

October 28, 2013

Los Angeles Unified School District
Board of Education
333 South Beaudry Street, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017

Via Facsimile

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

This letter is to inform you of the tremendous sense of disappointment, approaching anger, that the Los Angeles community is feeling today because of the inability of the School Board to develop a plan with Superintendent Deasy to move forward together for the benefit of the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District ("LAUSD").

LAUSD has seen important gains across the board in student achievement over the last few years. Under LAUSD Superintendent Dr. John Deasy's leadership, the District has improved student test scores and other student success indicators such as the number of students accessing college preparation courses. It has also seen decreases in student drop-out rates and truancy rates.

The District is embarking on a massive roll out of professional development and technology tools that will prepare teachers and students to implement the new, and highly more rigorous, state education Common Core standards and student assessments. Further tests to Dr. Deasy's leadership will be presented as the District prepares to develop its Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), as part of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor earlier this year. The LCFF is a much needed step in the right direction to ensure that all California schools receive equitable funds from the state.

All of these and other important initiatives are crucial to ensure students are succeeding academically and graduating prepared for college and 21st century competitive careers. We believe that John Deasy has the unique skills and commitment necessary to move the district forward on each of these topics. The leadership of the business community and the non-profit community strongly supports Superintendent Deasy and we encourage the School Board to meet with him immediately to work out a plan to continue his tenure as our Superintendent of Schools.

In the next few months, and for the first time in several years due to an increase in funding, the Board will make critical decisions about the budget and technology programs. It will be very difficult to make good decisions for our children if we do not have a strong and experienced leader in the Superintendent's office.

Firing Superintendent Deasy, or making his life so miserable that he has no choice but to leave, is not in the best interests of the students of Los Angeles. **We urge you to pull the**

board together and make every effort to retain one of the top Superintendents in the country.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Avila

President, Alliance For A Better Community*

Elise Buik

President & CEO, United Way of Greater Los Angeles*

David Fleming

Of Counsel, Latham & Watkins, LLP*
Founding Chair, Los Angeles County Business Federation*

Antonia Hernandez

President & CEO, California Community Foundation*

George Kieffer

Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*

Monica Lozano

Publisher & CEO, La Opinión*

Thomas M. Priselac

President & CEO, Cedars-Sinai Health System*

John H. Semcken III

Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty Co.*

Gary Toebben

President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*

Robert Simonds

The Robert Simonds Company*

Kimberly Belshé

Executive Director, First 5 LA*

Geoffrey Cowan

University Professor, USC; President, The Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands*

Ronald R. Gastelum

Mickey Kantor

Partner, Mayer Brown LLP*

Stewart Kwoh

President and Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Legal Center*

John Mack

Former President, Los Angeles Urban League*

Robert K. Ross, M.D.

President & CEO, the California Endowment*

Steven L. Soboroff

Soboroff Partners*; President, Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners*

Matthew A. Toledo

CEO & Publisher, Los Angeles Business Journal*

*Companies and titles are included for identification purposes only.