

Dear 7/11 committee members and Board of Trustees,

I, like many other Torrey Hills families have followed the news about the 7/11 committee only as impartial readers because I thought that Torrey Hills would not be affected because it is still under Mello Roos. I was surprised by all of the discussion this summer when the solution seemed so clear cut, at least to the dispassionate viewer. Two 20+ year old under-populated schools within one mile of each other in a built-out area that isn't growing vs Ashley Falls/sycamore ridge that is in an area that is still growing and has commitments to PHRanch. It looked like a no brainer . . . close one of the small schools and turn the other into district office/childcare/maintenance all in one location. I knew that residents wouldn't be happy and I understood their disappointment, but I didn't see how there could be much discussion other than "I want to preserve my property value." I didn't envy the committee that had to be the bearer of bad news.

Fast forward to November when I hear that instead of spending \$5M to retrofit an existing underutilized building the discussion has turned to an \$8M addition at one of the newest schools?! How can you justify the expense of staff at 2 small schools plus \$3M+ in extra building expenses just to appease a loud minority? We have lost school nurses, are cutting programs, and being asked to donate large sums of money to keep ESC programs, but we can throw around millions of dollars on a **shiny new building for the district offices**?!

Has there been discussion about the fact that there is going to be a huge condominium complex going in across the street from Torrey Hills that will bring in more students and more traffic? How about the fact that there are hundreds of apartments within ? mile of T.Hills that will always be populated with young families (unlike the Heights/Hills area) keeping Torrey Hills full? Also, the thought of having maintenance vehicles and district offices in the same area as young students makes me nervous. It would be easy for a bad person to go unnoticed in the parking lot or on the grounds. It would be easy for a large maintenance vehicle to not see a child behind them in the driveway. Why would we risk that?

I appreciate the thorough and transparent work that the committee has been doing and I know you need to consider all options. Thank you so much for keeping the community informed and being diligent in your deliberation. I ask you not to build at the schools where the population is still in flux, and to give greatest consideration to cost, safety, and the district as a whole, not to the loudest voices.

Sincerely,

Linda Brems

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