

May 23, 1990

Ms. Terry Gallagher, President
Board of Education
Wilmette Public Schools
Wilmette, Il. 60091

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

On Thursday evening, May 17, the CRC subcommittees presented their reports to the entire committee. Minor additions, deletions, and corrections were made resulting in the documents presented at this time.

The Local District Program Plan Subcommittee added the sections titled, "Student Academically Related Skills" and "Assessment of Student Academically Related Skills." These areas were largely undeveloped in the previous Program Plan, having first been stated as General Objectives in the 1988 major revision. Other minor changes in wording and grammar were made, and the demographic information has been updated.

It has been the project of the continuing Student Academically Related Skills subcommittee to attempt to define, quantify, and report observable teaching practices which relate to successful student development in each of the four areas which had been newly developed during the 1988 revision, namely: Critical Thinking Skills, Responsibility Education, Learning Styles Development, and Promotion of a healthy Self-Esteem for each student. The subcommittee has gathered data from different sources and has presented this information in four separate reports, each containing an introduction and definition to the topic, an extensive summary of successful, "tried-and-true" teaching practices for each area, and a bibliography in each category. Also included are the two forms used to give feedback to the teaching staff and to interview individual teachers who had volunteered to participate. Additionally, this committee has put together a file of articles and references which were found to be especially useful in writing each report. It is the recommendation of this committee that these files be kept available to teachers in the ESC as well as in all five school buildings in the District. Additionally, it is recommended that the Board look into the amount of student/teacher one-on-one time which is inherent in providing for each of these areas with an eye toward scheduling regular time in the teaching schedule for these pursuits, as they relate to the overall educational goals for each student.

The Recreation Subcommittee investigated the availability and variety of several issues relevant to the Junior High community and the use of extra-curricular activities. Areas investigated were: "school teams", school "clubs", the interfacing between the Park District and the Junior High, the involvement of other organizations such as PTA, and the Coalition, and the use of a survey asking students and parents what activities, if any, each group would like to see developed. Recommendations included the forming of a committee represented by the PTA, District 39, the Park District, the Coalition, and Haven to work together to develop a more coordinated after-school program for Junior High students. Further, this subcommittee recommended that the Park District develop several new classes for Junior High aged youth. It was also concluded that WJHS establish an "open gym" program one or two days per week after school to provide the opportunity for students to participate in a wider variety of sports activities. Recommendations also included some changes in the structure of T.G.I.F. as well as in the organization of the "school teams" which are currently run by the Park District.

The Subcommittee on "Fitness Awareness" reviewed the current "fitness craze" in relation to the country's children and concluded that although more attention is being given to fitness in the adult community, our children are more unfit today than in the past. This subcommittee studied the curriculum of District 39 and reported that this District's curriculum provides many opportunities for fitness awareness in many different aspects of the curriculum. This subcommittee also distributed a parent questionnaire regarding family fitness practices. Also discussed in this report were two nationally recognized fitness programs, and this subcommittee recognized the "Fitnessgram" as a "state-of-the-art" youth program which includes a testing and reporting system as a means of providing meaningful feedback to students, teachers, and parents. Recommendations included District 39 further exploring the use of the "Fitnessgram" program developed by the Institute for Aerobic Research. It was also recommended that the Park District and the schools work together to develop more family oriented fitness activities. Other recommendations included in-servicing for teachers, re-evaluation of the Kneer report recommendations, and investigation of intramural activities.

The Regular Education Initiative subcommittee provided much background and general information in the initial part of their presentation. These sections included definitions of terms, a historical review of the development of special education programs in the District, a review of the literature related to the topic, and current practices regarding REI in District 39. Using this background information, this subcommittee continued by collecting feedback regarding REI from administrators and teachers, compiling a list of concerns, and conclusions and recommendations. Many parts of this report address the rationale behind REI and suggest approaches being used which enable REI to reach a high level of success in any school system. Recommendations include further study of three models and guidelines recently developed regarding the REI movement nationwide.

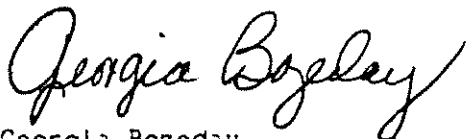
In closing, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the hard-working, self-motivated, and extremely competent committee members who have served on CRC this school year. It has been a pleasure exploring the various educational issues and questions.

Additionally, I want to convey my appreciation to the Board for supporting, encouraging, and respecting the Community Review Committee. Your willingness to engage in open community involvement is truly reinforcing.

Lastly, CRC has greatly benefited from the assistance of Dr. Gussner, Dr. Mikaelian, and members of the teaching faculty and other administrative representatives who have added their expertise at many junctures during the year as we pursued our various investigations. Thanks, too, to Kathy Owen, for patience and fortitude throughout the year.

It has been a fulfilling and productive year for our committee. Through the opportunity of CRC, we as committee members have been able to continue our journey in learning and growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia Bozeday". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Georgia Bozeday
Chairperson, Community Review Committee