



AIADC

AMERICAN INDIAN ANTI-DEFAMATION COUNCIL

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June 1, 1993

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Rapid City School Board
Sharon Lee, President
Rapid City Area School Admin. Offices
300 6th Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear School Board Members,

I would like to thank you for the meeting we had on Friday, May 28, nevertheless, I was extremely saddened by the lack of discussion from the school board with the news media about the real issues of racism in the Rapid City School District.

These issues are the racist horrors facing the children of Rapid City. The failure of the school board and the media to discuss the climate of fear that permeates the entire school system, from the teachers (both Indian and non-Indian) to the students, is unacceptable. In order to eradicate bigotry, police state fear and child abuse in the Rapid City school system, you have to clearly admit to the racism and openly commit yourselves to the solutions and challenges proffered by the General Council of Rapid City.

We have documentation that fifth graders in your school system are taken on tours of the Juvenile Detention Center. From the sixth grade and up, children have been threatened by your school administrators, and in many cases, taken by the police to these detention centers. When they are not arrested, they are threatened with handcuffs, and, in many cases, handcuffs are actually applied. This type of psychological and physical child abuse will no longer be tolerated by the parents who care. The psychological terror that you subject Indian children to at Dakota Junior High and North Junior High, and the psychological terror and police state tactics you use against teachers, cannot be condoned by anyone.

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