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Re: Request for Current Demographics Data

Dear 7/11 District Advisory Committee Members,

First of all, I would like to thank you for serving on this committee and addressing these challenging and important issues.

There are many factors to consider relating to the challenges of the 7/11 task, but proximity of students to their school is an important one. In addition, it is important for the community that data relating to school board decisions be clearly presented to the public. The DMUSD and 7/11 web sites present demographic projections and discuss the validity of short and long term projections. However, I did not see fundamental statistics relating to our current demographic situation that would answer key questions shown below. I agree with the 7/11 website comments that short term projections are more reliable than long term projections, but currently demographics should be the starting point for any projections. I believe the community would benefit if we could see for all eight schools in our district:

- The average distance students currently travel to their schools.
- Ignoring current boundaries, what would be the enrollment in each school, if current students enrolled in their school closest to their home.
- Ignoring current boundaries but considering limitations on school capacity, what would be the enrollment in each of our schools if students enrolled in the closest school that has room for them. Specifically, first fill schools with students closest to them, and if a school is full, assign students to the next closest school.
- Statistics on the distances students would travel to their schools for various scenarios the 7/11 committee proposes.

Answering these fundamental questions will provide the community with understandable data relating to a key concern, which is proximity of our children to their schools. In my letter to the 7/11 committee, presented on July 23 2009, I presented a similar request. It is not difficult or expensive to calculate these numbers. It should not require the specialized software referred to on the 7/11 website. All that is needed are the addresses of enrolled students. There are many companies that will convert addresses to GPS coordinates and calculate distances. In my 7/23/09 letter I offered assistance in identifying a company that will perform this analysis while treating all data confidentially. I estimate the cost for such analysis ranging from \$50 to \$400. My questions for the committee are:

- Has the 7/11 committee considered my requests for current demographics data submitted in my letter on July 23, 2009?
- What are the impediments for performing such analysis on our current demographics?

One can argue that spending more time on statistics is a time sink. But key statistics that most directly relate to the challenge ahead are important to convey clearly. In our case, one of the most solid pieces of information we have is the location of our current students and schools, and one of the most pertinent outcomes is the distance of students from their schools. Let us look at this data.

With utmost appreciation for your effort,

