

Dear Dr. McClain and DMUSD Board of Trustees:

I applaud your pursuit of the 7/11 commission and the hard work that the committee has done. With all of the brilliant minds at work on this very important issue, there is only one final question that remains unanswered for me:

WHY WOULD WE EVER CONSIDER CLOSING ANY SCHOOL -- KNOWING THE KIND OF INDELIBLE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON OUR CHILDREN AND THIS COMMUNITY -- IF WE HAD NOT EXHAUSTED ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS ON THIS PLANET?

Do we truly believe that we have exhausted ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS that leave us NO OTHER CHOICE than to devastate this community and have lasting impact on our children?

I know there are people, far more qualified than I, to help identify those options and sort through the possibilities so that we DO NOT HAVE TO CLOSE ANY SCHOOL.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE engage in that kind of constructive process to help our community navigate these challenging times and bring us closer to a solution that achieves what I believe should be our lead criteria, prioritized as follows:

- 1. Minimize negative impact on our children and their education**
- 2. Minimize negative impact to our community**
- 3. Reduce costs for the district**
- 4. Find an acceptable home for the district offices**

Thank you for taking a step back, for understanding the irrevocable impact closing a school could have and for pursuing another path that can get us to the end goal.

Best regards,

**Lauren Essex
Del Mar Hills Mom of Ella, 2nd Grade**