

**RESPONSE TO SHEFF MOVEMENT QUESTION
FOLLOW-UP FROM 6/20/15 ROUNDTABLE**

Thank you for allowing me to participate in the roundtable discussion with the Sheff Movement. It was great to learn from the participants' diverse perspectives on the state of our schools. If anyone is interested in the video of what I said at the roundtable, see here: <http://bit.ly/1GMr8HN> (Apologies for the poor quality of the video!)

I very much appreciate the chance to follow up by answering your extra question as well. For further follow-up, you can always reach my campaign at info@lukebronin.com or through social media (see the footer of the next page), or in person at our field office at 1229 Albany Avenue. I look forward to continuing the dialogue.

YOUR QUESTION

How would your leadership as Hartford's mayor support the coalition's goals and our children's constitutional right to a quality, integrated education?

MY ANSWER

Let me start by saying that I have an enormous amount of admiration for everybody who was part of the initial *Sheff* movement, and I think that many opportunities have been opened up to a lot of kids as a result. But there are some unintended consequences of *Sheff* that we are still grappling with, and which we should have an honest conversation about. There are a few things that I would prioritize if I were fortunate to be Mayor:

- *Build a Strong Relationship with the State*
- *Coordinate and Centralize Information*
- *Work to Address All Barriers to Education*

Build a Strong Relationship with the State

Hartford needs a mayor who can effectively advocate for our schools so that they receive the resources they need. We need a mayor capable of forging stronger relationships between Hartford and State partners—who reaches out from day one to communicate what's not working and ways to fix it.

We need to have an open and honest conversation about the future of education in Hartford.

Right now, the *Sheff* decision measures success only by one measure: reducing racial isolation. That is a very important, very worthy goal — but so is making sure that every child is in a quality school, regardless of the school's racial makeup.



Additionally, seats should never be allowed to sit empty in high performing magnet schools when there are Hartford kids ready, willing and able to attend.

Right now, we're not having the conversation about education that we need. We need to have it. And the Mayor needs to help lead it.

As Mayor, I will make it priority to proactively reach out to the State and advocate for equity in our school system. I have the knowledge, the experience, and the relationships to make that happen.

Coordinate and Centralize Information

We need to facilitate choice for Hartford residents, especially low-income families and English-language learning students, and access to information key.

My work won't end with listing information on a website. We need a more comprehensive support system. We need outreach and—importantly—a responsive City Hall.

Pre-K is a prime example of the need for an information clearinghouse. As the Sheff Movement reported, access to quality Pre-K is extremely important for Hartford families. (My response to that report from back in April is posted here: <http://bit.ly/1E73XK0>)

Unfortunately, there is no one place to get information about publicly-funded Pre-K and school options for Hartford families. The application process is complicated, and understanding how the odds of admission differ at different ages is very difficult.

A lack of information has real consequences: 32% of Hartford Public School kindergarteners do not have preschool experience. While that number represents significant progress from prior years, nearly one out of three children still misses out on a Pre-K experience. We have more work to do.

Hartford families need clearer guidance — and a one-stop shop for information.

Work to Address All Barriers to Education

I will also maintain a broad view of supporting educational equity. Our children don't just face barriers in the lottery system. They face homelessness, poverty, and a lack of transportation, to name just a few of the challenges. On just that first challenge, homelessness, at least 110 children in Hartford public schools are homeless. In May, I wrote about some strategies I would hope to use as Mayor to address homelessness, and it's available here: <http://bit.ly/1edx3vZ>

BRONIN
FOR MAYOR

VOTE LUKE

As Mayor, I will do everything in my power to support Hartford's children, including working to end homelessness in Hartford, lifting our children out of poverty, and advocating for equitable transportation options for our families.

Paid for by Bronin for Mayor, Noel McGregor, Treasurer. Approved by Luke Bronin.

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