



Mount Vernon City School District

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Adriane G. Saunders
President

Wanda White
Vice President

18 January 2023

State Senator Jamaal T. Bailey
250 S 6th Ave.
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

State Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow
6 Gramatan Ave.
Suite 201
Mt. Vernon, NY 10550

Westchester County Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
(914) 995-2837

Board Trustees
Gloria Atisogbuie
Orville Gayle
Sabina Kelley
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Dear Senator Bailey, Assemblyman Pretlow, and Legislator Woodson-Samuels,

The Mt. Vernon Board of Education writes today to ask for your involvement and assistance on a matter of significant urgency.

The City of Mount Vernon has acknowledged that it has (illegally, we believe) withheld payment of school taxes collected (or not collected) by the City and owed to the School District in the amount \$11,734,627. It has also informed school representatives that, at present, the City has no feasible path towards payment.

Further investigation by staff and consultants of the District suggests that an additional amount of up to \$13,739,473, also for uncollected taxes, will be owed to the School District over the next 18 months.

The failure of the City to fulfill its legal obligation poses numerous questions associated with dysfunction, possible malfeasance, or even criminality at City Hall. And of course, the impacts to the School District, over time, are potentially staggering.

The Board of Education is preparing for a community summit on this matter to be held on January 31. Formal notification to the State Attorney General, State Comptroller, Westchester County DA, and Westchester County Executive will soon be made. We invite you or your representatives to meet with us at 6 pm on January 31, 2023 to hear more about this matter and the assistance we will ask of you in helping the School District avoid the significant impacts of this challenge.

Please call Superintendent Dr. Waveline Bennett-Conroy's office to confirm your attendance at this meeting. This meeting will be at a regularly scheduled board meeting and will be open to the public. Attendees will include certain necessary district staff, consultants, and Board members. Thank you, in advance, for your concern and ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Adriane Saunders, President
Mount Vernon Board of Education