

Dear Dr. McClain and members of the Board,

My name is Katrina Hunt and my older daughter has just started kindergarten at Del Mar Hills Academy, while my younger daughter is scheduled to start two falls from now. We live off Mango, south of Del Mar Heights Rd.

Because we are so new to the school, we certainly can't claim that our family is emotionally attached to the Hills. We love the school, and have been thrilled with the teachers and staff there, but we're not unreasonable. I know these are tough times and that sacrifices must be made in the face of large budget issues.

But closing the Hills strikes me as foolish, rather than fiscally sound. As a young parent who has lived in my neighborhood for 6 years now--and as a someone who has been very active in both voter registration and get-out-the vote campaigns here--I have learned a great deal about who is living in, leaving, and coming into this community. Even if a few studies or projections don't reflect this yet, I can vouch for the fact that this community is growing in terms of young families. By removing one school—and relegating all the kids to a cramped space and fleet of aging portables--the school district does a huge disservice to those kids, and to this established community. It seems especially ill-conceived given how little, relatively speaking, a school closure would provide in budgetary savings.

Therefore, I am contacting you today to ask you and the the Board of Trustees to form a Strategic Planning Task Force to resolve budgetary issues, current and future, and to instruct the 7/11 committee to take school closure off the table.

I thank the Board and 7/11 committee members for their hard work, dedication and service. I respectfully ask that you not close any school.

Thanks,

Katrina Brown Hunt

Dated: 11-16-09