

The Broward Coalition -- which comprises Broward taxpayers, including families of students who suffer in inadequate classrooms -- is grateful to

The Herald for Steve Harrison's comprehensive and accurate Nov. 24 article,

Process in construction deals may change. We also appreciate the Nov. 26 editorial in support of the soccer moms who have worked hard to make sure that there is accountability in the district's construction program.

As one of those citizen activists, technically a "soccer grandmom," I have been involved with Florida school districts, first in Miami-Dade County, then on a state level, now in Broward, since 1969. Miami-Dade's board ignored our warnings and also ridiculed us.

It finally had an Oversight Committee and a forensic audit imposed upon it by the state, confirming our observations.

Your editorial cut to the heart of the problem in Broward school district, which is well on the way back to the practices that the grand jury castigated. Staffers are either afraid for their jobs or are setting the stage for employment with the politically wired.

I've served on the Consultants Review Committee since 1999. If it had not been for close questioning from the volunteers on the CRC, many problems, including the firewalls at South Broward and Miramar high schools, would never have been brought to light.

We need to have an impartial task force with members who do not have any financial interest in the construction program to research districts across the country for best practices. The auditors from both the district and the County Commission should be the first appointees.

CHARLOTTE GREENBARG, president, The Broward Coalition Inc., Hollywood