

Bret Schundler

299 Varick Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302
201-988-7756 / bds@schundler.org

June 1, 2011

Please accept this application for the position of Commissioner of Education for the State of Florida.

Together with this cover letter and my application, I have attached a scan of a signed, final page of the application.

I have also attached documents relating to Questions 2 and 5 in the Background Check section of the application, as well as a resume, bio, and some current letters of recommendation. I will forward you additional letters of recommendation shortly.

I am interested in the position of Commissioner because I believe making Florida's public education system not only the best in America, but the very best possible, can dramatically improve the life opportunities of every child in Florida and spur the entire country to follow in Florida's wake. The result would be an America that fully realizes our dreams for it and even more powerfully beckons the world to emulate its example.

You will note that I formerly served as New Jersey's Commissioner of Education. In that capacity, I put together the State's Phase II *Race to The Top* application. It evidences that I am very much in sync with the direction in which the State Board is taking Florida's public education system. (You can review New Jersey's application here: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/new-jersey.pdf>.) I should add that I wrote the application using language meant to appeal to the Obama Administration, but I have been supporting the reforms listed within it for twenty years, back to when doing so got one assailed as a "far-right radical."

I have also been a long-time supporter of universal school choice. Here are *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Times* articles highlighting the fact that I have been pushing for universal school choice since my very first election to office:

- *Earthquake Hits Jersey City*: <http://www.njfaq.com/bret2001/preex/earthquake.shtml>;
- *The NEA's Public Enemy No. 1*: <http://www.njfaq.com/bret2001/preex/neaenemy.shtml>;
- *For National GOP, a Mayor as Poster Boy*: <http://www.njfaq.com/bret2001/news/releases/020994.shtml>;
- *Jersey City on the Way Back*: <http://www.njfaq.com/bret2001/preex/watim.shtml>.

I believe the State Board is trying to take Florida's public education system in precisely the right direction. I would very much like to work with it to implement its vision, and I do believe I can help in that regard.

My distinguishing strengths have been my ability to discern good public policy, my ability to build broad-based stakeholder and public support for it, and my ability to manage large government organizations and effectively implement bold policy initiatives.

As references in this regard, I have listed a number of New Jerseyans who can speak to the fact that I was very good at bringing people together and marshalling support for education reform. If you would be interested in speaking to national education reform leaders—people who can testify to my long-time support of standards-based reform and for universal school choice—I can provide you with additional references. In the application, I only had space to provide one such name: that of John Kirtley, a Floridian who serves as Vice-Chairman of the Alliance for School Choice, an organization for which I was a Board member for many years.

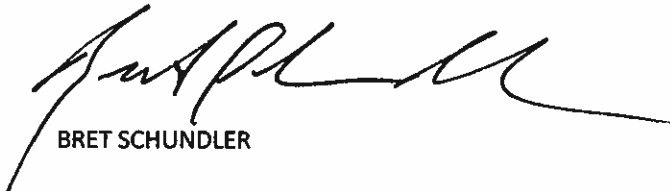
Working to improve education systems has been my life's passion. To that end, I have worked with advocacy organizations, in government, and in the private sector to improve not only K-12 education, but also post-secondary education.

For instance, prior to serving as New Jersey's Commissioner of Education, I served as the COO of a college where we were endeavoring to create both a new education model and a new business model for post-secondary education. Meanwhile, in the months since I left the New Jersey Department of Education, I have been working to develop a sustainable, scalable model of how urban public schools might be made more effective, and to solve the facilities problem constraining the growth of the charter sector in various states, including my own.

I hope the members of Florida's State Board of Education will give me this opportunity to help them realize their vision for public education.

I think they and the Governor would find me an easy person to work with, and that we would be able to achieve things for the children of Florida that are of immense and lasting value.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bret Schundler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRET SCHUNDLER



**Application for the Position of
The Commissioner of Education**

Name: Schundler Bret Davis **Date:** May 2011
Last First Middle

Address: 299 Varick Street Jersey City NJ 07302 **E-mail:** bds@schundler.org
Street City State Zip

Phone: 201-332-6615 201-988-7756 201-988-7756 **Fax #:** 201-332-6615
Home Business Cell

EDUCATIONAL RECORD

Name & Location of Institution Attended	Year(s)	Degree	Major(s)	Minor(s)
Harvard University; Cambridge, MA	1977-1981	B.A., Cum Laude	Sociology	
University of Haifa; Haifa, Israel	1980		Kibbutz Studies	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

(Indicate relevant leadership responsibilities)

None Presently.

Council of Chief State School Officers, Former Member

New Jersey League of Municipalities, Former Executive Board Member

New Jersey Urban Mayors' Association, Former Education Committee Chairman

EXPERIENCE

(List in consecutive order beginning with the next most recent position following the position listed on page 1.)

Dates	Position/Institution/Location	Supervisor's Name & Title	Supervisor's Phone
To: Present	Managing Member, Charter Facilities Acquisition, LLC; Jersey City, NJ	NA	(Business) NA
From: 4/11			(Home)
Reason for leaving (please be specific): I recently formed this limited liability company (it may operate under different trade names) to acquire and renovate facilities for use by charter schools. (A shortage of facility space is presently the greatest constraint on charter school growth in many states.) I would close down the company if offered this opportunity to work on education reform as Florida's Commissioner of Education.			
To: 3/11	School Design Consultant	NA	(Business) NA
From: 1/11			(Home)
Reason for leaving (please be specific): This was a volunteer involvement. I assisted individuals interested in developing a sustainable, scalable school model that urban school districts can use to increase their educational effectiveness.			
To: 8/11	Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey; Trenton, NJ	Governor Chris Christie	(Business) 609-292-6000
From: 1/11			(Home)
Reason for leaving (please be specific): I was dismissed by the Governor.			
To: 1/10	Chief Operating Officer, The King's College; NY, NY	Andy Mills, Chairman of the Board	(Business) 212-659-7200
From: 1/07			(Home)
Reason for leaving (please be specific): I left to serve as Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey.			

REFERENCES

(Names of four persons who can discuss your experience and qualifications in detail.)

Name	Official Position	Phone Number
Willa Spicer	Former Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey under both Democratic Governor Jon Corzine and Republican Governor Chris Christie.	Business 609-466-7601 x7234
		Home (609) 924-9373
		Cell (609) 357-4960
Marie Billick	Executive Director, New Jersey School Boards Association	Business (609) 278-5203
		Home (908) 852-4465
		Cell (609) 218-2785
Richard Bozza	Executive Director, New Jersey Association of School Administrators	Business (609) 599-2900
		Home 973-402-8046
		Cell (908) 578-5381

John Kirtley	Vice Chairman, Alliance for School Choice	Business (813) 222-0160
		Home 813-310-7122
		Cell 813-310-7122

BACKGROUND CHECK AND INFORMATION

In addition to the following information, a thorough background check may be made at the option of the employer.

If "Yes" is selected in response to any question, attach additional sheets and clearly identify as Background Check and Information with a detailed explanation:

"YES" answers to the following questions will not necessarily result in denial of an offer of employment. The employer will consider all the circumstances, including the date and nature of events that have led to the actions described below. Your written explanation will assist the employer in determining your eligibility and suitability for an offer of employment.

1. Have you ever been convicted of, admitted committing, pleaded no contest, or are you awaiting trial for any crime (excluding only minor traffic violations that do not involve any allegations of alcohol, drugs or reckless driving) or have any civil charges previously or pending involving allegations of child abuse or spousal abuse? You must answer "YES" if true, even if the matter was later dismissed, deferred, reversed, or vacated. If you answer "YES" you must provide dates of the proceedings, the name and address of the court where the proceedings occurred, a statement of the accusation against you and the final disposition of the case(s).

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

2. Have you ever been dismissed (fired) from any job, or resigned at the request of or pressure from your employer, or left employment while charges against you or an investigation of your behavior was pending or been refused tenure, reappointment or continuing contract from any employer? You must answer "YES" if true, even if the matter was later resolved with any form of settlement or severance agreement, regardless of its terms. If you answer "YES" you must provide the date of termination or resignation and other action concerning tenure reappointment or continuing contract denial and the name, address and telephone number of the employer(s) and a statement of the alleged reasons for termination or resignation.

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

3. Have you ever had any license or certificate of any kind (teaching certificate or other professional license) revoked, suspended, or reprimanded, or have you in any way been sanctioned by or is any charge or complaint now pending against you before any licensing, certification or other regulatory agency or body, public or private? If you answer "YES" you must provide the dates of proceedings, name, address and telephone number of the agency or body where proceedings took place, a statement of the accusations against you, the final disposition and/or status of the charge or complaint.

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

4. Are you now being investigated for any alleged misconduct or other alleged grounds for discipline by any licensing, certification or other regulatory body (teacher certification or otherwise) or by your current or any previous employer? If you answer "YES" you must provide the name, address and telephone number of the employer or licensing body and statement of the accusation against you.

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

5. Have you ever been involved, or are you currently involved, or do you anticipate involvement in litigation either as the plaintiff/complainant or defendant/respondent?

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

6. Have you ever filed a grievance/complaint of any kind against an employer?

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

Bret Schundler Application for Florida Commissioner of Education
Background Check and Information: Question 2

I and my New Jersey Department of Education team failed to include New Jersey education spending data for fiscal year 2009 in our Race to The Top application. This cost our state application critical points in the grant competition.

During a press conference on the matter, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie criticized the Obama Administration for not permitting New Jersey to provide the missing budget data when the omission was pointed out to us. While trying to drive home this point, he made a statement that was not factually accurate. I had stressed to the Governor that the point was inaccurate when he had told me what he planned to say, right before the press conference began. I had also plainly laid out the facts of the matter in emails and conversations with his top staff. But, whether accidentally or by design, the Governor presented things at the press conference as he had originally planned.

On the very next day, the Obama Administration released a video tape that proved the Governor's statement was untrue. Governor Christie was deeply embarrassed. Rather than say he misspoke, or that he misunderstood the facts, the Governor blamed me for his mis-statement, saying that I had misled him on the point in question, and on August 27th, 2010, he terminated me.

In defense of my integrity, I released emails that proved I had described the facts of the matter accurately. But because I want Governor Christie to be successful as he endeavors to implement his reform agenda in New Jersey, I turned down requests from almost every major television news program in America to discuss the matter on air. I also turned down requests to testify about the matter before state legislative committees, until I was legally compelled to by subpoena.

Governor Christie and I are no longer commenting on this matter. I remain supportive of the Governor's leadership and wish this incident had never occurred.

Governor Christie's telephone number is 609-292-6000.

Bret Schundler Application for Florida Commissioner of Education
Background Check and Information: Question 5

When I was the Mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey, from 1992-2001, I was frequently sued in my capacity as Mayor. Most of these suits were slip and fall type suits, where someone sued the City, and me in my capacity as Mayor, after falling somewhere on the City's sidewalks or streets. The City won many of these cases, lost some, and settled others.

I also remember being sued in other kinds of cases when I was Mayor.

In one, which I believe was named *Balcer v. Lombard*, the City's Business Administrator was sued following a round of municipal layoffs, and as Mayor, I was named as a Co-Defendant.

A second, which was named *Casamasino v. City of Jersey City*, followed my appointment of a new tax assessor. The old tax assessor sued claiming that he had a permanent right to the job.

A third, which was probably named *Police Officers Benevolent Association v. Schundler*, followed my civilianization of certain Police Department typing and filing desk jobs, and my re-assignment of the officers who had been doing such jobs to duties that specifically required police training.

A fourth, *ACLU v. Schundler*, resulted in a United State Federal Appeals Court decision upholding the right of municipal governments to have holiday displays placed in front of City Hall that include religious symbols.

The City and I won all of these cases.

I have also been a defendant, and plaintiff, in political campaign-related lawsuits.

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

(Please read carefully and sign the statement below.)

The information in the Application for Employment is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I have answered all questions to the best of my ability and I have not withheld any information that would unfavorably affect my application for employment. I acknowledge that any misrepresentation or omission of any fact in my application, resume, or any other materials, or during any interviews, may be the cause for my rejection from employment or may result in my subsequent dismissal if I am hired.



Signature

6/1/11

Date

APPLICANT'S FILE MUST INCLUDE:

- A letter of application stating personal qualifications, experiences, and reasons for interest in the position.
- A *signed* official application form and current resume.
- The names of four persons who will serve as references and can be contacted. *(Include name, title, and telephone numbers for both home and business and a cell phone number, if known.)*
- Several *current* letters of recommendation.

Please Direct All Inquiries,
Applications and Supporting Materials To:

Ray and Associates, Inc.

4403 First Avenue SE, Suite 407

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-3221

319/393-3115 Phone

319/393-4931 Fax

E-mail: glr@rayassoc.com

Website: www.rayassoc.com

***DO NOT CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OR BOARD DIRECTLY.***

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

MAY 25, 2011

Neither the Florida Department of Education nor any members of Ray and Associates, Inc. discriminate on the basis of disability, race, religion, sex, national origin, or age in access to, employment in, or in the provision of any programs, benefits or activities.

Bret Schundler

299 Varick Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
Cell: 201-988-7756
bds@schundler.org

EXPERIENCE:

- 4/11**
to
Present
- Charter Facility Acquisition, LLC** **Jersey City, NJ**
Managing Member
- I am presently working as the Managing Member of a limited liability company that is seeking to develop school facilities for lease and/or purchase by charter schools. (A lack of facility space is the greatest constraint on the growth of the charter school sector in many states.) Our first project is underway in my home community of Jersey City.
- 1/10**
to
8/10
- State of New Jersey** **Trenton, NJ**
Commissioner of Education
- As the Commissioner of Education, I was responsible for the entirety of New Jersey's public education system. I created a bold plan for systemic reform, marshaled bi-partisan support for it, moved opposition interest groups to endorse the majority of its elements, and successfully initiated its implementation.
- 1/07**
to
1/10
- The King's College** **New York, NY**
Chief Operating Officer, Adjunct Professor of Public Policy
- As the Chief Operating Officer of The King's College in Manhattan, I was responsible for all aspects of the College's strategic planning and business management. Direct reports included the College's Provost, Dean of Students, Chief Financial Officer, and the college's Vice Presidents for Advancement, Admissions, and Operations. Under my leadership, this entrepreneurial College was accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and saw its enrollment soar. Prior to my appointment as COO, while serving as an Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, I directed high-level seminars on diverse public policy topics, including education reform.
- 2003**
to
2008
- People Power America, LLC** **Hudson County, NJ**
Managing Partner
- I founded and for five years was the Managing Partner of an internet cloud-based technology company which licensed TeamVolunteer, an online utility used by diverse political campaigns and not-for-profit organizations. My clients included a presidential campaign, candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives, state party organizations, and numerous non-profit enterprises.
- 2001**
and
2005
- Schundler For Governor** **Mountainside, NJ**
Candidate and Nominee for Governor of New Jersey
- I ran unsuccessfully for Governor in 2001 and 2005. A major focus of my two campaigns was education reform. Many of the education policies I campaigned upon in 2001 and 2005 are now being encouraged nationally by President Obama, highlighting the exciting opportunity we have today to work together, in a bipartisan way, to improve public education for our children.
- 1995**
to
2004
- Empower The People** **Jersey City, NJ**
Chairman
- I founded Empower The People in 1995 to coordinate statewide grassroots support for the passage of charter school legislation in New Jersey that I had drafted. In the years following that successful battle, this 501(c)4 issue advocacy organization worked on numerous issues, including education, school funding, and property tax reform initiatives that I later made core elements of my gubernatorial campaigns.

- 1992
to
2001
- The City of Jersey City** **Jersey City, NJ**
Mayor
- My accomplishments as mayor are discussed in the attached biography. Here I should add that while serving as the Mayor of Jersey City, I was Chairman of the Urban Mayors Association Committee on Education, where – though of a different party than my peers – I was entrusted by all to do the right thing for New Jersey’s urban school children. I also served a term as the President of Americans for School Choice, with two former Secretaries of the United States Department of Education (Bill Bennett and Lamar Alexander) on my Board, and served several terms as a Board Member of the Alliance for School Choice, which became the national coordinating body for the school choice movement. During these years, I wrote the draft, and coordinated the grassroots support for, New Jersey’s charter school law, facilitated the creation of numerous charter schools in Jersey City – including the Golden Door Charter School, which I founded and served as Board Chairman – and developed an innovative approach to school construction which was featured by *Governing* magazine as a national model worthy of emulation. Many of the proposals I put forward in 1994 for the standards-based reform of our public schools were core elements of President Obama’s Race to The Top initiative.
- 1991
- Schundler for New Jersey Senate** **Bayonne, NJ**
Candidate for State Senate
- In 1991, I ran unsuccessfully for New Jersey State Senate. I received 46% of the vote while running as a Republican in a district where two years earlier the Republican candidate for Governor had received only 11% of the vote,
- 1987
to
1989
- C. J. Lawrence** **New York, NY**
Institutional Sales
- I was a salesperson with this securities firm specializing in economics research. (Its economist was consistently ranked the best on Wall Street by our trade journal, *Institutional Investor* magazine.) My clients were mutual funds, insurance companies, and financial institutions in Boston and Providence.
- 1984
to
1987
- Salomon Brothers** **Bayonne, NJ**
Institutional Sales Associate
- I was a bond salesman in a four person unit that structured portfolios for corporations and government instrumentalities (our unit’s 1986 sales: \$24 billion). I was also the first salesman with the only Salomon Brothers unit ever to manage clients’ money on a discretionary basis.
- 1983
to
1984
- Gary Hart For President** **Washington, DC**
Field Coordinator
- I was the Western Iowa Coordinator, the Georgia Field Director, and a New Jersey State Coordinator for U.S. Senator Gary Hart’s 1984 campaign for President.
- 1983
to
1982
- Congressman Roy Dyson** **Washington, DC**
Executive Assistant
- I managed the non-legislative staff in the Washington office of Democratic Congressman Roy Dyson, who represented the First District of Maryland.
- EDUCATION:**
- 1981
- Harvard University** **Cambridge, MA**
Cum Laude in Sociology
- 1980
- Haifa University** **Israel**
Kibbutz Studies and Jewish Philosophy



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

1014 Route 601 - Skillman, NJ - 08558-2112 - Telephone (609) 466-7601 - Fax (609) 466-0944

Director of Curriculum

I am pleased to recommend Bret Schundler for any government position he seeks. I was the Deputy Commissioner of Education during the time that Commissioner Schundler served the Department of Education in New Jersey. As I was also Deputy during the previous administration, I was a bit apprehensive about working for a new Commissioner. I did not need to worry. Bret Schundler turned out to be a strong, caring and courageous leader who worked to bring everyone together in support of education reform.

From the outset, he brought a new perspective to the state education system. He used the power of big ideas to frame the work of the bureaucracy, developing his recommendations for both policies and practices around "social justice" and "choice."

Thus, he championed a dynamic system of schools - district-operated neighborhood and magnet schools; district-created, but largely autonomous achievement academies; county-operated vocational and college-prep schools, state-chartered schools, and private schools - making a whole array of educational opportunities available to every child. He challenged legislators, local politicians, school superintendents and even union leaders to consider the elements of social justice before reaching a conclusion on what schools are and for whom they are intended.

Since Bret always speaks with passion and specificity, making logical and straightforward arguments, even the most adverse audience begins to assent as he explains why complicated issues related to teacher evaluation or the expansion of charter schools or even monetary support for education are all questions of social justice. I watched this phenomenon happen in very large groups and in very small groups; at the Legislative Committees and at the State Board of Education meetings; at public interest conventions and at special interest conferences. No matter how complex the issue, Bret Schundler was always a compelling speaker.

This reliance on ideas, however, is not to be construed as impracticality or inefficiency. Bret is both practical and efficient and, unlike many others, also innovative. For instance, given the long history of local control in NJ and the failure of numerous attempts to consolidate the over 600 districts in the state in the name of efficiency, Bret diverted the Legislature's push for consolidated school districts - which he believed would simply create "bigger monopolies" - to a focus on sharing services (which Bret also saw as opening up cross-district competition in the provision of services). Thus, New Jersey saw Superintendents and Business Administrators take on more than one district; consortia of curriculum developers from multiple districts grew regionally and sending-schools became partners with large high schools that received their students. While consolidation may have been a good idea, little was accomplished. Bret's focus on service-sharing produced actual results and has the potential to influence the way education is delivered as it unleashes innovation and competition not just at the school level, but at the level of the education and support services provided within districts and schools.

Finally, there is the issue of courage. It would have been easy for Bret Schundler to simply be still and offer his ideas in the well-received speeches he gave to a variety of stakeholder audiences. He decided, however, to reach out to the leadership of every organization. He adjusted his messages but he never changed them and, even when groups appeared intractably opposed, he took it upon himself to search for entries and possibilities for interaction. At the monthly meeting for the leadership groups, he answered difficult questions and patiently explained the alternatives, listened carefully and took away the critical information.

Most important however, Bret Schundler knew what was right, what could work and what could not, and he exercised his considerable skills to lead New Jersey down the road to success. He taught those of us who worked with him that what we did was important and required our best efforts and he modeled what that meant by working intensely for long hours. He was respected by the staff and by the field.



Willa Spicer



New Jersey School Boards Association

413 West State Street • P.O. Box 909 • Trenton, NJ 08605-0909 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413

June 1, 2011

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Bret Schundler

To Whom It May Concern:

The New Jersey School Boards Association is a non-partisan federation of 588 local boards of education with the core mission of advancing public education.

It was my pleasure, as NJSBA executive director, to work with Bret Schundler in his role as Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Schundler has an in-depth understanding of educational issues and of the challenges facing our public schools. He is an education leader neither afraid of innovation nor of challenging long-standing practices in order to achieve school improvement. At the same time, he approaches issues in a thoughtful and collaborative manner. I found that he consistently reached out to all elements of our state's education community to inform and build support for education reform.

Our organization has known Mr. Schundler in several capacities, including as the mayor of one of the state's largest municipalities. Throughout his career, Mr. Schundler has exhibited a deep and sincere interest in, and commitment to, the education of New Jersey's children.

I am confident that Mr. Schundler has the skills and the personal qualities necessary to manage a state education system and to implement state education policy effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie S. Bilik".

Marie S. Bilik, Executive Director
New Jersey School Boards Association
(609) 278-5203 – office
(609) 218-2785 – cell phone
(908) 852-4465 – home
mbilik@njsba.org



New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association

June 1, 2011

Re: Candidacy of Bret Schundler

I have had the privilege of working with Bret Schundler in the context of my role as the Director of Government Relations for the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) during his tenure as our Commissioner of Education. NJPSA represents public school principals, assistant principals and other building level school leaders throughout the State of New Jersey. Our association has been actively engaged in the development and implementation of state education policy and regulation for decades with the mission of promoting student achievement through excellence in school leadership.

Even prior to his confirmation as New Jersey's Commissioner of Education, Bret Schundler distinguished himself by his intellect, depth of knowledge in the education policy arena and his commitment to quality education for all students. His passion for education is widely known in our state. His excellent communication skills and strong outreach efforts to stakeholders such as NJPSA characterized his service as Commissioner in our state.

Perhaps most impressive is Mr. Schundler's ability to bring together diverse stakeholders with opposing viewpoints to find common ground on key educational reforms. Although my association did not always agree with Mr. Schundler's stance on particular policy directions, I was impressed by his willingness to respectfully seek out, consider our views and work toward a meaningful compromise on several high stakes reform issues. Similarly, his respect for educational professionals and understanding of their critical roles in our schools, demonstrates that Mr. Schundler possesses a key "success" indicator for any future leadership role in education reform.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (609) 860-1200 ext. 126 or mobile (908) 797-4163.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Bradley, Esq.



Chester E. Finn, Jr.
President

Michael J. Petrilli
Executive Vice President

Terence R. Ryan
*Vice President for
Ohio Programs & Policy*

Trustees

David P. Driscoll
Chester E. Finn, Jr.
Thomas A. Holton
Michael W. Kelly
Craig Kennedy
Rod Paige
David H. Ponitz
Caprice Young

Trustees Emeritus

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Bruno V. Manno
Diane Ravitch

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Fax (937) 660-3338

37 W Broad Street, Suite 400
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone (614) 223-1580
Fax (614) 223-1494

June 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Please add me to the lengthening list of Bret Schundler admirers in the education-reform world. Though there was an obvious glitch in his recent stint in the Christie administration, that appears truly not to have been his fault. It seemed to me at the time that he was off to an otherwise stellar start in turning around a statewide K-12 education system that sorely needed (and needs) it and in demonstrating his considerable prowess in turning around and leading a major state agency.

This was on top of his well-documented successes as mayor of Jersey City, his key role in national education-reform circles, his subsequent solid work at the college level, and his general energy, intellect, political savvy and leadership competence.

I'm a fan and strongly encourage his selection in a key education leadership role at the state level.

Sincerely,

Chester E. Finn, Jr.
President



www.klhcapital.com

June 3, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Bret Schundler for over a decade. I first came to know him in the late 1990's when we both served on the board of Children First America, which was a non profit advocacy group dedicated to empowering low income families with parental choice in K12 education. I have continued to be in constant contact with Bret since that time.

I can say with confidence that Bret has a complete grasp of the issues facing K12 education. He also has detailed and broad knowledge of the reform policies currently needed to improve K12 education in our country. He also is completely dedicated to the idea of parents being able to choose the best school for their children, regardless of the provider.

I believe that his experience as Mayor of Jersey City shows that he is incredibly gifted in both policy and politics. For a free market Republican to even be elected in that traditionally Democrat city is an almost unfathomable accomplishment. But as important, after being elected Bret brought truly innovative thinking and policies to the governance of the city. I would add that even in those early days of K12 reform, as Mayor Bret was an outspoken advocate of parental choice in education. He assumed a major role in a legislative effort for choice while mayor.

In summary I believe Bret would be an outstanding choice for any education commissioner that he might be considered for.

Sincerely,



John Kirdley