**Urban League of
Metropolitan Denver**

2015 York Street, Denver CO 80205
Office: 303.377.2790   Fax: 303.377.2794
denverurbanleague.org

*Our mission is to help African
Americans and other residents of metro
Denver attain social and economic
equality and self-reliance.*

May 24, 2011

Denver Public Schools
Board of Education
900 Grant Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear President Easley and Members of the Board:

As president of the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver, I urge you to support the McGlone Elementary innovation plan. The ULMD was founded for the purpose of promoting the attainment of economic and social self-reliance among poor and disadvantaged African Americans. We cannot support attainment of economic self-reliance without providing the highest quality education. McGlone's innovation plan will allow students the extra time they need to achieve State standards through a longer school day and longer school year.

I enjoyed meeting Suzanne Morey, McGlone's new principal. I am particularly supportive of McGlone's focus on empowering and holding teachers accountable for making decisions that impact the students in their classroom. Flexibility with staffing and scheduling will allow teachers and leaders to make decisions that align with the needs of their students.

The Montbello neighborhood needs innovative leaders and teachers who are willing to go above and beyond to meet the needs of students who have been underachieving for many years. This means creating partnerships with parents and businesses to provide a network of support for the Montbello families. It also means allowing schools to make strategic decisions that are in the best interests of their students. Innovation status holds teachers and leaders accountable while simultaneously removing the barriers that have previously gotten in the way of requiring them to "do whatever it takes" to best support our families and raising student achievement.

Thank you for supporting our educators to serve our families, all families, in the Montbello area.

Sincerely,

Landri Taylor
President & CEO