

Alberto Quintanilla

From: Bryan Gebhardt <bryan.gebhardt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:17 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Dianne Jones; Ann Crosbie; Desrie Campbell; Larry Sweeney; Raul Zamora; Michele Berke; Surf FUSD Board Member
Subject: Public comment for City/School Liaison meeting

Hi,

I am submitting this public comment for the City/School Board Liaison meeting.

Item 4: Public Comment

The school board will be discussing the Williamson project on Wednesday. It's clear from that information and the latest demographic data that:

- We do not need another elementary school (even a small one),
- We cannot afford to build and operate another elementary school, and
- We have too many small elementary schools already.

For years I have seen less growth than expected, and even I was surprised when it turned into dramatic declines in school enrollment the last 2 years. The data shows we have plenty of capacity. We have to adjust to this change.

- Once the middle schools are complete we will have over 7000 available elementary spots district wide, and more than 700 elementary spots in the Washington attendance area.
- By 2026, 12 of our 29 elementary schools will be smaller than 450 students (the boards recommended minimum elementary size).
- We don't have enough students to open Bringhurst yet again this year.
- Not opening Bringhurst could save over \$400,000 in operating costs.

An elementary school costs \$75-90 million and due to declining enrollment our eligibility for state funding is dramatically reduced. What funding we have must also support the whole school district and it will be at least 2 years before we could consider another local bond issue.

It is time to revisit this project and find a smarter option. I look forward to the Board's discussion about this on Wednesday.

I also applaud the cooperation between the city, school district, and many other public entities to work on solutions for our school facilities. I hope that continues as we look at intelligently changing this project given everything that has changed including declining enrollment, COVID19, and frightening budget shortfalls.

Thanks

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