

May 15, 1998

Dear Deb,

I came to you last week with a plea for a kinder, gentler, and more open atmosphere here at Franklin School (one that dealt with peace and justice - and what was best for kids, too). I thought that if you could understand the hurt that has gone on, you could do something about healing the wounds.

Since then, you've continued to make the ESL staff feel uncomfortable (by letting them know that they were not to talk to MTI or their friends about the situation that you were causing them) and you've said some unkind things to * * * at a time when your concern for her daughter's health would have been more appropriate. We had a surprise vote with no clear preparation of what it was about, five teachers complained to you about Susan D (while many of us appreciated what she did), and instead of redirecting them to talk to her, you have made this situation into a really big deal!

I'm tired of trying to think of what I can say to you to help you understand the situation from another point of view. Since instead of a kinder and gentler and more open school, the situation here is more volatile than ever. Do you think this atmosphere is best for kids? I don't. I don't intend to spend any more time thinking of what ideas to share with you to help things be more peaceful. You're on your own.

I'm returning your Teacher Appreciation Day present, since I see it as a symbol of your actions of appreciating some, but not truly caring about everyone. I had hoped for more from you.