

Dear Members of the 7/11 Committee;

Your efforts to work through this very difficult process are appreciated and your consideration of everyone's passionate opinion is to be commended.

To keep this as brief as possible, I would like to focus on three specific issues:

1) Closing the Hills provides an undue and excessive burden on the children of the Hills and Heights. According to your enrollment analysis, 415 students will be impacted. This number, however, is underestimated, as each of the existing and remaining Heights students will be deeply impacted by the increased student population. With the combined population at the Heights, this school site will exceed 100% capacity and children that were previously taught in proper classrooms will now be in portables. Portables are to be temporary, not permanent classrooms.

2) I strongly believe that the neighborhoods west of the I-5 are in transition; older folks are moving on and younger families/couples are moving in. Each Del Mar school resides in neighborhoods at different points in the "demographic life cycle." West of the I-5 is most certainly in a re-growth phase. If the Heights is brought to an excess of 100% capacity, these new families will not be able to send their children to their neighborhood school. This situation will be immediate and will occur with the first "net new" family that enrolls their children in the 2010/2011 school year. This is not acceptable and not needed.

3) The cost savings of combining the two schools must be considered with the upgrades that will be necessary at the Heights to properly accommodate this increased population. If the Heights is to be upgraded (basic upgrades - not to the standards of Ocean Air, Torrey Hills, Sage Canyon, Sycamore Ridge, and Ashley Falls), a significant amount of money will need to be spent. This expenditure will certainly more than offset the savings over many years.

I believe the appropriate choice that affects the fewest number of students and allows the District staff new offices is Proposal E. I would encourage the least expensive remodel possible for District administrative use, until such time of greater financial stability.

Lastly, by the State allowing the District to de-couple the Shore sale funds, the financial assumptions of this exercise are no longer the same. The District may now move funds around to better serve the long term District needs. I would encourage the District to seriously consider savings through investments in efficiency (ie: solar installations). The savings from this type of investment may easily exceed that of any option, with no cost to our children.

Thank you for your time.

Kim Kanetis

Del Heights Parent