

January 3, 1996

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While your remarks, attitudes and practices may be acceptable to some of my colleagues, they are intolerable and unacceptable to me.

**Dr. Larry Ramsey, Acting Superintendent
Kansas City, Missouri School District
1211 McGee
Kansas City, Missouri 64106**

cc: Members of the Board
Dr. Eugene Bubanks, Chairman
Desegregation Monitoring Committee

Dear Dr. Ramsey:

This is to express my grave concerns relative to your hiring practices and some of your comments during the December 27, 1995 Special Board Meeting. As I recall, you stated that "73.9% of our students come from poor families and probably aren't going to college anyway..." Such a statement is narrow-minded, short-sighted, unenlightened, prejudiced, and in light of the demographics of this school district, racist. For a person holding a leadership position in this district, even on a temporary basis, to make such a statement is appalling and unacceptable. It has become clear to me that you not only lack the skills and credentials required to provide the necessary instructional leadership, but that you harbor racial attitudes that are inimical to the optimum educational development of minority students. I do not see how African-American students can receive equal educational opportunities under your leadership.

Furthermore, your personnel practices and attitudes are disturbing. As Director of Planning and subsequently Associate Superintendent for Planning, Facilities and CIP, you basically operated a segregated department. It appears that you failed to hire or place any African-Americans into any significant position and that the research, evaluation and planning staffs, which are critical in the development of desegregation and quality educational programs, are all white. As a result of your racial attitudes and personnel practices, the people with primary responsibility for developing a desegregation plan to remedy the effects of discriminatory conduct on African-American school children, are all white. When recently confronted with your invidious record you replied that you "couldn't find any qualified blacks", ironically overlooking the fact that you currently hold a position for which you lack the state required qualifications and credentials.

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Sincerely,



Edward J. Newsome

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Dr. Eugene Eubanks, Chairman
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