



The SFA Board is both stunned and deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Robert Slavin. We have always been inspired by the commitment that Bob and his wife, Nancy, have had to change the educational course for at-risk students in underserved communities. Bob was passionate and tireless in this pursuit. He always insisted that we *must* support high-quality instruction, research-proven curriculum, high-quality teacher training and programs with clear evidence of effectiveness in order to ensure that every child succeeds. In fact, Bob was devoted to the idea that we can accelerate learning for *all* kids, especially those furthest from opportunity, the very challenge we face today.

Bob always kept the Board aware of the urgency of the SFA mission. For him, early school failure was not a problem but a crisis. He was dedicated to doing the research for innovative solutions, working with Nancy to develop effective classroom practices, and sharing what works with school superintendents, state and federal officials, as well as policy makers. His dedication to improving low-performing schools and student academic outcomes was an inspiration to all of us on the Board.

Throughout his career, Bob was deeply appreciative of the awards he received for his work. However, for those who worked with him, it was clear that nothing gave him more pleasure than visiting schools and seeing teams of students helping each other improve in math or reading, seeing struggling readers make real progress with dedicated tutors, and seeing kids at risk of reading failure reach grade-level performance. Children acquiring the skills for success in life was always the real payoff for him.

We will all deeply miss Bob. We will miss his creativity and his enthusiasm for research and programs that make a difference in the lives of children. We will miss his relentless search for effective solutions to address school failure. We will miss his puns, his humor, his commitment, his friendship, and the twinkle in his eyes as he would to let us know what we all need to do to help children learn and develop. As a Board, we will take his drive and dedication into our hearts to support the organization's hard work so that schools achieve Success for All.