

THE PLAIN DEALER

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The Jackson plan finally wins out

The battle for the Cleveland schools is far from over, but Tuesday's overwhelming Ohio House and Senate votes to approve Mayor Frank Jackson's school reform plan show what can happen when politicians look beyond partisan self-interest.

The mayor, who often works behind the scenes, deserves tremendous credit for staying out front and for acting without regard to his Democratic Party affiliation or his own political future. He buttonholed reluctant legislators in Columbus and held late-night meetings with the Cleveland Teachers Union -- which initially resisted his plan to eliminate failing schools and to fire the worst teachers and then wisely relented, while adding numerous sensible changes to the plan.

Jackson had plenty of odd bedfellows. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, was a faithful partner. Legislative supporters on both sides of the aisle braved brickbats from charter school operators and unions.

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