

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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OFFICE OF MRS. GEORGIANA HARDY

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November 7, 1963

Dear Fellow-Citizen:

On Thursday, October 24th you were among those who sat in the halls of the Board of Education and were kind enough to fill in a questionnaire which I had asked be passed out.

It is impossible for me to write a personal letter to each of you responding to your specific suggestions, but I do want you to know that I have read each questionnaire entirely and in general found them constructive in attitude and, as I expected, firm in a sense of conviction.

I feel that each of you who took the trouble to sign and give an address would be interested in the following information:

77 questionnaires were turned in, of which 46 were signed.

the largest number of suggestions involved boundaries, which are being studied at the present time. The Board will hear an elementary boundary report at a two o'clock meeting on Thursday, November 7th, and a secondary boundary report early in December.

The next largest number of suggestions involved having more Negro teachers in all schools. The Board recently accepted recommendations changing the transfer policy in the hope that all possibility of discrimination will be eliminated. At the same time it should be noted that new Negro teachers were encouraged to apply for Valley-East schools last spring, but not one even went for an interview with a principal. We do not force teachers to accept positions in schools in which they do not wish to serve, and it is our hope that the community will assist us in encouraging teachers to look for jobs in the largely Anglo community.

The third largest number of recommendations concerned bussing. I assume you are aware that the Board has voted against any large-scale bussing, although some of us are still interested in bussing to relieve half-day sessions. This subject is still before us.

Many made comments about teaching more Negro and Mexican-American history. I am enthusiastically in favor of this and am happy to point out that we have twenty thousand new dollars in this year's budget for library books and magazines on these subjects, and in addition have assigned a full-time supervisor to look for positive materials and to write such materials if they cannot be found in print. All these materials will go to all schools.

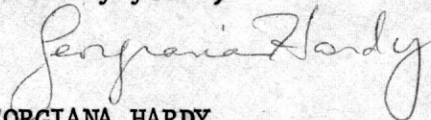
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Three respondents urged that we fill up classrooms in uncrowded white schools. There seems to be an impression abroad that we have large numbers of uncrowded white schools. This is not true and it should be made known that we have many white schools on half-day sessions.

I was interested that only five people mentioned compensatory education, since I feel this is one of the most important steps forward that the Board has taken this year. We are reducing class size in economically deprived areas, are putting on afternoon and evening counselors for the benefit of working parents, are keeping libraries open in junior and senior high schools after school to serve as study halls, and have developed other programs to help educationally deprived children to improve their learning achievement and sense of personal worth.

I would like to thank each of you for your intelligent and dedicated concern. These problems have no easy solution, but I share your feeling that we cannot afford interminable delay. It is my hope that people of good will will continue to work for the basic human values emphasized in your replies.

Sincerely yours,



GEORGIANA HARDY
President
Board of Education

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