

To the 7-11 Committee members,

Below is a copy of an e-mail I sent out today to Dr, McClain and the entire DMSUD Board of Trustees.

My husband and I are the parents of two children who attend Del Mar Hills Academy. We live on Mira Montana Drive, less than 1/2 mile from the school. Each morning we meet between five to twelve other children on our walk to school. The children are all excited about seeing their teachers and other friends at Del Mar Hills. They have had wonderful teachers every year at the Hills, most whom I have gotten to know very well during my time volunteering at school. The parents at our school are wonderful as well, and my husband and I have found a wonderful sense of community here at Del Mar Hills.

On our walk home in the afternoon my children and I might chat about their day at school. My son loves to talk about what level he has completed in Jiji, and my daughter loves to sing me the songs that she is learning for the upcoming 3rd grade musical production. On our walk home, we also might stop and chat with our other neighbors who do not have children, or whose children are all grown up.

I spent some time this weekend speaking with many of these neighbors about the current proposals being looked at by the 7-11 committee. They expressed, overwhelmingly, that Del Mar Hills Academy, or any other school in the district, should not be closed, and that the Board of Trustees should look to other ways to solve the projected budget shortfall, especially in light of the insignificant cost savings that will be realized by closing a school. While potential loss of green space, and the very real potential loss of property values were expressed as concerns by my neighbors should Del Mar Hills be closed, the most common sentiment I heard was that they would really miss seeing and hearing the children on their walks to and from school, should Del Mar Hills Academy be closed.

As you can probably realize, my children, my husband, and myself are very passionate about our school, as I am sure most other families in this district are about their neighborhood school as well. We are also extremely upset and deeply concerned about the potential closing of Del Mar Hills. In light of this, I have a few questions I would very much appreciate having answered.

1. Do you believe that measures to improve the budget within the district should be borne by ALL the schools in the district, or is it all right for one or two schools to bear the brunt of saving costs?
2. How can the DMUSD Board consider expanding the preschool at the

expense of the current K-6th graders already at the district (i.e. would the DMUSD Board really close one school and displace all the children there so the District can have a bigger preschool ?)

3. If it is decided to close Del Mar Hills Academy will the District GUARANTEE that both of my children (one currently in 1st grade and one currently in 3rd grade) will be able to attend Del Mar Heights for the remainder of their time in elementary school?

4. If the answer to the above question is "No", then EXACTLY how will it be decided which children attend Del Mar Heights and which children won't ?

5. If you had a child enrolled at Del Mar Hills right now, how would you AND your child feel about a potential school closing, and what would you be doing to prevent it from occurring?

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards,

EA Stewart