

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



Minutes of the Public Hearing  
**Thursday, December 10, 2009**  
**5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Del Mar Hills School  
14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

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**Organizational Items**

**Call to Order** – *Time: 5:32 p.m.*

**Flag Salute:** Led by Shirley Bales

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

Also Present: Sassan Haghgoo, Lisa Barthelemy, Marie Vaughn, Connie Ulrich, Juli Oh, Alice Schlesier, Molly Schneider, Ann Garland, Jeanette Nichols, Obie Roy, Michelle Sayre, Melanie Carmosino, Sara Wingate, John Wingate, Kyoung Bhattacharjee, Joan Chen, Qun Wei, Estela de Llanos, Cindy Braun, Ellen Thomas, Song Shi, Marybeth Norgren, Karen Stangland, Karen Aiden, Jen Varga, Vicki Hutchison, Brad Fagan, Cathy Ingrassia, Nichole Blacher, Tammy Holzer, Amanda Wu, Allison Warren, Vanessa Black, Stephanie Jansen, Jennifer Froman, Patty Tobin, Shauna Lazenby, Shannon Cary, Minsun Jun, Craig Sherman, Yifeng Ziong, Janet Pescar.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Upon motion by Cinda Peck, seconded by Janet Handzel, the Agenda was unanimously approved.*

**Schedule Future Meetings**

*Motion by Bob Shopes to postpone the regular meeting of Monday, December 14, to instead have a public hearing from 7-9 p.m. on December 14 at Torrey Hills MUR. Seconded by Janet Handzel, the motion passed unanimously.*

The committee tentatively scheduled a regular meeting for Friday, December 18, 5:30 p.m., to discuss proposals and public hearing feedback, tentatively if Wayne Harris is available to attend or phone in.

Sharon McClain informed the DAC that the Board would like to meet the second week in January for a one-agenda item Special Board Meeting to hear the Final Report from the 7-11 DAC.

### **Preparation of Final Report**

Since it is a violation of the Brown act for a quorum of committee members to get together or pass information among each other, three committee members only will work on a draft Final Report that could be presented to entire committee at the January meeting.

Superintendent Sharon McClain informed the DAC that committee members may send their comments to Dr. McClain which she can forward to everyone.

The DAC could publish on the 7-11 webpage the pros and cons of the proposals. Then the entire committee could agree on pros and cons at the December 18 meeting.

*Bob Shopes motioned that he, Jennifer Emberger and Randy Wheaton form a writing team to produce a rough draft Final Report by the first week in January. Motion seconded by Cinda Peck and approved unanimously.*

Any member with comments to include in the Final Report will funnel through comments through Dr. McClain, and she will send to Bob Shopes.

At the Regular Meeting on December 18 the DAC can also go over section headings. Bob Shopes will work on an outline (such as from South Pasadena 7-11 Committee).

Facilitator Gayle Wayne is available January 4 and 5, and she will drive down to work with the 3-member team, and she will help put the Final Report in the correct format. Bob Shopes will phone or email Gayle Wayne for a format.

The DAC discussed a possible meeting either Thursday, January 7 or Friday, January 8, to be finalized through email.

### **Public Hearing**

Dr. Sharon McClain, facilitator of the Public Hearing, introduced committee members and presented a PowerPoint on the six proposals under consideration and the DAC criteria.

1. Vicki Hutchison, Ashley Falls parent, assuming DMUSD has no funds for a new DO, she prefers G.1; all schools remain open, no classrooms modified, schools remain at growth capacity, DO can have offices; disadvantages are access and parking.
2. Brad Fagan, President Torrey Hills Master Association, TH HOA Board adamantly objects to G1, as 484 multi family units across from the school have been approved, G1 diminishes green space, and Torrey Hills predicted to grow to capacity in the next 5 years, with over 800 students.

3. Larry Shank, Del Mar Hills former parent, opposes closing DM Hills as the value of the education in a neighborhood school is inestimable; and urges the committee to do everything they can to keep DM Hills open as a regular school.
4. Brian Blacher, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against closing any school, take \$8M invest at 3% interest and go rent space where a landlord will refurbish, committee is supposed to be impartial, put \$8M to work and rent office space for school district.
5. Nicole Blacher, Torrey Hills parent, opposes G.1, citing safety issues with traffic congestion as W Ocean Air Dr and Mariposa is a traffic hot spot and there are possibly another 400 units at that corner, asking what is the price for safety?
6. Bill Morris, DM Hills parent, urged removal of any proposal to close a school, small schools offer a vibrant and dynamic experience as well as larger schools, he supports purchase of real estate for DO or spread offices around, so all give up only a little bit.
7. Linda Crawford, former Board member, addressed concerns on C and G1 as unstable soil conditions exist on Torrey Hills 14 acres, which is 80-90% filled with dirt, as deep as 140 ft in some areas, and does not know if it is possible to build at Torrey.
8. Estela de Llanos, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills, citing economic implications, demographic projections, environmental, planning and zoning, land use and health considerations, and submitted a package of zoning and planning info.

Estela de Llanos requested additional time to speak, and DAC members suggested she sign up again at the end to speak again after everyone else if there is time.

9. Best Westberg, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills, citing changing enrollment numbers for students West of I-5 and residing in 16g,j,k, how 40 students do not disappear, but put Carmel Del Mar at 108% capacity.
10. Amanda Wu, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G1, opposes building of any offices at s school, noise will affect school activity, a high traffic business entity on school campus is not desirable, G1 does not address issues, does not help general fund.
11. Lisa Barthemy, Ashley Falls parent, opposes E, which puts DO at Ashley Falls, citing safety for kids, that AF one of most open campuses in district, this would only be a short term answer considering growth E of I-5, and lastly Mello Roos issues.
12. Jeff Harasha, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing any school, if you close a school it will close for good, the economy will recover, taxes will return, money will return to the schools, E of I-5 will grow and more schools will be needed.

13. Vanessa Black, DM Hills parent/DM Hills PTA Co-President, spoke that DM Hills PTA general membership officially voted overwhelmingly in favor of proposals that leave DM Hills open as a school. She urged DAC to take school closure off the table.
14. Julie Oh, DM Hills parent, spoke against school closure, perhaps there is no good solution, the Board has options such as a commercial lease, DAC can say it identified surplus space and it is not viable to locate DO within the existing schools.
15. Mara Bickett, DM Hills parent, urged DAC to not delay its work; DAC was asked to do the impossible, demographics based on poor data, amorphous idea on for-profit preschool, the real battle is ahead with the Board, get final report to the Board and get on with it.
16. Tom Song, DM Hills parent, urged for removal of B & I, spoke of initial estimate of \$1.6M savings to close DM Hills, savings now just under \$700K, the Board has other savings suggestions that do not pit school communities against each other.
17. Joel Holliday, DM Hills parent, spoke against any school closure, urged the DAC to focus on the quality of education, that short term cost savings would disappear when DMUSD reaches capacity in 2015 and has to building school #9 two years earlier than projected.
18. Shana Lazenby, Torrey Hills parent, spoke that school closure is not good for anybody, joint use not good for anybody, all proposals hurt schools, DAC should propose a lease or purchase space for DO, none of the proposals make any sense; take G.1 off, take them all off.
19. Laura Slayter, Carmel Del Mar parent, spoke of concerns putting DO at any school, citing security and traffic issues, sad to see SDC kids leave CDM, both her kids have learned greatly being in classes with those kids.
20. Ann Garland, DM Hills parent, urge DAC to take school closure off the table, citing decades of success at DM Hills and its family-like community. School closure should be an absolute last-ditch effort when all other efforts are explored and district is in a crisis mode.
21. Obie Roy, DM Hills parent, urged DAC to remove B & I, closing DM Hills an extremely permanent action that cannot be undone, the net cost only \$94 per DMUSD student, he urged entire community to come up with a better alternative to save a Blue Ribbon School.
22. Joan Chen, Torrey Hills parent, spoke that most faculty at SDSU is on mandatory furlough 2 days/month, to save jobs for colleagues. In these difficult times, sometimes sacrifice is necessary. What is best for all kids in DMUSD? Make decisions based on fact not emotion.
23. Qun Wei, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G.1, Torrey Hills will have over 800 students in 4 years, while DM Hills has low enrollment projected to 2014, DMUSD has a budget crisis which will impact all students in DMUSD. Proposal B is the most logical proposal.

24. Ann Price, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills, DM Hills has achieved the Blue Ribbon distinction and started the academy foundation of art, music, science, technology. Give the solution back to the Board, she does not think it is one of those listed thus far.
25. Glenda Darian, DM Hills parent, spoke that closing any school is a failure, she believes strongly in this school district and DM Hills neighborhood school provides an invaluable service to this community, one cannot put a price on an environment where children thrive.
26. Donna Pare, DM Hills parent, spoke against school closures, which affect property values, loss of public space and social contact. Bureaucrats align school closure with cost savings, but should look lower property values and lower property tax income. DM Hills must survive.
27. Karen Aiken, DM Hills, urged DAC to please take B and I off the table.
28. Jennifer Froman, CDM Parent, on behalf of all SDC kids at CDM objects to F, moving SDC class from CDM to AF. SDC children are included in the past 5 years, participating in jog-a-thon to school plays to talent shows, an extraordinary problem to move these children.
29. Craig Sherman, Ashley Falls parent, spoke against Proposal E, don't put DO at Ashley Falls, the school is needed for future growth, and there are land use, zoning and joint use issues. School closure is short-sighted, if possible, look for a commercial building near I-5.
30. Steve Vosseller, CDM parent, these are the lives of our children and we cannot focus just on the facts, on the human side kids will be impacted; he is disappointed that the options presented do not include exploring a neutral site for locating and constructing a DO.
31. Elizabeth Prag, DM Hills parent, spoke against school closure, speaking that it is important we do not ask children to go through situations like this without being absolutely sure that school closure is the only option open to us.
32. Janet Pecsar, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills and stuffing 600 kids into DM Heights, a school with a modified capacity of just under 600 students. There are 13 portables on DM Heights, nearly double the number of portables of any other school in this district.
33. Karen Stangland, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills, some parents chose DM Hills Blue Ribbon Academy because of its small size, and there must be another better reason especially when not saving that much money, please put our children first.
34. Robert Martindale, DM Hills parent, spoke against closing DM Hills, the school must stay open, it is the center of the community, school closure should be the very last option. Is there an emotional difference between being evicted or selling your home and moving on.
35. Sassan Haghgoo, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G.1, citing traffic, safety, zoning issues. TH does not have large parks or playgrounds attached to the school. All options will hurt at least one group of people, perhaps DMUSD needs another answer for the budget issue.

*Bob Shopes motioned to allow speakers to have a second 3 minutes to speak, up until 8:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Cinda Peck and unanimously approved.*

36. Estele de Llanos, DM Hills parent, spoke of further exhibits regarding zoning and planning for DM Hills, rezoning, city council hearing, CEQA review, seismic, geological, and fire zone info. If DAC recommends closing DM Hills and expanding DM Heights, it will take years for approval, putting kids in portables and in harms way. Take school closure off the table.

37. Mary Beth Norgren, DM Hills parent, spoke that school closure needs to be the very last option and removed from proposals now until Board can review the budget issues in other ways.

### **Call for Public Communication**

None.

Motion by Janet Handzel to adjourn, seconded by Susan Paul, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

**Adjournment:** 8:08 p.m.