TO:

Nancy Greenman & Bruce Wicinas

FROM:

Gideon Goldman

DATE:

February 24, 1997

I've outlined below some of the questions that I would like to try to answer in evaluating Berkeley's school choice program.

I. What were BUSD's original goals in developing a school choice program, and how well is the program working?

- 1. Are people getting their preferences?
- 2. How many people choose to travel outside of their neighborhood?
- 3. What information are parents/students using to make their choices?
- 4. Has anything been done to give higher preference to people living in close proximity to a school?
 - 5. Why are some people repeatedly going through the application process and never enrolling?
 - 6. What was the racial makeup of each school before and after school choice was implemented?

II. What are the effects of BUSD's school choice program?

- 1. Have schools (esp. those that have been the least popular choices) changed their behavior to attract more students? (new programs, more "advertising"--what do they advertise?)
- 2. Are school personnel more accountable for the popularity of their schools?
- 3. Have any changes in student achievement been observed?
- 4. Has school choice had any effect on the proportion of Berkeley students who go to private schools?
- 5. Has school choice increased parent involvement in the schools (once the student has been placed and the school year has begun)?
- 6. Has school choice had an effect on the stability of school populations?

III. Other Questions

- 1. Do school personnel favor this policy? Why/Why not?
- 2. What other districts have controlled choice? What problems, effects have been observed?
- 3. Who are some good people to interview (administrators, teachers, parents)?