


From: Bolo Editor [redacted]
Subject: New Orleans Weekly Newsletter
Date: July 14, 2008 11:01:14 AM CDT
To: [redacted]
Reply-To: [redacted]



Bolo

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of New Orleans

July 16, 2008

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This Week's Speaker: Paul Vallas

Louisiana Recovery School District

Paul G. Vallas was appointed in May 2007 as Superintendent of the Recovery School District of New Orleans. He is implementing sweeping District-wide reforms in New Orleans, duplicating many of the initiatives that turned the school systems of Philadelphia and Chicago into nationally recognized models for education reform. In New Orleans, Vallas' reforms promise to create safer schools, better-trained teachers, a unified curriculum, more support for students with special needs and a fiscal plan that improves the financial health of the District. His approach to reforming the RSD is one of inclusion to give parents, staff, community organizations, religious institutions and the New Orleans community a say in their schools. Among the new initiatives he has put into place are after school and summer school programs, a standardized curriculum and a classroom modernization initiative. He also will introduce a network of alternative schools, a student conservation corps and a school-based community policing program. Originally from Chicago, Vallas received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and History in 1976 and a Masters in Political Science in 1980 from Western Illinois University.



In his first year at the helm of the Philadelphia public school system, Vallas put in place new initiatives that included after school and summer school programs, a transitional program for students returning from court-

appointed placements, a Saturday program for chronically disruptive students and a parent truancy officer program. He installed a new Code of Conduct for students and a "zero tolerance" policy for infractions. His administration also launched a comprehensive academic overhaul of the system's high schools as well as a five-year, \$1.5 billion capital program that is building an unprecedented number of new schools and accomplishing major renovations to many existing ones.

Before coming to Philadelphia, Vallas served as the Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Public Schools from 1995 to 2001. While there, he transformed the nation's third largest school system from what was thought of as "the worst in the country" to "a model for the nation." Vallas initiated a broad series of educational reforms to reverse the system's persistent failure.

[Read more about Paul Vallas](#)

Rotary Goes to the Zephyrs

Hey all you baseball fans!!!! On Saturday July 19th we will be holding our first "Family" event for the 2008-09 year....we are going to the ball game!!! This is one that the kids LOVE, and to get them enthused early, we invite you to bring them to Lunch with you on July 2 when Ron Swoboda, announcer for the New Orleans Zephyrs baseball team, will be our speaker....and he is bringing Boudreaux (Big Boudreaux Nutria) the Zephyr's mascot, with him just to meet the kids!!



We are going to ask that the hotel will make it a Hamburger, Hot Dog, and Cookie day so the kids won't starve.

Starting next week, we will have a sign up sheet at the registration table or you can email Josh Danzig at Josh@whereyat.net or you can email Cindy Markham at: cmarkham@bcm.org. The seats are in a block so this is a great opportunity for us to get to know each other and our wives/husbands and kids to do the same. Lets get the year off to a rousing start.....Sign up this week ! "

[More on the Zephyrs...](#)

District Governor Applications Being Accepted

Application for 2011-12 District Governor Position

Applications are now being accepted for the position of 2011-12 District Governor. The application can be found on the district website on the forms page and qualifications are detailed in the District Policy Manual. The deadline for applications is August 4th.

Last Week's Speaker: Blaine Kearn

Upcoming Speakers:

July 23rd: David Blossman, Abita Brewing Co.

July 30th: Rotary District Governor Greg Lier

August 6th: Johnny D'Bartolo, Boys and Girls Clubs

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