

# Democrat and Chronicle

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2006

## EDITORIALS

# Sunshine in Greece

■ The school board election was a loud vote for openness.

The results of the Greece school board election could — unless wiser heads prevail — produce conflict over a wide range of issues, starting with the selection of a new superintendent. The reason is that the three new members chosen by voters ran against the slate backed by the contingent that now controls the board.

The reality, though, is that the three elected, two of whom were endorsed by this page, are smart, capable people whose views on the issues are not all that different from those held by board members allied with Citizens for Accountability and Reform in Education, the taxpayers' group that last year backed three winners.

One way the board could mend the fences from a bruising campaign would be to repair the district's and board's reputation as secretive and dismissive of the public. That could start at the next board meeting with the full release of the legal settlements reached with three teachers who made discrimination complaints against the district.

Board President Ken Walsh said

Thursday that all signs are good for release of the details. It's important that his view prevails against any post-election pique, as openness was one of the issues on which the non-CARE slate ran and won.

The public deserves to know not only how much the district is paying to resolve these claims but also whatever details the settlements provide as to the nature of these complaints.

And as long as the board is opening this door, it should agree to release the so-called Berry report, an outside investigation into the teacher evaluation system that may have spurred the resignation of former superintendent Margaret Keller-Cogan. The board has parroted the line that the report is secret because district lawyers need it to be that way to resolve these cases.

Improving the district's legal posture in selected cases doesn't trump the public's right to know. The board's job is to protect that right, something it doesn't appear to adequately understand.

The Greece public does. It elected a slate that supports opening the Berry report.

Now's the time to splash sunshine on it and the teacher settlements. □

**OPENNESS AND PRIVACY:  
GREECE SCHOOLS**