



21st January 2010

Statement from Myron Piper on behalf of the Bermuda Democratic Alliance on Education

“I find it extraordinary that teachers and principals have sat idly by for so long while the Ministry use them like ping pong balls, constantly shifting positions without purpose; bouncing from one idea to another, yet never consummating any effective change. How many children have we lost in this long arduous process at the hands of an ineffective Ministry; a Ministry which has failed miserably at every juncture of its existence since the Hopkins Report? I think it is time when people like Wendy McDonell, who was part of the old regime identified in the Hopkins Report as being secretive, lacking transparency and should be disbanded to go, along with Minister James who has shown weak and ineffective leadership. How much failure is acceptable? Constantly retracting decisions due to poor and irrational planning or simply decided through clandestine means disregarding relevant stakeholders, frequently made without collaboration and transparency by any standards.”

“Government’s inability to be responsive and show responsible leadership has created an atmosphere of hysteria. This has spewed forth a plethora of ideas and ideology based on panic, self preservation and self enrichment from all quarters. We see in the Gazette this week a group of new consultants and people offering assistance because the only thing that is obvious and crystal clear at the present is Government doesn’t have a plan. After years of planning and promises they are promising us another five year plan is forthcoming. This is evident by the fact that the principals are now telling Government that they will vet their proposals. The principals are trying to assure parents that they will see that their children’s interests are taken care of. The only group in my opinion that has that right is the parents themselves. They are the only stakeholders that have no conflict of interests. Parents have to grab the bull by the horn here and take control of and protect the interests of their children.”
