

Dear Dr. McClain and Board Members,

We are Dr. Patrizia Marchese and Dr. Yair Aizenman, living in Via Nestore, Del Mar, and parents of a present student as well as a former student of Del Mar Hill Academy of Art and Science.

We are writing to you today in regards to the suggestion of school closure as a mean to resolve budget issues in our School District.

We believe that closure of a school (either Del Mar Hills or any other school in the district) should NOT be considered a reasonable solution to balance the budget.

When we chose to live within the district boundary about 16 years ago, we were aware of the excellent schools within it. We highly value education and we want to provide the best environment for our children, now 14 and 10 years old, to thrive and reach their potential supported by the community in which we live.

Nine years ago we had to choose the elementary school our children would attend. Del Mar Hill Academy had been our first choice and we are confident that our children received the best quality education and support we could hope for them. We entered the school just when it was awarded the National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished School. How much pride in those awards!!!! Fact is, it is not only a matter of sentiment! It is top quality education provided by caring and competent teachers (and all the administrators and Principal(s) with them) that year after years keep proving themselves professionally excellent.

Closing a school of such high quality would be a disgrace, a shame, and a failure of the entire community!

Within a community, our responsibility towards the children as parents, teachers, and including you, dear Dr. McClain and Members of the Board as educators, is to provide them with the right safe environment to grow and learn. Placing all the children from Del Mar Hills in Del Mar Heights, that does not have the proper traffic access and proper classroom space, does not fulfill this responsibility.

Closing an excellent school might improve a budget, but would be a great disservice to the children attending that school at this time and all the children approaching school age in our community.

We ask you to consider alternatives in mending the District Budget that do not involve any school closure. We thank the 7/11 Committee for their hard and relentless work in finding those alternatives. To them as well, we ask to focus on alternatives that do not include any school closure.

We appreciate your dedication and great service to the children in our community and we thank you for listening to their voices as they say "Please Do Not Close Our School".

Best Regards,

Patrizia Marchese, Ph.D. and Yair Aizenman, Ph.D.