



ROBERT H. ELLIS
Outlines School Goals

Robert H. Ellis Gives Views on Board Functions

Several changes in procedure whereby school board functions might be placed before parents better have been outlined by Robert H. Ellis, who is seeking election to a seat on the board of education he has held since last December by appointment.

The 37-year-old aircraft company engineer, who has resided at 413 Via La Soledad for 10 years, has also pledged to evaluate the performances of school personnel as a representative of the community, support the needs of pupils and their parents, and to maintain a two-way relationship with taxpayers and the public.

DURING HIS 10 years in Torrance, Ellis has served on many civic groups, including Boy Scout Council, Riviera Homeowners Assn., city-to-city committee, PTA, and the TEAC. He served as chairman of the city-to-city program during its organizational period, and has since served two terms as chairman of the city's Civil Defense and Disaster Commission.

He was appointed to the board of education last December to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Walter Garbarant.

"I BELIEVE Torrance schools are on the right track with individualized instruction," he said as he opened his campaign this week. "However, I do feel that a definite comparative evaluation on each child should be given the parent with the report at conference time," he said. In this way, he added, the parent will know if the child is working in the upper third of the class, the middle, or the lower third.

He also advocates that the board members receive the agenda in advance of the meeting so it would not be necessary to spend part of the meeting time reading the material submitted by administrators.

AT THE same time he called for installation of public address systems so persons attending the meetings could hear the discussion between board members of staff during the meetings.

A change in meeting nights should also improve coverage of the meetings, Ellis said. At the present time the board meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The city council meets each Tuesday. Local newspapers do not have enough night-time reporters to cover both meetings, he commented.

ELLIS ALSO favors utilization of citizens' committees, but says any such committees should be balanced with representatives of parents, the general public, and the school staff. While he lauds the work done by the recently appointed committee, he observed that only one viewpoint was solicited.

Any agenda item for discussion on changes or modification of curriculum should be announced far enough in advance so all parties concerned can prepare themselves to participate, Ellis believes.

"TORRANCE IS A relatively prosperous community in the most prosperous state of the most prosperous nation on earth," he said. "I believe that a community of our size where we have enough resources to support a full program, yet are small enough to retain effective local control, can have the finest school system in the world," Ellis stated.

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