



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE EDUCATION BUILDING, 721 CAPITOL MALL, SACRAMENTO 95814

November 8, 1965

Mrs. John P. Pearson
Oxnard, California

Dear Mrs. Pearson:

Thank you for your letter of November 2.

I sympathize with you over the problem which you outlined in your letter. However, my office is prevented by law from interfering in local school district problems unless there is a violation of the Education Code.

Your local board of trustees, selected by the voters of your district, are responsible for making policy decisions. The trustees are employees of you the people and are, therefore, answerable to you. When any governing body fails to operate according to the will of the majority, the people are well advised to change the makeup of such a board at the next regularly scheduled election.

Parents in many of California's school districts have found that the following or similiar recommendations have been very successful in obtaining on a local level the type and quality of education the majority of parents want for their children:

1. Contact your neighbors. Urge them to visit classrooms. Organize informally.
2. Call on your school principal. Seek information as to reasons for practices you deprecate. Find out if he will support the changes you seek.
3. If not, go in a delegation to your district superintendent. Itemize the improvements you want. See if he will make them.
4. If not, ask for a hearing at the next meeting of your local school board. Take along all your neighbors who feel as you do. Ask the board to form a citizens' advisory committee which will include a wide spectrum

Mrs. John P. Pearson

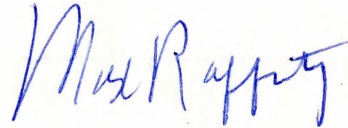
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of leading community citizens, including some of your own group. The task of this committee will be to study various phases of the school program, and report to the board at regular intervals with specific recommendations for change.

I have enclosed a copy of a recent column of mine on the tenure problem which may be of interest to you.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Max Rappaport". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MR:ljl

Enclosure