



**REMARKS BY**

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**  
**IN**  
**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**ON THE OCCASION**

**OF THE**

**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT**  
**PRESENTATION OF NEW ACADEMIC**  
**MATERIAL FOR LANGUAGE ARTS,**  
**MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE CURRICULA**

**TUESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2010**

**9:00 AM**

**BRITISH COLONIAL HILTON**

**Salutations:**

**Mr. Lionel Sands, Director of Education;**

**Mrs. Lenora, Deputy Director of Education-Curriculum;**

**Mrs. Patricia Collins, Deputy Director of Education-Management;**

**Ms. Clare Symonette, local representative for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt;**

**Ms. Sharmaine Miller, Presenter;**

**Colleagues and partners in Education;**

**Good morning.**

**I am delighted to be here this morning to represent the Minister of Education, The Honourable T. Desmond Bannister who is out of the country at this time.**

**I wish to welcome each of you to this forum and particularly our officers from Grand Bahama and Abaco who are here to ensure that the knowledge obtained at this workshop benefits teachers and students throughout the length and breathe of our Commonwealth.**

**As educators, we are extremely pleased with the partnership that has existed between the Ministry and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for these many years. This partnership has gone beyond the traditional business one, to one whereby Houghton Houfflin Harcourt has grown with us and has consistently been responsive to our needs specifically in the area of the curriculum.**

**They have assisted us through the sponsorship of various professional development workshops for teachers; leadership workshops for administrators and providing teachers' manuals and other resources to assist with the advancement of education in The Bahamas. Additionally, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has sponsored our teachers' participation in international workshops, and training sessions for the Rigby Reads and Iowa Mathematics Assessment tests for primary school students.**

**Most commendable is their efforts in causing more books written by Bahamian teachers to be published for use in our classrooms. Today, is further evidence of their support of the Bahamian educational system as they present information on new materials on Language Arts, Mathematics and Science for the benefit our schools.**

**Colleagues believe it or not there are many who speak with an “expert tongue” about matters in education that they know little or nothing. They do not know that teachers are on a daily basis engaged in workshops such as this striving to acquire knowledge and best practices to enhance their skills and ultimately be a better teacher for the 50,000 plus students in the public educational system. They know not of the pro-active partnerships such as this that aid in the development of education in The Bahamas.**

**They do not delve beneath to the surface to see that we have come a long way and that we have, and continue to make tremendous strides in educating our citizenry to take on leadership roles in every sphere and even in the global arena.**

**Just last week, I had the opportunity to speak at the funeral service of the late Mrs. Thelma Ford, a veteran educator and a woman who at the time that she served as a principal, was many miles ahead of her time in the manner that she taught or guided her teachers. What we are doing today is in the same vein of what she wanted her teachers that was; a spirit of continuous learning and acquiring new methodologies and approaches to match our children's learning styles.**

**Mrs. Ford would be very proud that the presenter on "Best Practices", Ms. Sharmaine Miller, is a product of the Bahamian educational system and is qualified to present techniques and knowledge to improve teaching and inspire students in our schools She would applaud Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt for recognizing this fact.**

**Educators, I trust that this workshop will make you more knowledgeable in your fields and we will see the manifestation of this effort in our students' work at the school and national levels.**

I leave with you a quote from *Marian Wright Edelman* (American activist for the rights of children) who stated that, “Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

In quoting Mrs. Edelman, I want to you to know that we have every confidence that you are making our Bahamas a better place with your participation in the teaching profession.

