

Mayor Bellamy, vice Mayor Davis, members of the Asheville City Council & distinguished citizens of Asheville, NC: I am Gene Hampton, founder of Asheville Citizens for Quality Government (ACfQG).

Muriel Humphrey said once: "To be immortal, a speech does not have to be eternal." So, let's keep it short & simple. (KISS) Your time & our time is very valuable. If we had only one minute, we would say our education policy standards are found in paragraph 3 of www.nccqg.org.

On December 15th, 2004 @ 12:30 am, we introduced ACfQG & stated Dr. John Hagelin said in his 2000 campaign for President: "We need to create educational systems that develop the full potential Human consciousness of every student." On March 14th, 2006, we made a statement to the Asheville City Council on the need for a "QMS" for government in general & to assure the achievement of quality public education in particular.

In December, 2006, the NC State Board of Education presented their mission, goals, & objectives for public education in NC; & last year President-Elect Obama gave us his platform position on public education.

We are here tonight to reiterate the need for quality public education in Asheville & Buncombe County, NC. The transformation of our culture & the public education system (PES) are the 2 major issues of our time. We want to talk about absolute truths; e.g., Ignorance is not bliss! Ignorance is the lack of knowledge of the Truth (Universal Law). We spend \$24,000 per prison inmate & only \$6,000 per student each year! Rather than emphasizing 'correction' (prisons), we should be emphasizing 'prevention' (quality education). The root cause of crime, drugs, & dropouts is ignorance of Truth (lack of quality education). Let's teach the Law of Cause & Effect, Law of Attraction, & the Law of Thought. ("An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.")

We believe it's time for 'real change'. It's time for quality education in Asheville, Buncombe County, & NC. A mind is not a 'terrible thing'; but to waste it – is!

Thank you. Namaste! January 17th, 2009