

Date: June 18, 2008
To: Board Members
From: Rodger Smith
Through: Janet Bernard
Subject: Approval of Recommended Personnel Actions: Employment, Resignations, Dismissals, Leaves of Absences and Change of Status

CLASSIFIED

Name	Position	FTE	Location	Action	If New Hire, Position is Expansion or Replacement
Brubaker, Kaitlin	Special Education Aide II	0.75	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Resignation Effective 6/11/08	
Busuttill, Simone	Noon Duty Aide	0.125	Del Mar Heights	Approve Assignment Effective 3/12/08	Replacement
Churchill, Tyler	Child Care Instructional Assistant - Preschool	0.80	Child Care	Approve Resignation Effective 6/13/08	
Daige, Amber	Assistant Child Care Director	1.00	Child Care	Approve Promotion from Child Care Office Assistant to Assistant Child Care Director Effective 8/4/08	Replacement
Dorn, William	Child Care Worker I	0.55	Child Care	Approve Resignation Effective 6/10/08	
Gonzalez Rios, Juan	Night Custodian	1.00	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Assignment Effective 5/23/08	Expansion

Name	Position	FTE	Location	Action	If New Hire, Position is Expansion or Replacement
Hughes, Kelly	Special Education Aide II	0.75	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Resignation Effective 5/30/08	
Hurley, Erica	Instructional Aide I	0.775	Carmel Del Mar	Approve Resignation Effective 6/12/08	
Liow, Ashley	Child Care Instructional Assistant - Preschool	0.4875	Child Care	Approve Unpaid Leave of Absence from 6/16/08 to 8/18/08	
Maddux, Melissa	Special Education Aide II	0.75	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Resignation Effective 6/12/08	
Padilla, Elizabeth	Special Education Aide II	0.75	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Assignment Effective 5/27/08	Replacement
Roth, Katharin	PE Director/Coordinator	0.325	Carmel Del Mar	Approve Resignation Effective 6/12/08	
Sarullo, Josephine	School Office Assistant Child Nutrition Services Assistant	0.875 0.125	Del Mar Heights	Approve Assignment Effective 5/29/08	Replacement
Strahan, Delcie	Child Care Worker II	0.95	Child Care	Approve Resignation Effective 6/12/08	
Tran, Minh	Special Education Aide II	0.75	Del Mar Heights	Approve Increase in Hours from 19.5 Hours per Week to 30 Hours per Week Effective 1/7/08	Replacement

Name	Position	FTE	Location	Action	If New Hire, Position is Expansion or Replacement
Trust, Heather	Child Care Worker I	0.60	Child Care	Approve Assignment Effective 5/17/08	Replacement
Wagner, Leslie	Instructional Aide I	0.5938	Torrey Hills	Approve Resignation Effective 6/12/08	
Zebold, Becky	Special Education Aide II	0.55	Child Care	Approve Temporary Assignment Effective 6/17/08 to 8/15/08	Temporary

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CERTIFICATED

Name	Position	FTE	Location	Action	If New Hire, Position is Expansion or Replacement
Addenbrooke, Joie	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Assignment Effective 6/27/08	Replacement
Chapluk, Genevieve	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Sage Canyon	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Choi, Julie	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Sage Canyon	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Conner, Karyn	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Sage Canyon	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Davis, Michael	Temporary Physical Education Teacher	1.00	Ocean Air	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Farricker, Abby	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Del Mar Hills	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary

Name	Position	FTE	Location	Action	If New Hire, Position is Expansion or Replacement
Grosso, Sarah	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Torrey Hills	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Hughes, Laura	Teacher	1.00	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Resignation Effective 7/25/08	
Jackson, Mandy	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Torrey Hills	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Lack, Jodi	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Sage Canyon	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Lee, Janice	Teacher	1.00	Torrey Hills	Approve Retirement Effective 6/13/08	
Markarian, Lauren	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Ashley Falls	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
McAfee, Shannon	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Torrey Hills	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
McGraw, Kate	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Torrey Hills	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Novell, Shelby	Preschool Teacher	0.7143	Sycamore Ridge	Approve Resignation Effective 6/13/08	

Name	Position	FTE	Location	Action	If New Hire, Position is Expansion or Replacement
Raskin, Sarah	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Sage Canyon	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Roberts, Shawna	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Torrey Hills	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Roth, Katharin	Temporary Physical Education Teacher	0.50	Carmel Del Mar	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Sheffield, Adrienne	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Ashley Falls	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Sink, John	Temporary Physical Education Teacher	1.00	Del Mar Hills Sycamore Ridge	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary
Weinbaum-Davis, Melissa	Temporary Teacher	1.00	Ashley Falls	Approve Assignment Effective 8/20/08	Temporary

June 18, 2008

To: Board Members
From: Rodger Smith, Director of Human Resources & Facilities Planning
Through: Janet Bernard, Interim Superintendent
Subject: Update, Director of Technology Position

Solicitation of applications for the District's Director of Technology closed on June 2. Fifteen new applications for the position were received. Following screening of the applications, seven individuals have been selected for interviews. Interviews will take place on July 15. Assuming that a final candidate is selected for the position, it is anticipated that the new Director of Technology will be available to the District on approximately August 15, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT: Revenue: N/A
Expenditure: N/A
Fund Balance: N/A

RECOMMENDED: For information only. No action required.

11.2

June 18, 2008

To: Board Members
From: Rodger Smith, Director of Human Resources & Facilities Planning
Through: Janet Bernard, Interim Superintendent
Subject: Status of Temporary Teachers

Staff is pleased to report to the Board that as of June 18, all temporary teachers whom the district desired to re-employ have been assigned to positions for the 2008-2009 school year. In the process of re-employing these individuals, all but two of the teachers have been assigned to positions at the same school where they were assigned during the 2007-2008 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT: Revenue: N/A
Expenditure: N/A
Fund Balance: N/A

RECOMMENDED: For information only. No action required.

11.3

June 18, 2008

To: Board Members

From: Rodger Smith, Director of Human Resources

Through: Janet Bernard, Interim Superintendent

Subject: Board Approval, Variable Term Waiver Request for Adapted Physical Education

On occasion, it is very difficult for school districts throughout California to find appropriately credentialed teachers to fill certain special education and other specialist teacher positions. When the services of a specialist teacher are required by a student's Individual Education Program plan, the district is required to provide the service. In instances where an appropriately credentialed teacher is not available, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing maintains a provision for seeking a waiver from the credentialing requirements in order to provide the required specialized services through a teacher who is in the process of completing requirements for the specialist credential.

For the 2008-2009 school year, the DMUSD requires the services of a part-time Adapted Physical Education teacher to meet program requirements for special education students. The District has a permanent multiple subject teacher, Katherine Creighton, who will be completing her Adapted Physical Education certification in the fall of 2008. Katherine has been an outstanding teacher in our District since April 2002. Due to the fact that Katherine knows our students, staff, and parents, she is the perfect candidate. Staff requests that the Board approves the request for a variable term waiver from the credential requirements so she can begin serving students in August while finishing the last requirements needed for her program.

The completed application for the waiver mentioned above follows this narrative.

FISCAL IMPACT: **Revenue:** There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the approval of this waiver request. However, the district may be exposed to significant financial liability if the services that are required by a student's Individualized Education Program plan are not provided.

Expenditure: Not applicable

Fund Balance: Not applicable

RECOMMENDED: The Interim Superintendent recommends Board approval of a Variable Term Waiver Request for Adapted Physical Education.



State of California
COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING
P.O. Box 1559
Sacramento, CA 95812-1559

Telephone: (916) 323-7136
E-Mail: waivers@ctc.ca.gov

VARIABLE TERM WAIVER REQUEST

Requests must be prepared by the employing agency, not the applicant. All materials must be clear enough to photocopy.

1. EMPLOYING AGENCY (include mailing address) Del Mar Union School District 225 9th Street Del Mar, CA 92014 <input type="checkbox"/> NPS/NPA (list county code _____)	County/District CDS Code 037/011	Contact Person Darlene Nadlonek Telephone #: 858-755-9301, ext 3687 FAX #: 858-523-6114 E-Mail: dnadlonek@dmusd.org
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2. APPLICANT FOR THE WAIVER

Social Security Number ----

If fingerprint clearance is not on file at CCTC, include an application (form 41-4) for a Certificate of Clearance.

If needed, a review by the Division of Professional Practices will be concluded before a waiver approval letter will be issued.

Full Legal Name _____ Creighton, Katherine Anne
Last First Middle

Former Name(s) _____ Birth Date _____ 04/02/1978

Applicant's Mailing Address _____ 3131 Via Alicante #204
La Jolla, CA 92037

Credential Needed for Waiver _____ Adapted Physical Education Specialist Credential

(Specific title and subject area of the credential that authorizes the assignment. Note that the subject must be one that is available under current regulations.)

Assignment _____ Adapted Physical Education - K-6

Specific position and grade level (e.g. chemistry teacher, grades 11-12)

For bilingual assignment list LANGUAGE: _____

Is this a full time position? Yes No

If not, indicate how many periods a day the individual will be teaching the waiver assignment(s) _____

Is this a subsequent Waiver? (See #9 for additional information) Yes No

3. EDUCATION CODE OR TITLE 5 SECTION TO BE WAIVED

Specific section(s) covering the assignment: _____ 80046.1 - Adapted PE

4. EFFECTIVE DATES

08 / 20 / 2008 to 06 / 12 / 2009

Waivers are dated effective the beginning date of service. Provide the ending date of your school term, track or year below. A justification MUST be included if the expiration date extends beyond the term, track or year.

Ending date of school term, track, or year: 06 / 12 / 2009

5. STATEWIDE HIGH INCIDENCE AREA WAIVER REQUESTS:**a. INDICATE THE HIGH INCIDENCE AREA FOR THE ASSIGNMENT**

- Special Education
- Clinical or Rehabilitative Services
- Driver Education and Training
- 30-Day Substitute

b. INDICATE WHAT WAS DONE THIS YEAR TO LOCATE AND RECRUIT INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THIS POSITION

No copies are necessary if this is a recognized high incidence area.

- Advertised in local/national newspapers
- Advertised in professional journals
- Attended job fairs in California
- Attended recruitment out-of-state
- Contacted IHE placement centers
- Distributed job announcements
- Internet
- Other See paragraph below

c. IF THIS IS AN INITIAL WAIVER REQUEST, EXPLAIN WHAT MAKES THE APPLICANT THE BEST CANDIDATE

Include detailed information about the individual's professional preparation and expertise in the subject/area requested and attach appropriate documentation including transcripts, examination score reports, and verification of experience.

Katherine Creighton has been an outstanding multiple subject teacher with our district since 4/20/02. She is fulfilling her dream of obtaining her adapted physical education credential which will be completed in the fall of 2008. She knows our student population as well as our staff and parents so it will be a seamless transition. She has two remaining classes that will be completed by August 10, 2008. She has passed part I and III of the physical education CSET and will take part II in September. We are asking for the waiver so that Katherine can start serving our students in August.

6. NON STATEWIDE LOW INCIDENCE AREA WAIVER REQUESTS:

a. INDICATE THE LOW INCIDENCE AREA FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

- Administrative Services
- Single Subject Teaching (all subject areas)
- Designated Subjects – except driver education and training
- Library Media Services
- Multiple Subject Teaching
- Pupil Personnel Services: Counseling, Psychology, Social Work
- Reading Specialist/Certificate
- Teacher of English Learner Students

b. INDICATE WHAT WAS DONE THIS YEAR TO LOCATE AND RECRUIT INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THIS POSITION

Copies of announcements, advertisements, web site registration, etc. **must** be attached.

The employer must verify **all** of the following:

- Distributed job announcements
- Contacted IHE placement centers
- Internet (www.edjoin.org)

Optional recruitment methods:

- Advertised in local/national newspaper
- Attended job fairs in California
- Attended recruitment out of state
- Advertised in professional journals
- Other _____

c. PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESULTS OF RECRUITMENT EFFORTS. BE SURE TO ANSWER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

How many individuals credentialed in the authorization of the waiver request applied for the position? _____

How many credentialed in the authorization of the waiver request were interviewed? _____

What were the results of those interviews? (Please indicate answers in numbers)

- _____ Applicant(s) withdrew
- _____ Candidate(s) declined job offer
- _____ Candidate(s) found unsuitable for the assignment

d. PROVIDE THE SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT CRITERIA FOR THE POSITION

What special skills and knowledge are needed to successfully perform in this position? These should also be described in your recruitment advertisements and announcements.

11. PUBLIC NOTICE -- CHECK THE BOX THAT APPLIES

Public School District: Attached is a copy of the agenda item presented to the governing board of the school district in a public meeting showing the name of the applicant, the specific assignment including subject and grade level, and the fact that employment will be on the basis of a credential waiver. With the signature of the superintendent or his or her designee in item #13 below, the person signing verifies that the board acted upon the item favorably.

By submitting this waiver request the district is certifying that reasonable efforts to recruit a fully prepared teacher for the assignment(s) were made in the following order:


1. an individual who is scheduled to complete initial preparation requirements within six months
2. a candidate who is qualified to participate in an approved internship program in the region of the school district

County Office of Education, State Agency, or Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School or Agency: Attached is a dated copy of the notice that was posted at least 72 hours before the position was filled showing the name of the applicant, the specific assignment including subject and grade level, and the fact that employment will be on the basis of a credential waiver. With the signature of the superintendent or administrator or his or her designee in item #13 below, the person signing verifies that there were no objections to this waiver request.

12. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that in order to receive a subsequent waiver for this assignment I must pursue the completion of requirements to obtain full certification in the subject or area covered by this waiver request as specified in #7 above.

I understand that if my case is heard in a public meeting, all materials submitted to the Commission regarding my suitability, including grades and test scores, may be published in a Commission agenda and discussed in an open meeting.


6-17-08

Signature of Applicant *Date*
(Sign full legal name as listed in #2 above)

13. EMPLOYING AGENCY CERTIFICATION

The person for whom this waiver is requested will not be employed until he or she has been cleared by the Department of Justice under the provisions of Education Code Section 44332.6 and Section 44830.1 (AB1612). The employer acknowledges that the Commission's final approval of this individual's waiver will be determined by a fitness review covering, in part, criminal activity, including certain in-state and/or out-of-state convictions.

If this waiver request is for service to special education children, the Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) has been notified of our intent to request this waiver.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this report is accurate and complete.

District/County Superintendent, Personnel Administrator, NPS/NPA Administrator, or Designee:

Signature _____
 Title _____
 Date _____

June 18, 2008

To: Board Members
From: Rodger Smith, Director of Human Resources & Facilities Planning
Through: Janet Bernard, Interim Superintendent
Subject: Board Approval, Job Description for After School Programs Office Assistant

In the past, the position of After School Programs Office Assistant has operated under the job description for the School Office Assistant. Due to the fact that the After School Programs Office Assistant and the School Office Assistant perform slightly different responsibilities, each position should have its own description.

The proposed new job description for the After School Programs Office Assistant follows this narrative. This job description has been reviewed and approved by Charlene Komosinki, Director of Child Care Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: Revenue: N/A
Expenditure: N/A
Fund Balance: N/A

RECOMMENDED: The Interim Superintendent recommends approval of the job description for After School Programs Office Assistant.

11.5

DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**CLASS TITLE: AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS OFFICE ASSISTANT****BASIC FUNCTION:**

Under the direction of the Director of After School Program, perform a variety of clerical duties in support of After School Program, Enrichment, Children's Creative Workshop and Employee Preschool office operations; serve as receptionist by answering phones, greeting parents, visitors, and students.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Perform clerical tasks as assigned in support of all after school programs.

Perform a variety of office functions and activities in support of program office operations; schedule appointments and make referrals as appropriate.

Answer phones and greet visitors; take and relay messages; open, sort and route mail and other communications; provide program-related information to students, parents, staff and the public; explain and enforce District and school policies and procedures; maintain confidentiality of materials and information.

Participate in student registration activities; assist parents with proper completion of forms.

Responsible for data input of after school enrichment registrations.

Communicate with a variety of site and District personnel and administrators regarding after school activities, supplies, policies, procedures and student information.

Ability to create newsletters, forms, flyers, calendars and brochures.

Assist with operation and maintenance of office machines including photo copiers, FAX machines, computers, laminators, die cut machines and classroom audio-visual equipment.

Operate a computer with superior knowledge of specific software programs such as Excel, Word and e-mail; operate a telephone, photo copier, and calculator and other office equipment as assigned.

Provide assistance to after school program staff as needed.

Perform other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Operation of a computer and assigned software
- Modern office practices, procedures and equipment
- Record-keeping techniques
- Basic budget and accounting procedures
- Telephone techniques and etiquette
- Correct English usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary
- Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy
- Applicable sections of the State Education Code and other applicable laws
- Basic first aid

Ability to:

- Perform a variety of clerical duties in support of school office operations
- Understand and follow oral and written directions
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing with students, parents, staff, administrators, and members of the public
- Learn, interpret and explain rules, regulations, policies and procedures
- Maintain well-organized records and prepare reports
- Complete assigned tasks with frequent interruptions
- Type at 45 words per minute from clear copy
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others
- Meet schedules and deadlines
- Prioritize tasks and effectively schedule work
- Operate a computer and a variety of office machines and equipment
- Work independently with little direction
- Compose correspondence independently

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school and two years of increasingly responsible clerical and secretarial experience.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Valid first aid and CPR certificate issue by the Red Cross within six months of employment.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Busy office environment with frequent interruptions.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Dexterity of hand and fingers to operate a computer keyboard

Hearing and speaking to exchange information

Seeing to read a variety of materials

Bending at the waist, kneeling or crouching to file materials

Sitting for extended periods of time

Lifting and transporting boxes not to exceed twenty-five pounds

June 18, 2008

To: Members of the Board
From: Janet Bernard, Interim Superintendent
Subject: Articles of Interest

Attached are the following articles of interest:

12.1 *“Ocean Air finishes its first year with major success”* – Del Mar Times,
June 13, 2008

12.2 *“Clock ticking on open space”* – Union Tribune, June 14, 2008

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDED: For information only. No action required.

12.1 & 12.2

Ocean Air finishes its first year with major success

By Karen Billing,

Ocean Air School is finishing up its kindergarten year next week. The young school had a great first year filled with lots of learning, concerts, plays and even a fun pajama party. The school hosted an art festival, a jog-a-thon, a Halloween parade, walk to school day, an author's tea and a PTA luau. Students watched as their school garden grew from just dirt and saw their library swell from just 500 books at the start to 6,000 lining the shelves. School parents were supportive and generous, raising over \$112,000, meeting the goal set by the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation.

"It's a campus full of positive energy, academic excellence and happy stakeholders," said Principal Gary Wilson. "It's been a wonderful, wonderful ride."

There are 589 kids currently enrolled at Ocean Air and next year they are expecting to increase to about 625.

"I've just really enjoyed opening up this school and being a part of something so new and exciting," said Wilson. "I really look forward to great fun in the future here."

Opening up Ocean Air is not Wilson's first time being the founding principal of a

new school; in 2004 he headed up Torrey Hills School when it first opened.

As far as principals go, the Ocean Air community finds themselves pretty lucky. When the city broke ground on the joint-use Ocean Air Community Park, which will serve as the school's playing fields, Wilson was met with cheers and applause worthy of a rock star. His celebrity status is just as evident on campus. As he walks through the beautiful new buildings, children greet him with waves and enthusiastic "Hi Mr. Wilson"'s.

After all, he's not the kind of principal who just sits behind his desk all day. He believes in the philosophy of MBWA (managing by walking around), feeling he can make better decisions if he knows firsthand what's going on out on campus.

And he sings. More than once he has belted "The National Anthem" (including at a San Diego Padres game in April) and at the school pajama party, he sat down at the piano and sang to the kids' sweet renditions of songs like "The Rainbow Connection."

There were so many great days this year but one sticks out most in Wilson's mind: Opening Day.

"It was kind of like launching a spaceship," said Wilson.

After so much work and so much build-up, it was great to see students and teachers in their classrooms ready to go that Aug. 27.

The kids took an active role in creating the school culture—they even got to pick out the school mascot. Students submitted suggestions and after a vote, they became the Ocean Air Sharks. A shark designed by parent and graphic artist Terry Hogelucht now adorns a new announcement board in front of the school.

Kids go to school in an amazing campus, designed by Carmel Valley architect Frisco White.

"The facility is unsurpassed in its playfulness, usability and functionality," Wilson said.

Often described as whimsical, the school features fun elements like an administration building shaped like the tip of a pencil and a library roof shaped like an open book. There are pillars meant to look like crayons in one walkway, paw prints on the kindergarten ceiling.

"It's so nice to have a small school, my kids have gotten to know their classmates



DANIELLE VINLAND

Principal Garry Wilson with just some of Ocean Air's third graders. The elementary has successfully completed it's first full year.

much better," said parent April Andreason.

Andreason has three kids in the school, in the second, fifth and sixth grades. The children came to Ocean Air from a school in Germany.

"I've been impressed with the way they integrate music," said Andreason. "Each grade does a musical based on something their studying."

Wilson said they do a lot of integration into the curriculum, not just with music but also with art, science, technology, physical education and drama. The sixth graders this week will be performing a production called "Dig It," a play based on the class studies of architectural digs. The fourth graders recently did a play based on their studies on western expansion.

"My kids love the science, that's their favorite part," said Andreason. "Going to the science lab is the highlight of

their week."

She said once the kids had a doctor's appointment that made them miss a science activity and she said they were so upset, "you would have thought I cut their arm off."

Science is a strength at the school, especially in teacher Tanya Lubomudrov's science lab. Lubomudrov keeps a pair of African spiny-legged tortoises in a kiddies-pool in the classroom and students participate in talking them out in the garden for exercise. The lab is also home to a map turtle and a snake that even the girls like holding.

Kids are often out in the garden outside the lab planting vegetables and flowers as well as doing experiments. After studying ladybugs, second graders released ladybugs into the garden, having to make decisions on the kind of environment they would most enjoy. The students watched the ladybugs eat aphids and the next day wanted to come back and visit them Lubomudrov said.

Third graders did an experiment with snails in the garden; testing how many paperclips a snail could carry. The kids were amazed when a

snail carried 42 paperclips taped to its back.

"Stuff like that really makes it meaningful and brings science to life," Wilson said.

Opening a school doesn't come without its challenges. Wilson said one of the biggest challenges is bringing together all the students and families from different schools, all coming with their own expectations and ideas about how things should work.

"We do everything we can to blend and integrate all the families and work together to create our own community," Wilson said.

Another challenge has been the lack of field space for kids to play on. Wilson said it's been difficult making sure all the students are safe and happy without any fields to play on. Luckily last month, work kicked off on Ocean Air Community Park and priority was placed on getting the joint-use fields in first.

"That will help us tremendously," Wilson said.

Progress in ongoing on the park and it's the hope that the fields will be completed by January 2009.



Members of an informal dog group met recently outside the Winston School on the 5.3-acre Del Mar Shores property, which has been bought by the Campaign for Del Mar Shores with the intention of giving it to the city of Del Mar. *Cristi Pascual / U-T*

DEL MAR

Clock ticking on open space

Group owes \$3.5 million on land preserved for city

By **Monica Unhold**

After banding together to secure the last piece of open space in Del Mar before it was snapped up by developers, members of the Campaign for Del Mar Shores are left with a large debt and limited time to pay it off.

The site is prime real estate in the heart of Del Mar — 5.3 acres of ocean-

view property at Ninth Street and Camino del Mar, the city's main street.

The community group spent three years raising \$5 million to buy the land to give to the city. It now has 11 months to raise the remaining \$3.5 million in the \$8.5 million sale that became final last month.

The city has guaranteed that the group will come up with the balance to pay the seller, the Del Mar Union School District.

"We're very optimistic that we'll be able to raise the remaining funds," campaign chairman Joe Sullivan said this

week.

The group must pay off the balance in monthly installments of \$500,000, with 5 percent interest, between November and May 2009 or the school district can sell the property to someone else.

The playing fields at the site, which is called the Del Mar Shores property for an elementary school that closed there in 1970, are a major reason the community rallied to save the land from developers.

Kim Filanc, a 20-year resident of Del

Mar, is particularly attached to the property because her son and daughter spent a lot of time there as children.

Her daughter attended a pre-school that once operated there and her son played baseball on the field. Although she does not go to the park as often anymore, she donated \$25,000 to help it remain open for public use for a long time to come, she said.

"It's just nice to know it's there," Filane said.

Some of the buildings on the site are used by the school district for administrative offices, and the rest by the private Winston School.

The Winston School, which has occupied part of the site for 20 years and enrolls children with special learning needs, has promised to raise 35 percent to 50 percent of the property's purchase price. In return, the school has signed a long-term lease to remain on the city-owned property.

On June 1, Campaign for Del Mar Shores held a community barbecue to celebrate the May 19 closing of escrow. The campaign invited the 300 people who attended to suggest how the land should be used.

While the suggestions have not yet been formally compiled, Sullivan said they mostly revolved around recreational uses, such as improving the playground, adding picnic benches and adding an outdoor fitness course.

Members of an informal dog group that meets on the grounds in the afternoons suggested adding an enclosed dog park area, Sullivan said. A larger baseball field and community garden were suggested. Although the community had the opportunity to make suggestions, the City Council has no immediate plans to put the use of the park on its agenda, Councilwoman Crystal Crawford said.

For now, the priority is to help fundraising efforts to pay off the \$3.5 million owed to the school district, she said.

The group has until Nov. 15 to raise the first \$500,000 pay-

ment. Nearly 225 people have donated to the campaign, with contributions of up to \$1 million, coming from some individuals.

To raise the additional money, the group plans to hold neighborhood coffees, campaign coordinator Barbara Mandel Pache said. The group may also apply for private grants.

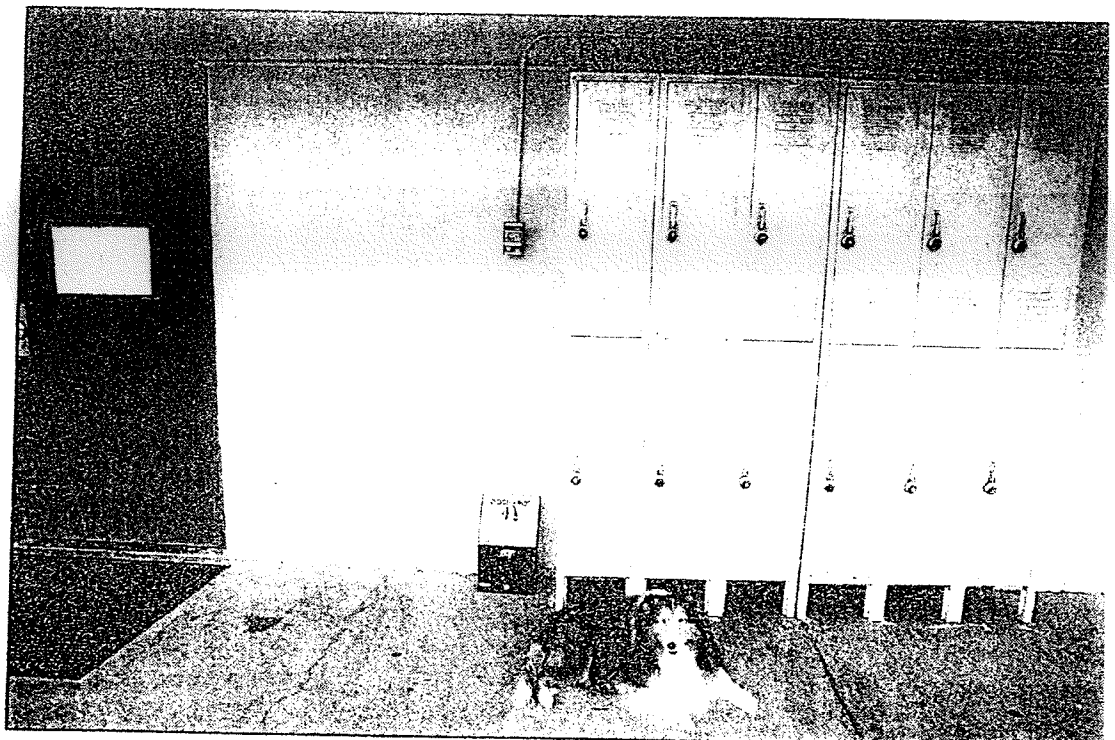
If every adult in Del Mar donated \$1,000 to the park, the \$3.5 million would be paid off, Pache said. While that goal may seem absurd in some places, it may not be in Del Mar, where the median household income is about \$113,000.

Sullivan said fundraising was remarkably successful when there was no guarantee the purchase would happen.

"People were very generous in donating on the promise and hope of acquiring the property," he said.

The Del Mar Shores land has long been connected to service to the community. In the late 1800s, it was the original location of the Del Mar train station. From 1947 to 1970, it was the site of Del Mar Shores School. Eventually the student population outgrew the facilities. Students were diverted to new campuses, and the school was closed.

Monica Unhold is a Union-Tribune writer.



Carl, a Shetland sheepdog, relaxed at the Winston School. A dog group that meets on the grounds has suggested an enclosed dog park as one use for the site. Crissy Pascual / Union-Tribune