

8-20-09
Vicki Hutchison

It has become clear over the last couple of months that although the district has at least a few free classrooms at every school, there isn't a clear cut excess campus.

No school has the capacity to house a 22 classroom pre-school and remain a viable K-6 school.

The proposal to split Ashley Falls and Carmel Del Mar into K-3 and 4-6 schools doesn't have a significant impact on the numbers of teachers or classrooms needed at either school.

The proposal to split Del Mar Heights and Del Mar Hills into K-3 and 4-6 schools only saves a couple of teachers and classrooms. It does eliminate some of the dual-grade classes which could be advantageous.

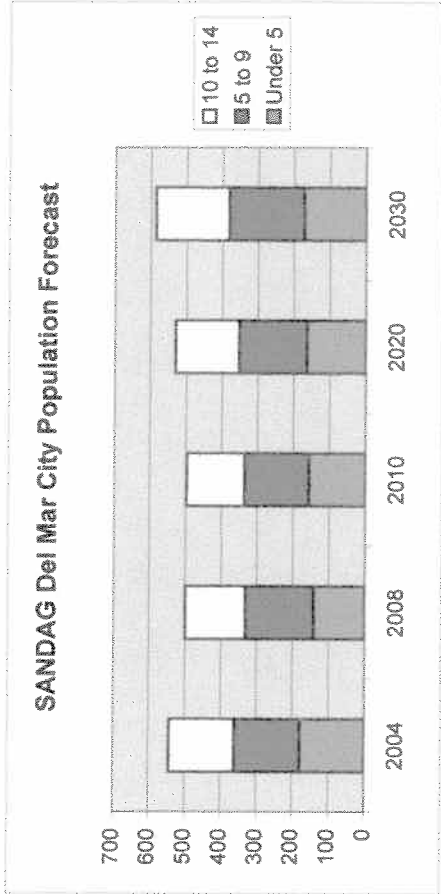
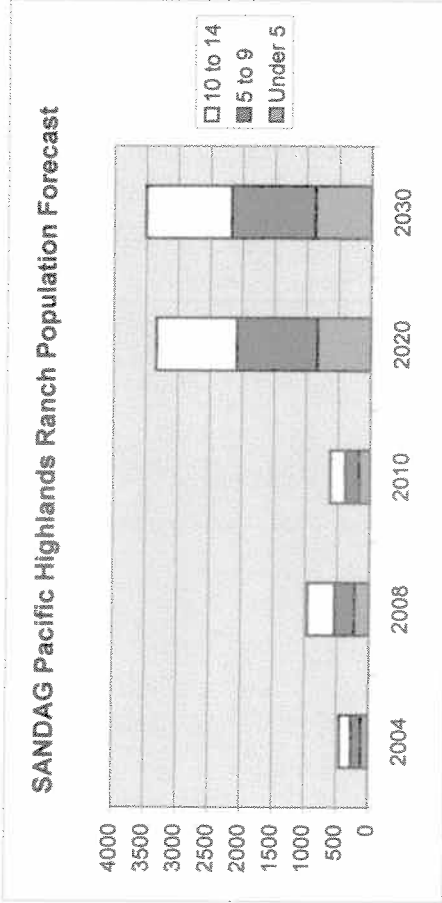
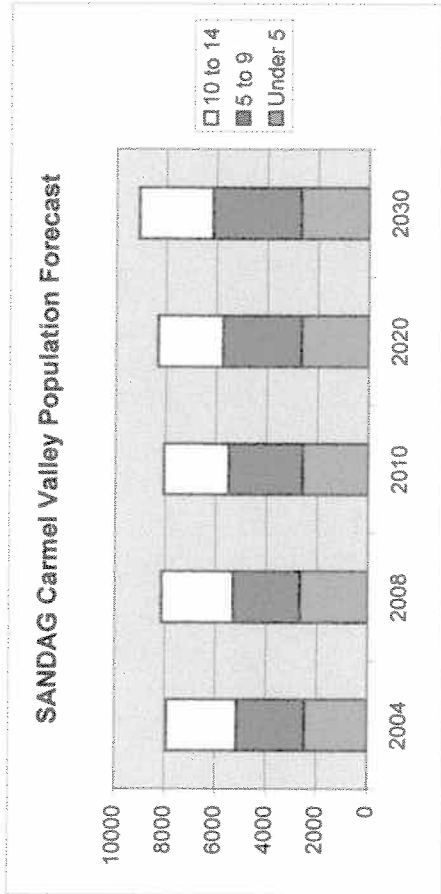
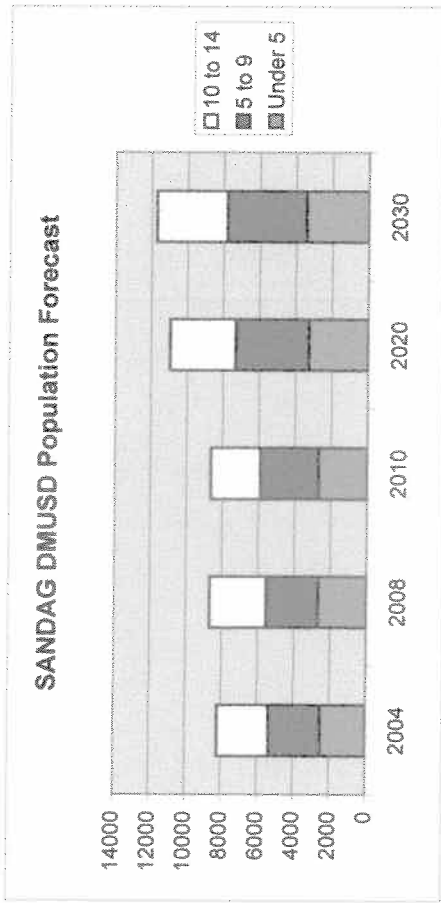
There are many logistical challenges for parents in these split-grade proposals, and very few advantages.

Early on, the committee recognized that Torrey Hills extra capacity would be needed in the future to address the overflow at neighboring school Ocean Air. It is unclear to me why the committee didn't come to a similar conclusion with regard to the need for the capacity at Ashley Falls to meet the overflow at Sycamore Ridge. Particularly since some of Sycamore Ridge's current enrollment is from Carmel Valley neighborhoods, and Sycamore Ridge was built to meet the needs of the new developments in Pacific Highlands Ranch.

One thing that appears unrealistic in the underlying directions given to the committee is that there is an expectation that there is a great deal of saving to be found by utilizing a school as a district office and pre-school. I would expect that they would have similar maintenance and operations needs to an operational K-6 school.

None of the Del Mar Union School Districts neighborhoods are in a population decline for elementary aged children, and many of them have significant growth forecasted through 2020 as evidenced by the data available from SANDAG, San Diego's Regional Planning Agency. I attached charts for their DMUSD area population forecasts as well as Carmel Valley, Pacific Highlands Ranch and the city of Del Mar.

The school district has or is owed \$8 million from the sale of the Shores property. This money can not be used for teacher's salaries. It should be used to build or lease a compact district office and pre-school. Distributing a few district employees to each school with some space is not an effective way to provide space for this small team. If the district believes they can help offset the costs of the state mandated pre-school and enhance the learning experience for these children, then they should incorporate that into their plans.



Sandag - San Diego Association of Governments -- San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

<http://profilewarehouse.sandag.org/>

SANDAG Regional Growth Forecast (Fall 2006) & October 2008 "current" forecast for Jan 1, 2008