

November 22, 2021

## Letter to Judge Bury case

Dear Governing Board

CARE has followed closely the changes made to the desegregation efforts and specifically the DAEP program. We are sorry that there will no longer be an outside expert following TUSD's progress, or lack of it, on these issues.

We do understand that the Court has specified that the Implementation Committee will provide expertise in the future on the different parts of the desegregation order. In addition, we heard in the last Board meeting about a Superintendent Committee to oversee on or advise changes related to the DAEP program. What we do not understand is why that committee will be a Superintendent's Committee, and not a Governing Board Committee. From policy Code BDFA the major difference between a Superintendent's and a Board Committee is that the former operates outside of the public eye and does not have to follow Open Meetings Law. Some of us have been on Superintendents' Committees and have found them to be largely pro-forma—input provided did not have to be followed, and often wasn't. There was sometimes no accountability on follow through or even necessarily continuity from one meeting to the next. Such Committees are often full of District personnel who have an obvious conflict of interest in terms of making critical comments on District policy and actions.

We believe that there should be public accountability on the DAEP program, as there should be on all items related to desegregation issues. Not only is there a moral and legal imperative that the District achieve full integration as per the USP—but desegregation funding comes from taxpayers. We have a right to both know how our taxes are being spent by TUSD and have some input into the process. Therefore we ask that any type of advisory committee that oversees the DAEP program be a Board Committee, with Call to the Audience and community participation and oversight. CARE would be happy to send a representative to such a Board Committee. It is a matter of simple transparency that the community deserves.

Betts Putnam-Hidalgo for CARE

**CARE 4 TUSD**

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