



# San Diego Unified School District

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER  
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Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

March 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District I am writing to commend the work done for us by the staff of The Portolan Group. PGI staff has been active in our district for over two and a half years, working in most of our central office groups. They have been engaged in assessing many of our departments, providing recommendations for greater efficiency and benchmarks for continuous improvement.

PGI staff has worked tirelessly in providing guidance and support to our district throughout this year's unprecedented budget reductions. Their ideas and guidance have been invaluable to us as we have reduced almost \$100,000,000 from our expenses for this year and next, virtually with no reductions in full-time staff. Phil Stover and his team have integrated effectively into our staff at the highest level. As superintendent, I have asked Phil, the PGI president, to help us in a variety of tasks, both within and outside of his contractual obligations. He has never refused to take on additional work, nor has he ever charged us additionally for the same. I have no hesitation to have him speak for me as he works in our district. Rarely in my years as superintendent have I seen a consultant integrate so well and be so committed to working side by side with staff through the night during this time of budget crisis.

In conclusion, the best testimonial to the effectiveness of The Portolan Group in their work for SDUSD is that in times of shrinking interest in hiring consultants, our School Board has unanimously renewed them to continue their work with us on four consecutive occasions.

I am happy to recommend The Portolan Group to any of my colleagues needing central office assessments and/or assistance with needed budget reductions. Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

Terry Grier Ed.D.  
Superintendent