

We are a new family in the Del Mar Community, relocating from LA this past August. Our names are Shannon and Janice Taylor and we live on 230 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Our son is in kindergarten at Del Mar Hills Academy for Arts and Sciences. We selected Del Mar for many reasons including the fact that there are nationally recognized local neighborhood schools for our son to attend. I am contacting you today to ask that you form a Strategic Task Force to resolve budgetary issues, current and future, and instruct the 7/11 committee to take school closure off the table.

Del Mar Hills is a vibrant, Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished school that is an integral part of the Del Mar community. As member 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 as well. 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 budgetary issues, current and future 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, co-locates 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 the 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.

Shannon & Janice Taylor