



January 10, 2008

To whom it may concern,

I first met Geri Miller and Jeannie Kamm during my first year on the school board in 2001 as their children were just beginning to attend Lanai Road Elementary School in Encino. At the time, Lanai was an underutilized school. Situated in an upper middle class neighborhood, the local community had abandoned this small school and most of the students attending Lanai were being bussed in from other parts of the city.

Geri Miller and Jeannie Kamm changed all of that. In 1998, before their children were even enrolled at the school, they worked tirelessly to bring the community back to Lanai by organizing a community-based, non-profit foundation. As their children were enrolled, their non-profit became the official fundraising entity for Lanai. They designed the structures of both the Booster and the PTA to work cohesively together with all stakeholders, raising well over one million dollars for the school and bringing in music, art, science and garden programs to help the students succeed. With their help, the new administration was able to raise the school API from the low 500's in 1999 into the 900's by 2006.

The Los Angeles County School Board acknowledged their extraordinary volunteer work in 2006 with a finalist nomination for Parent Volunteer of the Year. Their involvement at Lanai Road Elementary School made the school a California Distinguished School and as a result, Geri and Jeannie created their own consulting agency, Miller Kamm and Associates to help other schools facing similar issues.

Over the last four years as contracted consultants with LAUSD, Miller Kamm and Associates (MKA) has worked with dozens of primary and secondary schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Their successes with these schools and communities are too numerous to count. They have worked with my office on a variety of community and parent outreach projects including our Middle School Reform Task Force which they helped facilitate. They are truly helping us change the public schools in Los Angeles.

The work of MKA is essential to any school, parent group, or school district. I highly recommend MKA to work with your community to ensure that your students meet the academic gains you are striving for.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marlene Canter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marlene Canter  
School Board Member, District 4