

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Arthur *Arthur*

DATE: July 13, 1990

RE: COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL PLANNING

How do you know if we are getting better as a school system? Each of us is awaiting an answer to this question. As a Board of Education, we have a Mission Statement that is accompanied by measurable objectives. The problem, however, is that not one of us is able to visit a school to review its school plan to determine if we are achieving our measurable objectives. And why is this? Because we are waiting for the Comprehensive School Planning Process to answer our question.

Do you have a copy of any participating school's plan? Teachers do not have one either. I have been told by Joe Peel that we can expect a copy of the schools' plans for Board review around September 17, 1990. I feel this timing is not optimal for feedback from the Board and real change within the schools. It prevents us from making resource decisions that would support teachers to achieve OUR goal.

One of the correlates of Effective Schools is a "Goal-Oriented Instructional Program." How cohesive will the instruction plan be? How will teamwork among school personnel be effected? Will the teachers' efforts be thwarted because of the poor scheduling of itinerant teachers? None of these questions will be answered until school starts. Where is the RECIPROCITY - the ACCOUNTABILITY - the SERIOUSNESS of our intentions if we cannot afford to adequately plan strategies for success?

Joe Peel said, "Systematic planning has come to a halt because of a lack of funds." He is quick to say, however, that planning at the school level has occurred. To what end, we do not know. Again, reciprocity is missing - a very crucial ingredient in the Comprehensive Schools Planning Process.

As a Board with a very high priority on academic excellence for all children, we must find the \$130,000 that is necessary for systematic planning. Without it, you can kiss another academic year good-bye.