



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Malcolm Smith

News From Senate President Pro Tempore Malcolm A. Smith

MALCOLM A. SMITH November 10, 2010

“I want to be one of the first to thank Joel Klein for his commitment and dedication to our children during his tenure as schools chancellor. I can say from experience that no matter when I called he was always quick to respond or meet whether the issue was charter schools or public school safety. But like many New Yorkers I must admit I was surprised by Mayor Michael Bloomberg's choice of Catherine Black as Schools Chancellor. While I am concerned that she does not have a background in education, I am also encouraged that she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from corporate America that can benefit our children. With the help of our teachers, who I believe are the best in the nation, our new schools chancellor will be challenged with reforming an antiquated school system that simply must do better if our children and country are to compete in the rapidly changing global marketplace of the 21st century. And let's be honest, this is not an easy task. Former Chancellor Klein started the painful process of reforming our schools with the weight of full mayoral control. Now that work must be continued. While I am a staunch supporter of charter schools, our public schools must continue to receive the attention and resources to improve. This is not about pedigree or personalities but the ability to produce results for our children. I commend our new schools chancellor for taking on this difficult challenge of transforming our schools, students and test scores into the best in the nation. But more than wishing her good luck we must all accept this challenge of educating our children.”

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