

**7/11 DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PURSUANT TO EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17387**



**PUBLIC HEARING
Minutes
Monday, December 14, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Torrey Hills School—Multi Use Room
10830 Calle Mar De Mariposa, San Diego, CA 92130

Organizational Items

Call to Order – *Time: 7:03 p.m.*

Present: Jennifer Emberger, Bob Shopes, Janet Handzel, Cinda Peck, Susan Paul. Members Wayne Harris and Randy Wheaton were absent. Superintendent Sharon McClain, Executive Assistant Sherry Forte and administrative assistant Shirley Bales were also present.

Also Present: Vicki Hutchison, Gretchen Jimenez, Doug Rafner, Cami Ramseyer, Miranda Rafner, Dustin Rafner, Megan Rafner, Bruce Koren, Ugar Sencan, Suzanne Hall, Kristin Demarest, Jay McGuerty, Kathy Maynard, Diane Jacobs Baizer, Victor Marchall, Angela Marshall, Brenda Klemke, Kelli Politoske, Arlene Dutchik, Bob Dutchik, Jen Fry, Dan Dalvy, Elisabeth Epel, Thor Stibor, Heidi Neihart, Lisa Bycott, Jenny Tate, Cristina Rusconi, Zinia Nilipour, Loretta Gordon, Lori Mattingly, Sandra Hoyle, Sara Wingate, Duane Nelles, Jessica Koren, Nan Aposhian, Deborah Muns-Park, Jacki Remick, Leah Edzant, Jeanette Nichols, Lisa and Paul Matsumoto, Deanna Floeter, Cindy Clarke, Richard Pascoe, Xia Jia, Molly Schneider, Michelle Bernard, Liangqui Chen, Wendi Mentini, Susan Friedland, Ed Rodriguez, Albert Chen, Patty O'Connor, Steve Nations, Vicki Miranden, Theresa Byer, Brenda Bilstad, Subrata Bhattacharjee, Kyung Battacharjee, Bobbie Basta, Brad Fagan, Ken Doan, Theresa Garter, Gavin Thost, Lindy Edgroy, Jason Epel, Jingjin Gao, Linda Selk, Thomas M. Polarek, Greg Kostello, Rebecca Wade, Janet Kim, Ramon Gallo, Andrea Holland, Dan Picker, Janet Melugin, Joanna Roddis, Vanessa Black, Matilda Remba, Serena Xie, Aaron Shi, Laurie Horton, Lani Garton, Andy Nicherson, Sheldon Li, Darvin Li, Adam Morgan, Patricia Yoon, Antonio Yoon, Sonia Nayak, Karen Aiken, Angela Xu, Sarrajun Nadumpelli, Linda Brems, Yang Lin, Jie Wu, Richardo Martinez, Nancy Johnson, John Jastremski, Wade Willden, Wes Muggett, Shana Lazenby, Janie Cowell, Christy Ji, Ilse Chappel, Marie Vaughn, Dennis Hester, Dawn Hester, M. Parikh, Keerti Guru, Susan Moi, Per Cederstav, Sergio Poplawsky, Cathy Lim, Alice Schleisier, Kathy Liu, Lesley Mundis, Susan Campbell, Richard Laurie, Tony Yun, Shelby Wyandt, Robert Martindale, Stacy Ralph, Song Shi, Janis Strockis, Beth Kilroy, Xauthe Powell, Guy Terrant, Kerin Kapich, Susan Laue, Raymond Land, Madhavi Pannala, Stefanie Ho, Alan Ho, Grace Liu, Melia Fuller, Juli Oh, Andy Dugacki, Lori Bigelow.

Flag Salute: Led by Shirley Bales

Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion to approve by Jennifer Emberger, seconded by Cinda Peck, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Sharon McClain presented a brief PowerPoint outlining the criteria and the current 6 proposals under consideration.

Public Comment

1. Amy Caterina, DM Hills parent, also on Save our Schools Committee, goal of the SOS Committee is to save our Del Mar Schools, not only DM Hills or Heights but to save all schools. No school wants DO, let schools be schools.
2. Vicki Hutchison, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against Option E, purpose of 7-11 clear -- identify excess space no longer needed to support children and their learning. Ashley Falls has only a handful of empty classrooms, not enough to house DO.
3. Molly Schneider, Ashley Falls parent, once again Ashley Falls is unacceptable for DMUSD offices, for safety, traffic and fiscal responsibility issues. Please send a clear message to Board to leave Ashley Falls alone.
4. Doug Rafner, Ashley Falls parent, housing DO on school could not work unless it does not impact the educational setting. Prop E seeks to use AF's 2-story building, the design of the school does not lend itself to housing DO either in classrooms or in a building on campus.
5. Jay McGuerty, Torrey Hills community member, Sausalito HOA Board voted in opposition of any TH proposals, citing traffic, green space, parking, and more development down the hill adding to traffic. Was renting property or any other option considered?
6. Joel Holliday, DM Hills parent, spoke against school closure. District has no true excess space, only underutilized space that will be used in a few years. If DM Hills closed, DMUSD will be at 100% capacity in 2015, two years early, necessitating a new school.
7. Bill Morris, DM Hills parent, against any form of school closure, solving budget crisis not a mandate of 7-11 Committee, closing DM Hills will not solve budget issues. District received \$8.5M for sales of Shores to relocate DO. Take school closure off the table.
8. Matthias Blume, Ashley Falls parent, options under consideration not very good, even closing a school does not save significant amount of money. Merge DMUSD and Solana Beach School Districts, for even greater cost savings.
9. Suzanne Hall, Torrey Hills parent, spoke that SD Unified facing great 7% deficit, preliminary plans to shorten Kdg day, furlough days, 7% pay cut for teachers. DMUSD also facing a serious deficit shortfall. Option B the most fiscally prudent option.

10. Kristin Demarest, Torrey Hills parent, spoke that Torrey Hills does not have excess space. Joint use threatens the safety of our children. Do not place DO at Torrey Hills. Loss of any recreational space at Torrey Hills threatens recreational space in Carmel Valley.
11. Ugar Sencan, Torrey Hills parent, find a solution to keep this school a school only, not shared or joint use. Parents spend a lot of money, help financially, help in the classroom, participate in this school and do not want to see multi use at TH.
12. Kathy Maynard, Torrey Hills parent, urged the DAC to take G-1 out of consideration, the fact is there is a slope 20-30% graded, to build a building must consider cost of driveway, and consider impact to students during construction period.
13. Elisabeth Epel, Torrey Hills parent, urged DAC not to ruin Torrey Hills by placing a DO or MO there; and despite the fact that DM Hills closure might make the most financial savings, consider recommending to Board they place DO off site and place MO in Sorrento Valley.
14. Lisa Bycott, Torrey Hills parent, expressed her sincere hope that whatever proposals are put to the Board that there are no proposals regarding school closure and no proposals regarding joint use.
15. Jasmyn Bell, Torrey Hills 6th Grader, spoke to DAC if you build offices on our green space, we will have limited space to play PE games and we play a lot of games, and what will happen to Roadrunners, the fun running club at our school.
16. Neil Bhattacharjee, DM Hills 5th Grader, spoke to not close DM Hills or other schools, a lot of kids walk to school, imagine if you had to walk kids across DM Heights Road. DM Heights only has a certain amount of rooms, he is afraid some of the teachers will lose their jobs. DO at DM Hills would tear down his memories for the last few years.
17. Heidi Hiehart, Ashley Falls parent, urged DAC to take E off the table, the community is prepared to fight the battle which will cost DMUSD more money that it will save Put forth a proposal that says no available space for a DO. Look at hiring freezes, benefits, etc, instead of making community suffer.
18. Subrata Bhattacharjee, DM Hills parent, remembers fiscal crisis 11-12 years back, university looked to close down departments, but the alumni etc. came in and persuaded university to keep dept open. Economy will improve again, we cannot just build a school again.
19. Haitao Zhang, Torrey Hills parent, spoke that in last weeks Carmel Valley News Suzanne Hall wrote an article that the savings from closing DM Hills is a recurrent \$400k year after year, more than a one-time savings. It would take 8M at 5% return to cover that cost.
20. Beth Westburg, DM Hills parent, asked how these proposals relate to the Master Plan. Open space land use is restricted and none of the proposals are viable. Report to Board school closure not an option, nor is adding a DO or MO to school property.

21. Anna Quan, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G1, against building on TH blacktop and green space. She wishes DMUSD could keep all schools, but DMUSD can no longer run 8 schools, DMUSD has a huge operating deficit every year.
22. Hindy Bare, Hills parent, spoke against school closure, we are all in same district, the Board is supposed to look at all kids in district. A child takes 1-3 years to adjust to a new community. Closing one school to solve the district's problems is not the solution.
23. Sandra Hoyle, DM Hills parent, Board asked if goal of closing DM hills accomplished, will that meet the fiscal needs of the district. Will the other schools in district feel her daughter's pain.
24. Greg Kostello, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills, one of the only Blue Ribbon Schools in area; if DM Hills closes will impact all parents, that we could sacrifice one of our best schools at this time. The DAC needs to go back and look at this again.
25. Gavin Hirst, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, urged the DAC to recommend purchase or lease of property, proposal E, affects safety at Ashley Falls school, lack of vision in a few years when Highlands Ranch builds out Sycamore Ridge fills up.
26. Diana Padgett, Torrey Hills parent & president of Torrey Hills Community Coalition, which has opposed unwanted development in community. Requested committee to look at enrollment, play space, overall impact on budget. G1 would fall to bottom of list, B to the top.
27. Diane Jacobs Baizer, DM Heights parent, urged DAC to take school closure off the table, at DM Heights, the entire 2nd grade class taught in portables, there is limited ingress and egress at DM Heights, along with fire safety concerns to be addressed prior to making Heights the only school West of I-5.
28. Song Shi, Torrey Hills parent, spoke that proposal G.1, does not save any money at all, G1 is not financially responsible, just because no classroom in DMUSD will be moved does not mean no students impacted. Some 600-800 students will be impacted, please remove G.1.
29. Janis Strockis, Ashley Falls parent, asked committee to take Proposal E off table, for safety of kids and not sure it will save much money, as mixed use and mello roos issues would be costly to overcome.
30. Cindy Clarke, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G.1, as Torrey is set to expand, has been at 800 students. To add district facilities and take away blacktop or grass space would have major impact. Why wouldn't DMUSD take the Shores money and put into capital expense?
31. Richard Pascoe, Ashley Falls parent, spoke of Boston schools closed based on declining enrollment, when projections did not come true, resulted in overcrowding, a failed property tax increase, and ended in service cuts at schools. Tell Board to take \$8.5M and buy, build or lease space around here.

32. Michelle Bernard, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, asked Dr. McClain to go back to Board, any proposal which reconfigures Ashley Falls evidences a lack of sound strategic planning, safety of children a #1 priority. Any proposal affecting schools East of I-5 fails to recognize growth East of 5.
33. Susan Friedland, Torrey Hills parent, referencing Ed Code, spoke of any recommendation of joint use on a campus such as G1 may not be legally permissible for this committee to recommend. Urge the DAC to reject G1 and any proposal that impacts Torrey Hills.
34. Liangqui Chen, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G1, citing traffic increase, soil conditions not suitable for the building, and declining property value when you have mixed use of a school.
35. Patty O'Connor, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G1 and joint use at any school, having a park nearby does not mitigate loss of green space, if Torrey Hills is the largest site in DMUSD, the number of kids has to be factored, 800 in just a few years. Take that \$8M and purchase property in Sorrento Valley to house DO and CC together.
36. Kelli Politoske, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, at what time did DAC transform from a school closure committee to a determine which nooks and crannies exist at schools for DO. Why not have one proposal with DO not placed at any school site.
37. Arlene Dutchik, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, City of San Diego is not inclined to consider any joint use agreements with Ashley Falls, which has not only Joint Use but Joint Powers with SDUHSD, the mello roos bond was to construct a school not a DO.
38. Jennifer Fry, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, and recommended postponing Friday's meeting until all committee members can be present.
39. Vicki Mirandon, raised 7 kids in DMUSD who attended both DM Hills and DM Heights, spoke of the need for children to feel that adults will not allow their needs not to be met, to close a school or disrupt it with a buildings. Spoke against closure or joint use.
40. Sassan Haghgoo, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G.1, citing parking, traffic, pedestrian safety, student safety, CEQA. Closing any school a horrible thing. There must be other ways to address current budget crisis; this economic downturn will pass, but bad proposals will have everlasting impacts on our communities.
41. Sonia Nayak, DM Hills parent, submitted for the record a letter by Estela de Llanos, urged DAC to strongly consider the information submitted by her regarding the Torrey Pines community plan adopted in 1999. Please take closure of DM Hills off the table.
42. Lars Carlson, DM Hills parent, spoke against B & I. Originally \$1.6M savings to close DM Hills, then 500k, then 600k. What are costs with environmental issues, costs in loss of income from alumni/donors.

43. Kerri Kapich, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, joint use not viable for Ashley Falls, citing how the school was built and financed. Expressed frustration that DAC has gone through this process without Board providing better options for saving money, how about looking at leasing or purchasing space for district offices.
44. Juli Oh, DM Hills parent, spoke on behalf of not just DM Hills parents but all parents in District to include one more option, none of the above. School closure is drastic, and plans to put DO piecemeal across the district also not good option. Board has options to purchase or lease property.
45. Young Liu, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G.1, all proposals merging schools, closing schools, are short term solutions, the US economy will recover, many of those problems will be erased. Torrey Hills parent strongly against G1, due to safety, space, future enrollment growth, up to 800 in future. What we can do now with \$8.5M to wisely use that money.
46. Deb Muns-Park, Ashley Falls parent, urged DAC to reject E, which does not make long-term sense for DMUSD. Preschool at Sycamore Ridge makes sense, but where will those students attend school when Pacific Highlands Ranch builds out.
47. Brenda Bilstad, Torrey Hills parent, a resource teacher who works at SD Unified District DO, spoke against G1, with traffic, security, safety, parking, suspensions and expulsions, enrollment issues, on-going meetings, no parking for teachers, maintenance trucks. Go back to Board and say “none of these are solutions.”
48. Linda Brems, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G1, with Torrey population in flux, she hopes for no addition to Torrey or any schools in flux, there is an obvious but sad solution. She would love small schools, but this is a public school not a private school, and there needs to be a financial solution. One district strategic plan goal is wise spending.
49. Vanessa Black, Hills, PTA co-president DM Hills, official vote with PTA membership against B and I, speaking on behalf of all Hills PTA members, everybody looking for solution, she echoes all those who spoke in regard to land use laws, please get the financial strategic task force in place for a long-term solution that does not disrupt any campus.
50. Robert Martindale, Hills parent, spoke there is no good decision here, although the whole process has had a benefit to bring this entire district together. As Winston Churchill said, Never Give Up.
51. Per Cederstav, DM Hills parent, expressed opposition to any proposal that closes a school, and express opposition to all proposals which negatively affect community lives.
52. Laurie Horton, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against E, and urged DAC do not fritter away \$8.5M by putting all functions into 8 spaces then having to put them back together where they should be all along. DMUSD has an Academy at the expense of other schools.

53. Maria Vaughn, Ashley Falls parent, spoke that placing DO in a school E of I-5 is costly to build, there are joint use, mello roos and safety issues. There is a potential for revenue, with the Sycamore Ridge preschool.
54. Ray Lane, Torrey Hills parent, DAC need to be guided by wisdom and reason and data to make a good decision. Has DM Hills reached a point where it should or could be closed, he does not know. He opposes G1 and any proposal to put DO on a campus in an area with one of the largest densities.

Public Communication

None.

Information Items

Motion to adjourn by Susan Paul, seconded by Janet Handzel, it was unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:50 p.m..

Adjournment – *Time: 9:50 p.m.*