

7-23-09

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We have been closely following the situation involving the 7/11 committee, its establishment, the instructions given to the members, and related discussion within and outside the community, and we therefore submit the following questions and comments for consideration by the school board:

- At least 30 people volunteered for the 7/11 committee. Of those people only 7 were chosen (with a number of alternates who are, unfortunately, not generally attending the meetings). Why weren't 11 people chosen? What happens if even a single committee member drops out, falls ill and is forced to leave, etc? We know that the school board had concerns about having equal representation from each school, but some schools are not represented anyway. Furthermore, 3 committee members are DMUSD employees and the facilitator is a consultant also paid for by the District. How, by any stretch of the imagination, can this be considered fair and impartial representation of the potentially affected communities? Very little time and notice was given to the community prior to selection of a committee. Why could more time not be spent to seek out full and fair representation of all affected communities? And is it transparent and really soliciting community involvement if meetings are at 3 pm during summer break from school.
- It is our understanding that the 7/11 committee members were asked by Dr McClain to find as many as 22 rooms to be used for a new revenue-generating pre-school. Note that this request extends beyond the needs of the pre-school for district employees. Since we find no public record of this concept, we would like to understand where this pre-school idea was hatched, where was it discussed, and why was it presented for consideration - or even as a mandate - to the committee. Why was there no public forum to discuss this issue before it was presented to the 7/11 committee. Please remember that the schools under consideration were paid for by the homeowners' taxes. Given that the charter of the school district is K-6, we are wondering if a business plan has been prepared for such an and that it will not in any way remove any benefits from the K-6 grade students and their communities as a whole.

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