

March 17, 2008

Dear Members of the Education Transition Team:

As three board members who will carry over as board members of the east side school district, we would like you to know that we are committed to maintaining salary schedules, benefits, including retirement benefits, and seniority rights of teachers and employees of the schools currently located in what will become the new east side school district. Any changes in working conditions outlined in agreements with school employees will come about through good faith negotiations as has been the case in the past. Obviously, adjustments will need to be made with school employees who now serve in district wide positions, but we do not anticipate a reduction in staff as a result of the split since enrollment is increasing, not diminishing, in what is now the Jordan District.

As you visit with school and community groups about the challenges and opportunities of the new east side district, please assure the teachers and support staff in the east side schools that it is our intent to create conditions in the new district will both retain the excellent staff members now serving in the east side schools and attract outstanding new teachers and employees in the future as vacancies occur. Effective teachers are the heart of any school and school district. We feel confident that school board candidates who are elected to the vacant positions in the new district, in June, will share our commitment to do everything in our power to retain and attract the best possible teachers, school leaders and school support staff in the new east side district.

Nina Murphy Kouchak
Ray S. Ouellet
Shirley H. Taylor