

November 16, 2009

To the DMUSD Board of Directors, 7/11 Committee and Superintendent McClain:

My name is Christine Greany and I live on Minorca Cove in Del Mar. My son attends the Del Mar Hills Academy of Arts and Sciences. I am contacting you today to ask that you form a Strategic Planning Task Force to resolve current and future budgetary issues and instruct the 7/11 committee to take school closure off the table. Del Mar Hills is a vibrant, nationally recognized Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished school that is an integral part of the Del Mar community. As members of our community, you are fully aware that the impact of closing Del Mar Hills will be extremely significant. The negative impact will include increased traffic, pollution, loss of programs, over-crowded schools, safety issues, and more. Other schools in our district will also be impacted through overcrowding. Our children deserve to be taught in their current classrooms, not squeezed into 10 year old portables at Del Mar Heights, which is not due for updating until 2026. More than 350 children should not be displaced so that less than 20 District employees can have new District headquarters. The projected cost savings of closing a school are significantly less than we were originally led to believe. The new estimate of less than \$400,000 in cost savings to close a school is insignificant. School closure will not solve the District's projected 2010/11 budget shortfall; however, it does solve the problem of the district office. The District will be losing more in DMSEF (Foundation) contributions than school closure will generate in cost savings. I strongly encourage the Board of Trustees to form a Strategic Planning Task Force to resolve current and future budgetary issues and instruct the 7/11 committee to take school closure off the table. According to the 7/11 Committee best practices guidelines, the District should have examined all other budget cuts and opportunities for cost savings before deciding to close a school.

The formation of the 7/11 committee was premature. However, their work in

identifying excess capacity in the District has successfully found a solution for the District office location in Proposal G which saves all schools, builds a district office at Torrey Hills using less than 15,000 square feet of their 14 acres, collocates the employee childcare and preschool with the existing preschool at Sycamore Ridge and relocates the Maintenance and Operations yard elsewhere. I thank the Board and 7/11 committee members for their hard work, dedication and service. I respectfully ask that you consider my important request: please do not close any school.

Thank you,

Christine Greany