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To: "Pepper, Kit" <kpepper@pepperheid.com>
Subject: Info. to Blue Ribbon Panel

In addition to my comments that I made to Panel on 9/9, I would like to add the following:

Additional comment: Every successful metropolitan school district has a school board that is:

- (1) visionary
- (2) focused on student achievement
- (3) focused on effective governance, not micromanagement
- (4) independent from staff
- (5) willing to continually monitor and hold accountable progress of superintendent and staff
- (6) pro-active by anticipating challenges and controversies
- (7) knowledgeable of best practices
- (8) flexible
- (9) professional, collegial and unified
- (10) intimately connected to the community it serves

It is essential that the Blue Ribbon Panel address the fact that effective school board governance is the cornerstone of an effective public school system.

Also- here are a few links to websites that would be informative. These represent the tip of the iceberg. This is an exciting time for public education.

<http://www.avidonline.org/> (AVID program)

<http://www.magnet.edu/> (Organization for Magnet Schools and Programs)

<http://www.proximityone.com/sdsttop25.htm#reg> (Data on 25 largest U.S. School Districts)

<http://www.baao.org/home/index.php> (Black Alliance for Educational Options)

<http://www.carvergovernance.com/home.htm> (Governance Model used by OCPS School Board)

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/index.html> (US DOE Office of Innovation & Improvement)

<http://www.ncte.org/> (National Council of English Teachers)

<http://www.aspirepublicschools.org/about/about.html> (Aspire Public Schools- Calif.)

<http://www.schoolimprove.com/index.htm> (School Improvement Group)

<http://www.fgse.nova.edu/nieo/> (National Institute of Educational Options at NOVA Southeastern)

<http://www.psk12.com/rating/index.php> (Rankings of Public Schools)

<http://www.educationchange.com/> (Council for Educational Change- incl. PASS program)

<http://www.psparents.net/> (Info. clearinghouse for parents)

<http://www.tutorsforkids.org/default.asp> (Supplemental Educational Services Quality Center)

<http://www.parents4publicschools.com/index.html> (Parent Group Network- outreach)

<http://www.kcforums.org/default.asp> (Model for Community Forums- Kansas City)

<http://glef.org/index.php> (George Lucas Education Foundation - Educational Innovations)

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