

An open letter to the 7/11 District Advisory Committee  
Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for investing your time and energy in serving Del Mar Union students, families and staff. It is a tough undertaking to evaluate all possible options and even more difficult to make the decision, since all will have some impact to our community and most importantly to our children.

We are parents of 3 children that are attending Torrey Hills - our oldest is in the fifth grade and has attended since Kindergarden, which we expect all our kids to do. The exceptional learning environment, teachers and staff, and sense of community at Torrey Hills creates a unique atmosphere at the school that nurtures, supports, and prepares our children for their upcoming years of adolescence. I am sure this is the case at all the other district schools as well. It is well understood that early childhood years are the most important for the development of children.

We say all this to emphasize that more importance should be placed on school integrity and the potential impact to children when making this decision. We believe that district offices and the M&O facilities should NOT be co-located on any school campus because of how this will detract from the environment at any one school.

Further, the impact to Torrey Hills alone would be significant:

- squeezing district offices and M&O into the existing site imposes limitations that I think create an inadequate working environment for the staff and more importantly, takes crucial play/exercise space away from the children and may create additional safety concerns
- Torrey Hills park is not a reasonable alternative "open space" for the children during school hours
- there is already significant traffic to/from the school through the neighborhood and getting in/out of the parking areas
- there is already inadequate parking space for current staff and volunteers
- enrollment is expected to INCREASE in the future at Torrey Hills, so why take necessary space away that will only increase future congestion

We urge the committee to consider these points and take a longer term view of what is best for the district as a whole in terms of educational experience, and financial and operational stability. We believe Proposal B is our best option forward:

- keeps the remaining schools sites as they were originally intended - just for the children
- greatest cost savings to district, in this time of extreme financial hardship
- necessary consolidation of students from lower attendance locations

- provides offices and M&O adequate space and flexibility for future operations
- overall, smallest impact on children and families in the district as a whole

Again, thank you very much for all your efforts in working toward a fair solution and for considering our point of view.

Sincerely,

Brad and Lisa Nelson