

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



**Minutes of Public Hearing
Monday, December 7, 2009
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Del Mar Hills School—Performing Arts Center
14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

Organizational Items

Call to Order – *Time: 4:05 p.m.*

Present:

Also Present: Amy Caterina, Marie Vaughn, Stephanie Sullins, Abby Farricker, Heather Kowiski, Darlene Klugherz, Elisabeth Epel, Dirk-Uwe Bartsch, Sandra Maas, Lynne Valentine, Renee Kalt, Cathy Ingrassia, Lori Anapoell, Elizabeth Prag, Cassie Nelson, Patty O’Connor, Julie Broadwin, Allison Warren, Ruthie Kaminskas, Obie Roy, Lindsay Farmer, Lisa Bycott, Katherine Weidmann, Suzanne Hall, Tara F. Gartzke, Kelli Politoske, Theresa Byer, E.A. Stewart, Katrina Hunt, Vinita Roy, Karen Aiken, Sean Aiken, Melanie Carmosino, Ugar Sencen, Sonia Nayak, Dan Picker.

Flag Salute: Led by Shirley Bales

Approval of the Agenda

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

Superintendent Sharon McClain informed the audience that another Public Hearing is scheduled for December 10, and the Superintendent and DAC are looking to schedule a third public hearing on the East side of I-5 in the near future.

Public Comment

1. Kathy Maynard, Torrey Hills parent, expressed concern about proposal G1, citing space, traffic, safety issues, loss of green space as well as noise issues if a building is installed.
2. Lisa Bycott, Torrey Hills parent, expressed concern about proposal G1, citing high enrollment, loss of green space, loss of revenue from green space, stating District Offices should not coexist at schools, and recommended purchasing a building.
3. Katherine Weidmann, teacher and parent at Del Mar Hills, expressed concern over closing Del Mar Hills Academy, the only Blue Ribbon School in the district with excellent API scores, and implored the DAC not to cause more harm than good.

4. Suzanne Hall, Torrey Hills parent, expressed concern over budget shortfalls, concern over G1, turned in a petition with 236 signatures from the Torrey Hills community to remove G1, and recommended Proposals B and I to save recurring costs.
5. Susan Friedland, Torrey Hills parent, questioned if the DAC is a valid committee and within its jurisdiction, and questioned if there are problems with legalities of the DAC, can the School Board make a valid decision.
6. David Xu, Torrey Hills parent, questioned G1 placing services at one of the top 3 schools in enrollment; in other localities a school under 90% enrollment is a candidate for possible closure; closing a school is difficult, but sometimes you have to do it.
7. Andrea Sleet, Del Mar Hills teacher for 14 years, expressed concern over proposals B & I, school closing breaks apart the family. What dollar amount is worth that. Do you really want the kids to experience the heartbreak of their school closing.
8. E. A. Stewart, Del Mar Hills parent, spoke of projected growth for West of I-5, recommended proposals B & I to close Del Mar Hills be taken off table, and encouraged more creative ways to save \$94 per student annually.
9. Amy Caterina, Del Mar Hills parent, spoke in support of G1, a Districtwide solution with the least cost, with no school closure involved, and that the solution should not be borne by just one school.
10. Marie Vaughn, Ashley Falls parent, spoke she was pleased to hear that one proposal may include a for-profit preschool, and placing Preschool, DO and MO at one campus is ideal, and that one campus is Del Mar Hills.
11. Dirk-Uwe Bartsch, Del Mar Heights parent, spoke to B & I, of traffic issues if Del Mar Hills kids attend Del Mar Heights, not enough space at Del Mar Heights to build room for kids, and crossing Del Mar Heights Road is a safety issue.
12. Joel Holliday, Del Mar Hills parent, spoke to B & I and encouraged alternatives to find space for DO without closing a school; if the DAC recommends a school closure, they have not satisfied the charge to find a solution acceptable to the committee.
13. Serdar Yilmaz, Torrey Hills parent, spoke against G1 as 500 more units of condos are soon to be built in the Torrey Hills corridor, which is very congested already; please do not allow for joint use at our schools, it is traumatic to the kids.
14. Patty O'Connor, Torrey Hills parent, spoke of a flaw in G1, which cites Torrey Hills as the largest site at 14 acres, however Torrey Hills comes in last in acreage per student, and she implored the DAC against joint use at any school.

15. Julie Broadwin, Torrey Hills parent, reminded the DAC to recommend what is best for District as a whole, the most important issues should be cost and student welfare; it doesn't matter that DM Hills is a wonderful school, all DMUSD schools are wonderful.
16. Lynne Valentine, Del Mar Heights parents, spoke against closing any school; for DM Heights the traffic will cause an unsafe situation; she has spoken to teachers about the logistics of moving students all day long a problem when they had 600 students.
17. Renee Kalt, Ocean Air parent, spoke in support of B, although it is very bad to consider closing a school and traffic will be an issue at DM Heights, don't put anything at Torrey Hills, any bldg at Torrey Hills should be for kids, not for a DO and not for MO.
18. Ruth Kaminskis, Del Mar Heights parent, spoke that she does not want the closure of DM Hills or any school; everyone is very upset with the proposals; perhaps a solution is to lease offices for a year until finding a solution everyone can say makes sense.
19. Melanie Carmosino, Del Mar Hills parent, spoke against B & I, how can she explain the transition to her kids; spoke of traffic concerns at DM Heights; how Poway SD recently paid \$10M for 55,000 s ft. building; or what about considering a lease for DO.

Superintendent Sharon McClain asked if there were any further speakers or additional questions from previous speakers.

20. Suzanne Hall, Torrey Hills parent, questioned costs for building a modular structure at Torrey Hills at \$100 per s.ft., versus remodeling at \$150/s.ft.

Randy Wheaton answered that those were very basic numbers from Architects White and Westburg, \$150/s.ft. is a very subjective number, an average for a SD County commercial building, according to White and Westburg.

21. Unknown Del Mar Hill parent, questioned the criteria being used to evaluate information going to the Board. Is there a weighing of the different factors? If there is no real criteria in terms or percentage base, how will the committee make their recommendation?

Bob Shopes replied the Board has instructed the committee to rank cost and impact as the top two factors. The DAC has taken no action to prioritize the list. The DAC will use its analysis as it meets the criteria, using the best judgment of the data, as well as a structure for the data.

Janet Handzel replied that the Board of Trustees has requested more than one proposal, with cost and impact to students both priorities.

22. Renee Kalt, Ocean Air parent, questioned if purchasing or leasing property does lease money come out of the Shores money as well?

Superintendent McClain answered that lease payments would come out of the Shores money, but eventually would come out of the general fund when that money runs out.

23. Worsh Cantan, Torrey Hills and Sycamore Ridge parent, spoke that measuring community impact as a way to argue against cost. He lends his support to all schools in the district, he wants all parents to bring their kids into an environment where they can learn to best of their ability. He has two kids autistic, and change is very highly impactful to his kids. A lot of people will be affected by these decisions.

Call for public communication

None.

Information Items

Adjournment – *Time: 5:30 p.m.*