

Service and Leadership

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SB 1448
(author)
RECEIVED JUL 22 1993

July 20, 1993

The Honorable Gary K. Hart
1216 State Street - #507
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Gary:

I thought you'd be personally interested in a report on Central City's (Santa Maria Joint High School District) charter school appeal, which was one of the first in the state.

We did considerable research in putting together the attached "Rules on Review of Petition to Establish a Charter School." Our goal was to provide a thorough, professional, and fair review process that clearly mirrored the legislative intent.

The process worked. Both sides provided detailed materials for the committee to review. Committee members were Luella Snyder, Orcutt School District Board and feeder school; Sid Goldstien, Santa Ynez High School District Board; Bob Campbell, Lompoc Unified School District Board; Joyce Kent, IMPACT II teacher at San Marcos High School; Jerry Swanitz, teacher reform leader at Santa Ynez High School, and Carmen Candelaria, Santa Maria-Bonita Migrant Education teacher and Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year. The committee members demonstrated empathy, professionalism, and fairness at the public hearing. They voted unanimously that the district acted appropriately and not in an arbitrary way. The attached letter from Dan O'Brien, who was the chief spokesperson for the appellants, is the best testimony as to the effectiveness of the process.

I've shared the guidelines with county superintendents statewide.

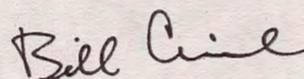
Also attached is the Santa Barbara News Press report from the hearing.

On a happier note, Santa Barbara has tentatively approved two charter schools within the district. They are among the 24 charters approved statewide. The logistical details and working relationships still need to be negotiated and approved by the district, thus the tentative approval.

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I supported charter schools from the very beginning. I believe that the charter direction is an important experiment. The most difficult challenge for both sides is working out the specific relationships and details because the legislation is broad, open, and non-prescriptive; this is also one of its greatest strengths. Let me know if any other information would be useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Cirone".

William J. Cirone

WJC:cw
Attachments (3)