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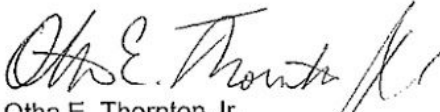
Endorsement for Dr. Tony Burks for the Atlanta Board of Education

As a former President of America's oldest child advocacy association and active leader across our nation's education community, I am endorsing Dr. Tony Burks as a candidate for the Atlanta Board of Education, District 2. Dr. Burks brings exceptional credentials and experience to the table and understands the importance of child-based, competence-based, and community-based solutions in successfully moving Atlanta's schools forward.

I've been engaged and connected with school districts as a parent and advocate leader for over two decades. Along the way I have met many leaders—here in Georgia and across the United States—who know how to connect with families as partners. Tony gets it. He understands that the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) more than often has to meet the basic needs of children before they can effectively learn and hence has advocated for a school system with wrap around services to address these needs to set our children up for success to reach their full potential. He knows how to collaborate and work with people and communities from all backgrounds.

Dr. Burks brings a vast background of experience from working with and connecting with families and children in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and California. Within APS, Tony has served as a Principal, an Assistant Superintendent, and mentor. These experiences will give the Atlanta School Board innovative approaches and solutions to challenges that it is facing. Tony's executive level leadership and high level of competence gives him a keen advantage in the understanding of governance and staff and effectively serving on the board. I am most impressed with his ability to listen to stakeholders - parents, educators, and support staff- and deliver collaborative solutions. He is often called from parents, leaders, and community members from "from Bankhead to Buckhead" to share their thoughts about what can be done to improve schools within the North Atlanta and Douglass Clusters.

Again, I am endorsing Dr. Burks without any reservations. He is the model of what the Atlanta Board of Education needs to move the district forward in taking care of our children, community, and city.


Otha E. Thornton Jr.
National Education Advocate

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