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**Statement by Michael Casserly, Executive Director
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Condemning Recent Remarks by Buffalo Board Member Carl Paladino

WASHINGTON -- The Council of the Great City Schools, the nation's primary coalition of large city public school systems, condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent statements by Buffalo school board member Carl Paladino about President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Mr. Paladino demonstrated a craven disregard for the dignity of the first family, and the ugly and racist nature of his statements reflects poorly on all of us in public education.

Regardless of whether they were spoken in the conduct of his duties as a public official, Mr. Paladino's loathsome words set an example of intolerance for all the students that we are charged with teaching and guiding.

There is simply no place in our public dialogue for an elected school board member to spew such hatred. The Council calls on officials in New York state to take the steps necessary to remove Mr. Paladino from office.

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