBI encourages the public to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to their local field office (www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices) or to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov). For additional assistance, best practices, and common terms, please visit the following websites:

- Protected Voices: www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence/foreign-influence/protected-voices
- Election Crimes and Security: www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/election-crimes-and-security

#Protect2020: www.cisa.gov/protect2020

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