

October 16, 2011

Dear Point Loma Association Membership,

As you may know from local news reports, San Diego Unified School District is facing a sixth year of reductions in state funding.

What has not been well publicized is that the budget for the 2012-13 school year included \$5 million that could come from "school realignments". This included closing 10 schools in SDUSD.

Everyone in the community needs to know what the proposed realignments are as they affect all of us whether or not we have children and grandchildren in our neighborhood public schools.

The proposal for our Point Loma Cluster of Schools is:

1. **Close Cabrillo Elementary School** for the 2012-13 school-year.
2. **Close Dana School** as a neighborhood middle school. Convert Dana Middle School from a Grade 5-6 School to a K-8 Chinese Mandarin Immersion Magnet School.
3. Expand remaining elementary schools Dewey, Loma Portal, Ocean Beach, Silver Gate and Sunset View from grades K-4 to K-5.
4. Expand Correia from grades 7-8 to grades 6-8.
5. Consider sale/other of surplus property/schools (Barnard and Cabrillo).

Much of the proposal simply makes no sense for Point Loma:

- **NEW MANDARIN LANGUAGE MAGNET SCHOOL AT DANA = INCREASED TRAFFIC & CONGESTION** - 90+% of the student enrollment will be transported to and from DANA from outside of Point Loma twice a day. One of San Diego Unified magnet schools' four main purposes is to "Attract students from outside assigned neighborhood attendance zones".
- Our Point Loma Cluster schools have shown great academic success in recent years, and our local population is growing. **WHY ARE OUR STRONG NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS BEING TARGETED FOR CLOSURE?** Is this an effort to redevelop valuable coastal land that belongs to the public without public input? Will we lose classroom space that will be needed in the near future-and we can't get back?
- If this is an effort to save money, why move programs that will require expensive facilities changes such as adding classroom space at Correia or modifying Dana to accommodate lower elementary students?

The community also needs to know that in July 2011, the school board approved an amendment to its policy on school closing to shorten its timeframe. That action severely limits the opportunity for public awareness and input regarding these changes that affect all of us.

PLEASE LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Kevin Falconer, Council District 2, kevinfalconer@sandiego.gov
Scott Barnett, SDUSD Representative, sbarnett@sandi.net

Informational Meetings: Monday, October 17th at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, October 18, at 9:15 am at Dana Middle School Auditorium. Community Meeting. Learn more, questions and input session with community stakeholders.

Town Hall Meeting: Monday, October 24th at 7:00 pm at Point Loma High School Performing Arts Center (PAC). Informational Meeting & District staff & SDUSD School Board Member, Scott Barnett, will be present to hear community feedback & discuss.

Questions about this notice? Please contact saveourpoolschools@gmail.com .