

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 23, 2020 at 10:05:20 PM PDT
To: "board@cusdk8.org" <board@cusdk8.org>
Subject: School Closures

Dear Board Members,

The recent news regarding closing has me very concerned as a parent in the Cupertino Unified School District. Since then I have been conducting some research and talking to other parents and local volunteer leaders. This has led me the questions I have outlined below.

Last year there was an attempt to pass Measure O , which would raise 4.5 million. Then in a budget meeting we heard there was a budget deficit of 5 million. Why close schools to get to 7 million? What if the closed schools don't lease? You then have two problems, budget shortfalls and closed schools. Are there unused school sites (like Monte Bello or Steven's Canyon?) that can be sold? What about engaging local large corporations to help bridge the gap? Closing schools only serves to reduce the quality of education and damage our communities for our children starting a death spiral for the district.

Dr. Baker said the CAC was to come up with options on how to bridge budget shortfall, up to, and possibly including schools closing. Now it seems the charge to the CAC was to come up with a list of schools to close, this is a very different charge. Coupling this with the gag order on the CAC and the recent Mercury News article that quotes CUSD board members (Phyllis and Lori) - it seems member of the board wants to make the CAC a scapegoat and reduce the perceived "blame" on the CUSD for closing schools.

CUSD25 was completely ineffective and CUSD United has not been able to get started due to lack of board support. Why not let the new organization thrive and bring in additional funding?

Why are specific schools exempt from closure? Using what criteria has this been decided (based on location of board member's home to these schools)? Has this been subjected to public comment?

Finally, it appears the school board is rushing to make a decision on closing schools before an election and during a world-wide health crisis. This is irresponsible. These decisions deserve public scrutiny and comment before being hastily implemented. These decisions affect the very people whose interest should be your primary responsibility: the students of CUSD, and before such a drastic decision is made it should proceed carefully and with OPEN public review.

A Concerned Citizen and Parent,

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