



## Save Ethnic Studies

Tucson Unified School District Governing Board  
Attention: President Dr. Mark Stegeman, TUSD Governing Board Members  
1010 East 10th Street  
Tucson, AZ, 85719

March 17, 2011

Re: Request for emergency school board meeting

Dear President Dr. Stegeman and Governing Board Members,

Save Ethnic Studies requests an emergency meeting of the TUSD school board to discuss the audit of the MAS program in light of the criminal history of its team leader, Dr. Steve Gallon.

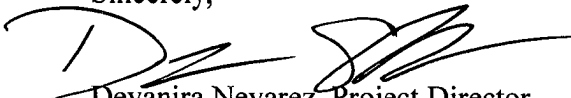
The former Plainfield, N.J. superintendent named by state superintendent of public instruction John Huppenthal to lead the MAS audit was arrested in 2010 on charges of conspiring to commit theft of more than \$10,000 of educational services. In January, Gallon and two high-ranking Plainfield School District employees entered pretrial intervention program agreements to avoid jail time on 11 criminal charges, according to dailrecord.com. The agreement barred all three from ever working in New Jersey public school service in the future.

Gallon was charged with providing false documents to show that the children of two women who worked for him actually lived with him so that those children could attend South Plainfield public schools. In addition he faced allegations that he had demoted district employees for opposing him, that he had violated board policy by failing to post employment opportunities and position vacancies, and that he breached union contracts without board authorization, among others. Gallon resigned shortly before Christmas, 2010 after receiving a \$100,000 settlement from the school board which said it did so because it would be too costly and time consuming to go to trial against Gallon.

A man of such questionable background hardly seems fit to determine if TUSD's Mexican American Studies department complies with Arizona law. At the very least we would hope that the school board would take the matter up in emergency session and seek public input before allowing this sketchy character to preside over the audit.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Deyanira Nevarez, Project Director  
Save Ethnic Studies