

December 1, 2009

Dear DMUSD Committee Members,

I have recently heard about the 7/11 committee and options regarding the placement of the DMUSD offices, school closures, and maintenance facilities. I wish I had heard about this work earlier as I do have strong feelings regarding the options. I hope that my email is considered in your decision making process.

First, I urge the committee to consider the demographic data. Torrey Hills has the second largest enrollment in DMUSD. The school property currently is next to four large open fields sites that are approved for 600-800 condo/apartment units. Once these units are built, it is likely that Torrey Hills will contain the largest number of students in the district. It makes no sense to reduce the campus size by placing office buildings and maintenance facilities in a location where the number of students is expected to expand. If anything, the district should be considering how to accommodate the increased enrollment. If you reduce the size of the campus, you will ultimately be creating a new problem of relocating students to further distant school.

Second, I urge the district to consider the basic fundamentals of management. While DMUSD currently has 8 elementary schools, there will be day when we will not need 8 schools based on the aging demographics of the area. When this happens, schools should be closed when the enrollment no longer supports a full campus, and reopened when enrollment expands. The committee should look to close schools where enrollment is in decline and convert those properties to other useful purposes. The closed schools should be retained and reconverted to a school when enrollment returns to support a full campus. This is the very same logic we use when enrollment expands and a new school is needed. As such, you should look to low enrollment campuses to close and convert to offices and maintenance facilities.

For these reasons I urge the members of the 7/11 committee to vote for proposal B. While I know there are some passionate voices urging you to "save" all schools, this does not make sense based on management fundamentals and demographics. Please make a good decision and accept proposal B.

Respectfully,

Mark Quan