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SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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March 20, 1980

Chief William B. Kolender
Chairman, Integration Task Force
801 West Market Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chief Kolender:

In behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of the San Diego Unified School District, we wish to thank the Integration Task Force for its constructive Interim Report filed with Judge Welsh on March 18, 1980. In reviewing the report, we find that we concur with most of the conclusions reached and many of the concerns which have been expressed.

We agree that emphasis needs to be placed on student achievement in basic subject areas in minority isolated schools. The School District is attempting to meet this need but recognizes that even more should be accomplished. The recognition that the entire burden cannot be borne by the schools, and that parents, the community and other institutions must assume a portion of the responsibility, is appreciated.

The problem of the use of different texts in the various schools participating in the Elementary Instructional Exchange Program has been recognized. We are working with the principals and faculties to resolve the problem.

As you know, on March 4, 1980, the Board of Education approved the establishment of school site integration program planning task groups at each of the fourteen isolated schools without a magnet program. We fully believe that this approach is responsive to the expressions of concern about the District's credibility by some members of the minority community. These task groups reflect our recognition of the fact that voluntary integration can succeed only with community support.

With respect to the location of the School of Creative and Performing Arts, the problem is more complicated than it appears at first glance. However, we wish to assure you that there are no preconceived conclusions with respect to the location of the Program.

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Concerning the Race/Human Relations Program, the District believes that it is operating an effective program. However, suggestions for its improvement are welcome.

The Board of Education and the staff of the School District look forward to continuing to work with the Integration Task Force as it begins to focus its attention on a Final Report. We all are prepared to assist the Task Force in this effort. If any assistance is desired, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely,

Yvonne W. Larsen

Yvonne W. Larsen
President, Board of Education

Tom Goodman

Thomas L. Goodman
Superintendent of Schools

YL:TLG
jmo

cc: Members of the Integration Task Force
Members of the Board of Education