

As a parent of a student at Del Mar Hills and future student, I am deeply concerned about the impact that the closure of Del Mar Hills would have. Relocating Hills students to Del Mar Heights and Carmel Del Mar would immediately raise the enrollment at each campus to near or perhaps even above capacity *for the foreseeable future*. Even as it stands today, enrollment at the Heights requires that the entire 2nd grade class be taught in portable classrooms that are placed on the playground blacktop. Similarly, ESC and resource classes are taught in playground-occupying portables. Children eat their lunches off their laps while seated on the amphitheatre benches because we are loath to sacrifice more playground space for lunch tables.

In addition to the problem of on-campus crowding, because the Heights is located at the end of a cul-de-sac it has issues with limited ingress & egress. Traffic during drop-off and pick-up times is problematic as is, and a burden on the surrounding community. Combine the cul-de-sac location with its location at the edge of a canyon and there may also be some fire safety concerns to assess before the committee proposes making the Heights the only elementary school west of I-5. We are deeply concerned about our kids having to cross Del Mar Heights Rd to get to school. We would envision the requirement of crossing guards and/or updates to the Traffic lights if such a thing should occur.

School closure is a short-sighted attempt to ease the District's budgets woes. Many of the homes that are flipping in our community are being purchased by young families. If the Hills is closed, the Heights will have no room for growth and new families will be turned away from their neighborhood school. Any immediate cost savings from school closure must be balanced against potential future expenses should district schools need to be reconfigured or even a new campus built because of increased enrollment.

There has been a lot of talk about equity in our district lately, perhaps most notably in the switch from site-specific fundraising to district-wide fundraising for the DMSEF. While some among us had reservations about this change, the wisdom in it is obvious: district-wide funding of our ESC programs diminishes divisions between our schools and embodies the noble goal of providing the greatest good to the greatest number.

Why should this be any different? Finding a new home for the district office is a district-wide problem. It is not equitable that two or three schools should shoulder the burden of the solution. We urge the 7/11 committee to take school closure off the table and recommend to the Board that they use the money from the sale of the Shores property to lease or buy space for the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie Starr
13854 Boquita Dr.
Del Mar, CA
92014
858-245-9375