

Dear 7-11 Committee Members,

My name is Obie Roy, thank you for letting me express my views this evening. I apologize for using the same speech as yesterday. Our family consists of my wife Vinita, daughter, Anya (age 7), Neil (age 5) and Kira (age 4). We live in Del Mar, and are walking distance to Del Mar Hills Academy.

I am here to express my concern that the 7-11 committee is STILL seriously considering closing down Del Mar Hills Academy. This is an extremely permanent action that can not easily be undone. The effects to the community and more importantly to the children will be profound.

I am told, the net COST savings from closing the school amounts to **\$94 per DMUSD student** (based on 7-11 projected savings of \$394K).

I encourage our entire community to come up with a more creative alternative for the School District to save \$94.00 per student annually than by closing down ANY particular school. If we can not find an agreeable solution for the entire community at this time, then we all need to keep working to come up with a solution that is desirable to all of us, especially our children. Closing a **BLUE RIBBON** school in a growing school district just does not make any sense.

I have also heard many other proposals from the community in an attempt to minimize the impact of the district financial situation on their particular school. Once again, I would like to point out that the ONLY school still under serious consideration for PERMENANT closure is DMHA. All other schools in the community are not under consideration for closure. As verified by the board, it is false to assume funds from the closure will go toward ESC programs.

I would like to additionally point out the facts I use to counter a few of the reasons for closure, are in fact derived from the 7-11 committee website. As you hear these reasons for closure, PLEASE ASK yourselves how you would feel if your child's school was being CLOSED based on these arguments.

-Del Mar Hills is the most expensive school to run: This is not true. The Hills falls right in the middle of all 8 schools in terms of cost per pupil.

-Del Mar Heights can easily accommodate the excess students safely: There are serious legal environmental issues on the Heights property that do not bode well for an expanded campus. Crossing Del Mar Heights Road is a major undertaking during busy morning hours and is not safe for children to cross.

-West of the 5 is not projected to grow: If you look at the data taken from the 7/11 website, there is a projected growth for Del Mar Heights, when growth figures for the Hills and the Heights are combined, there is a projected growth of 1.2 % between 2010 and 2015. This means that a combined Hills/Heights school will be **above 100 % capacity** over the next 5 years. If you look at the total DMUSD population for 2010-2015 there is an expected 12.7 % overall growth rate

between 2010 and 2015. It makes no sense to me to close a school now, only to have to open a new one a few years from now.

-The Hills is the smallest school in the district. Yes, the Hills is the smallest school in terms of total number of students, but it is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> smallest school in the district, in terms of total square footage. If you look at the Hills current % of modified capacity, again it is right in the middle of all 8 schools at 74 % .

Due to time constraints, I will not go through the details of declining property values when a school is closed, or low community morale, or over crowding and increased traffic at DM Heights School, or DM Education Foundation contributions declining, legal issues concerning zoning at DM Hills School. Too many reasons to list.

I am fortunate enough to be heavily involved in Del Mar Hills Academy through tutoring and volunteering and in the broader Carmel Valley/Del Mar community through coaching soccer.

By continuing to have DMHA as the only school for closure is tearing the community apart. The tension is visible at these meetings and throughout the community.

Yesterday, on my way to the board meeting my daughter Anya asked where and why I was going. After a lengthy explanation my daughter pondered for a bit and wrote out an IOU for **\$100** to save DMHA which I delivered to board President, Comischell Rodriguez. If my daughter can come up with an alternative to school closure SO CAN THE COMMITTEE!

I implore you to make the right decision and remove proposals B & I.