San Diego Teachers Association

10393 San Diego Mission Road
San Diego, California 92108

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BICENTENNIAL

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PARENT - TEACHER
input

A survey of major education issues in the community

The following survey is part of the BEST program to help establish priorities for teacher-school district bargaining. Please complete it and return in the attached envelope by June 1st.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

1. I prefer a:

   Winter break (1 week vacation in February encompassing Washington or Lincoln holiday). Would lengthen school year by 4 days. ☐

   Retention of present vacation schedule ☐

   Year round school ☐

   If year round school, indicate your preference:

   45 - 15 (45 days instruction, 15 days vacation) ☐

   Add 5th (summer) term. Student & parent allowed to select vacation term. ☐

2. Should these days be vacation holidays?

	YES	NO
Yom Kippur	☐	☐
Columbus Day (October)	☐	☐
Election Day (1st Tuesday, November)	☐	☐
Mexican Independence Day (September 16)	☐	☐

3. Should school start before Labor Day? ☐ ☐

INSTRUCTION

1. Should teachers evaluate their school administrators? ☐ ☐

2. Do you favor hiring of teaching specialists? ☐ ☐

   If yes, in which of these areas:

   Music ☐

   Art ☐

   Physical Education ☐

3. Which of the following is the best approach to handling discipline problems in elementary schools? (Choose One)

   a. Special crisis classrooms with teachers in charge of problem students. ☐

   b. Additional school psychologists ☐

   c. Vice-principal in charge of discipline ☐

   d. Principal or vice-principal required to be on site during entire instructional day. ☐

4. CLASS SIZE: While minor strides have been made to reduce class size in elementary schools, California (and San Diego) stand 40th out of 50 states. Only 10 states have classes larger than California's despite the fact that our state has the highest per capita income in the U.S. Many secondary teachers have 175 students a day in 5 academic classes (5 classes averaging 35 students).

   Is this too large? ☐ ☐

5. Reduction of Classes During School Year: Under current policy, classes have to be reorganized 2 and 3 times during the school year because of declining enrollment, disrupting classes and the education process.

   Would you favor a plan in which no school would lose a teacher after the first month of school (Oct. 31) if enrollment declines. (Cost estimate $250 - $500,000 year). ☐ ☐

6. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

   Background

   Once the teaching contract for the school year has been agreed to, teachers have a right to file grievances. But under present procedure, the school board has the final say in a dispute, and can accept or reject the arbitrators decision.

   Should the board, which negotiates and authorizes a teaching contract, also be the interpreter of its meaning in a grievance case? ☐ ☐

7. DEMOGRAPHICS

   May age is:

   Under 25 ☐

   26 - 34 ☐

   35 - 45 ☐

   Over 45 ☐

   Number of children in public school:

   Elementary 1 2 3 4

   Jr. - Sr. High 1 2 3 4

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Dear BEST participant, parent, or interested citizen,

The BEST program was established in the fall of 1974 as a way to receive input from teachers, parents and interested members of the community and help in formulating priorities to improve education.

I'm sending you the results of the 1975 BEST survey and I think you will find it quite interesting. The data proves something I have always believed; parents' concerns and interests are more closely reflected in the educational process by teachers in the classroom, not by remote administrators who lack day-to-day student and parent contact.

For the 1976-77 school year, the San Diego Teachers Association would like to include your input on major issues regarding education and include them in our collective bargaining proposals to the school board.

The enclosed 1976 survey form serves that purpose, and we ask you to fill it out and return it by June 1st. We will combine the results of this survey with teacher INPUT in developing our collective bargaining priorities.

It is my hope that this checklist of community and teacher priorities will be able to make the education of our children more meaningful.

Thank you for your interest and support in the past. Each survey participant is important, so please take a few minutes to fill out the form and send it in.

Sincerely,

Hugh P. Boyle

Hugh Boyle
President

SAN DIEGO'S **B.E.S.T.**

Better Education Standards Today

Survey Results

1975 BEST CITIZEN OPINION POLL

San Diego Teachers Association

California Teachers Association

National Education Association

SURVEY RESULTS — 1975 BEST CITIZEN OPINION POLL

More than 146 citizens were contacted to give their opinions about students, the classroom, the school and the school district. The responses were divided almost equally between Elementary student parents (49%) and Junior and Senior High school parents (46%). About 5% of those surveyed currently did not have any children in school. This is what they said:

THE STUDENT

The "average" student is overlooked by this district.	Agree	57%
	Disagree	29%
	Do Not Know	14%
All students should have the opportunity of exposure to students and teachers representing different ethnic groups.	Agree	71%
	Disagree	21%
	Do Not Know	8%
Students in this district have a satisfactory selection of books and other instructional materials to use.	Agree	53%
	Disagree	34%
	Do Not Know	13%
The method of reporting student progress I prefer is:	Report Cards	19%
	Parent Teacher Conferences	19%
	Combination	62%

THE CLASSROOM

Overcrowded classrooms create discipline problems for teachers.	Agree	90%
	Disagree	8%
	Do Not Know	2%
What the student learns in a classroom is the most important thing in our schools.	Agree	67%
	Disagree	28%
	Do Not Know	5%
Regular classes in San Diego City Schools should be limited to	35	6%
	30	27%
	25	67%
The effectiveness of a teacher depends, to a large extent, on the number of children in a class.	Agree	77%
	Disagree	21%
	Do Not Know	2%

THE SCHOOL

All of the decisions related to a school should be made at the Education Center.	Agree	7%
	Disagree	88%
	Do Not Know	5%
All new elementary schools should be built as loft schools (schools with 3-4 classes in one large room).	Agree	6%
	Disagree	78%
	Do Not Know	16%
I feel welcome when I visit the schools in my neighborhood.	Agree	84%
	Disagree	9%
	Do Not Know	7%
The principal at my neighborhood schools deals effectively with students' behavior problems.	Agree	46%
	Disagree	36%
	Do Not Know	18%

THE DISTRICT

The Board of Education and administration listen to and are responsive to citizen input.	Agree	26%
	Disagree	52%
	Do Not Know	22%
Board of Education members should meet informally with the citizen groups in their districts periodically.	Agree	96%
	Disagree	1%
	Do Not Know	3%
My school tax dollars are being spent wisely and effectively by the School Board and administration	Agree	16%
	Disagree	58%
	Do Not Know	26%

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