

From: Yadira Toleno

Date: September 24, 2020 at 1:59:04 PM PDT

To: board@cusdk8.org, Stacy McAfee-Yao <mcafee-yao_stacy@cusdk8.org>

Subject: Thank you for your reply...

Hi Lori and the rest of the board,

Thank you very much, Lori and Sylvia for your replies.

Firstly, I want you to know I appreciate your reply, I really do. I respect you and your position. I also respect that you are a mom and I hear your mama heart, you know being a volunteer is hard. Speaking for Kelly and I, we can't sleep either, we are up all night with our community pouring into this. We understand all of the nuances and shortfalls and we have answered hundreds of texts, messages and emails to explain it to our parents. But where we have a big problem is this: you say, and I quote: "maybe even something really bold like the square foot measure we've been trying to figure out how to crack the nut on for years. These aren't new issues nor new ideas is I guess what I'm trying to say. They just all take so much investment of time and resources and community support (which has been progressively more and more of a challenge in Cupertino for years and years now) to get there. "

We have sat through COUNTLESS meetings and read thousands of emails from CUSD and they have been ho-hum and boring, with no sense of urgency or imminent demise on the horizon. Kelly and I singlehandedly have managed IN ONE WEEK to rally an entire school community - and the numbers are climbing - and we are looping in Kennedy and Stevens Creek as we speak - to do WHATEVER it takes, including open their checkbooks, talk to their bosses, write the governor, protest, rally, etc., to take care of this problem immediately.

So why, Lori? Tell me why. Is it because maybe the District hasn't asked or publicized that this is A BIG HUGE PROBLEM WITH A CAPITAL P until right now? This was not communicated to the community in an aggressive manner. Perhaps if the messaging for Measure O was CUSD will have to close 2 schools that affect Los Altos and Saratoga , Measure O would have passed. Or any CUSD school for that matter. Even if you've known it, it's been buried under thousands of other things and people have had no idea? Why weren't you out waving banners and talking to every single PTA and school community?

Administration needs to be leaner. Why in the world are we paying for the executive staff suck as Leslie, Stacy, Jeff, etc car payments? That is atrocious, we don't have the money for such luxurious benefits. This should have been trimmed months ago. This needs to be on the table. We need to try everything before we **close schools**. In COVID times we need more space not less, where will all these kids fit in existing schools.

In addition what about the reserves? This sounds like an emergency to me. Use them!

As for this statement you made in your email, "I'm not sure what gave you the impression that I would or have said Montclair and Blue Hills are "exempt" from school closure discussions. The only 'exemption' I have supported was when we had our discussion around our alternative programs many months ago and all 5 of us agreed." I have heard from CUSD staff and other CUSD Board Members that Blue Hills are

Montclair are in fact exempt, this was last year, so perhaps it was forgotten that this was said, but please note it was not just to me. In fact, I wonder if it is in the board meeting minutes as well, I honestly don't have the time or energy at the moment to do a deep dive, but I do know it was said. When only 3% of the student population lives in the Blue Hills boundary and 4% in Montclair's boundary, you are talking about a very few students. So basically, you will close a neighborhood school just to appease another city?

In regards to the CAC, every member I have spoken to who is on this committee has told me they are not allowed to talk about their meetings, they are not allowed to speak to other members of the committee. Why are they saying this? Obviously, they were instructed by the head of the committee to not speak on this. Please, we are not stupid, in fact, our parent and community population is filled with highly intelligent people. A lot of these people are usually rule followers, soft spoken, but this time it has gone too far. We will not stand down. We demand to be heard and to pause this closure. You keep saying that this has been five years in the works. This sounds like an administration problem, they are unable to manage a business properly. I feel hoodwinked! It was definitely a bait and switch from the board meetings early, and the school board keeps pointing their fingers to CAC. Yet, you say they are only "Advising", but then again you say, "a decision will take place on Oct. 22." Then again, "we will not vote on Oct. 22." All of this is so confusing and seems shady.

Lastly, I do have to say, this whole thing has been hard on me as well. I am not one to write scathing emails, but this whole situation warrants them. It really is disappointing that this is what it has come down to. Parents are upset, the community is upset. Yes, selfishly I want to save Regnart, since I personally see the value of the school and its community. But, we need to save all schools in Cupertino. As a member of the school board, this should be your top priority, what the parents want. We voted you in, hear what we want. **DO NOT CLOSE SCHOOLS!**

Thank you for listening,

Yari