



tel: (916) 448-0995 1107 9th Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95814

www.myschool.org

March 19, 2010

Ms. Judith C. Harris, Chair
San Diego Public Library Foundation
820 E Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Ms. Harris:

I am writing to applaud your pioneering efforts to locate a charter school within the new San Diego Central Library, a project that has once again pushed San Diego to the forefront of the charter school movement. The Central Library charter school will become a national model because of its innovative approach, stakeholder collaboration, and flexibility to meet student needs.

The combined educational resources make a charter school within a Central Library a winning concept. Pairing trained teachers and research librarians with library resources, technology, and complex research databases will give students unparalleled access to information and hands-on educational opportunities.

All of us in the charter school movement are grateful for your best-practices approach to determining the direction of the Central Library charter school. The steps you've taken to partner with, and to listen and learn from all constituencies, will make for a high functioning and effective school with a great deal of community support. One idea that has already come from the process, effective student apprenticeships, will further life skills and career readiness. A thriving local economy depends on the thoughtful preparation of the next generation, and real-world internships, combined with an innovative program which measures their effectiveness, will provide an opportunity for choice for students typically underserved by traditional education.

We believe that a charter in the Central Library operated by an autonomous Governing Board will give the school the independence and flexibility it will need to be successful. Independent charters allow for local decision making and the ability to meet the specific needs of the charter school's population. The charter board will be able to prioritize budgets, base instruction on student performance data and build a local school culture that fits the needs of their students.

The Central Library is the perfect opportunity to empower high school students to become the next generation of informed and active American citizens. Thank you again for your visionary leadership and all that the San Diego Public Library Foundation is doing to make the Central Library charter school a reality.

Sincerely,

Jed Wallace
President and CEO
California Charter Schools Association