

December 2, 2009

Dear DMUSD Committee Members,

Thank you for your work in serving the Del Mar Union School District. As a parent of a Torrey Hills student, I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion about the placement of DMUSD offices.

I urge the committee to consider two major factors in making their decision: financial stability, and school site demographics.

First, in this era of cuts to education funding, it does not make sense to build a new district office rather than moving into existing buildings. If state spending is so dire that jobs are being cut and enrichment classes cancelled, how can the DMUSD justify spending money on purchasing or building new offices? Suitable space and buildings exist at Del Mar Hills to accommodate the needs of the district.

Secondly, not only does Torrey Hills have the second largest enrollment in DMUSD, but the 4 large plateaus west of the Torrey Hills campus have been approved for 600-800 condo/apartment units. Once these units are built, the census at Torrey Hills will explode to the point that some students will likely have to be assigned to other schools. Thus, it makes no sense to put district offices at a site that will need more room for their students, not less. Note that:

- Torrey Hills has little parking now, and adding a set of district employees will further overburden the meager parking options at the school.
- The hairpin turn for the lower elementary grades is already congested at drop off/pick up times--adding district trucks to the chaos will further endanger the streams of kids biking, walking, and scootering to school.

I have to say as an observer to the process that it makes no sense to place the DMUSD offices on the second most crowded campus of all the DMUSD schools

For these reasons I urge the members of the 7/11 committee to vote for proposal B. I know there are some passionate voices urging you to "save" all schools, but on paper, this does not make financial sense for the district, nor does it reflect long-term growth projections for the district. Please, use our district monies and resources smartly, and keep schools and office sites separate.

Please accept proposal B.

Respectfully,

Douglas Brems, Ph.D.