

October 25, 2007

By Hand Delivery

Mr. Vincent Matthews
Interim State Administrator
Oakland Unified School District
1025 Second Avenue
Oakland, CA 94606

Dear Administrator Matthews:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Report of the Hillcrest School Long Range Planning Committee on Enrollment. The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) was founded at Hillcrest this past May to address an immediate crisis of overenrollment for fall 2007, as well as an ongoing challenge of sustained excess demand for kindergarten spots at the school. The attached report is the product of approximately six months' work by the committee and the community at large.

The report's recommendations represent sacrifices made by all participants and constituencies, in a spirit of compromise and unity. The committee—which is comprised of elected parent representatives of all grade levels at Hillcrest; elected parent representatives of preschool-aged children living in the Hillcrest attendance area; school administrators and faculty; and neighbors of the school who do not have children—worked diligently to develop consensus-based solutions to Hillcrest's multifaceted challenges. We conducted extensive outreach, including holding frequent meetings with current and prospective parents and regularly updating our community through email and other web-based formats.

The committee's work culminated in the attached report, which was presented to the community at a public meeting on October 23, 2007. OUSD staff members Kirsten Vital, Denise Saddler, Juwen Lam, and Allison Sands attended—as did school board member Kerry Hamill—and were extremely helpful. We commend them all for participating in this meeting and assisting us throughout our research process.

During the public meeting, it became evident that a substantial and clear majority of Hillcrest community members—including prospective parents—support the report's findings. In particular, the following two recommendations received unanimous support from all members of the community:

- Redraw Hillcrest's attendance-area boundary lines to better match the number of likely incoming kindergarten children with the school's capacity.
- Whether or not boundary line adjustments are accomplished to take effect for fall 2008 enrollment, develop and publish enrollment guidelines that provide transparency and certainty, so that families know that *if* their child is involuntarily redirected from their neighborhood school (be it Hillcrest or any another OUSD school), they will receive priority to enroll their child at a school that is also near their home (*e.g.*, the next closest school identified on the Options form as their preference).

We hope that the discussion at the November and December board meetings will further these goals. We very much appreciated your staff's participation and willingness to hear our community's concerns. We look forward to continuing a positive and practical dialogue between the Hillcrest LRPC and the OUSD.

With warm regards,

The Hillcrest Long Range Planning Committee

Eric Abrams	Lovella Barney	Jose Blackorby	Shannon Broome
Darcy Brown-Martin	Simon Cawley	Thomas DaSilva	Neal Finkelstein
Sally Ann Friedman	Ann Henderson	Elsie Mallonee	Charles Pelton
Mary Ann Piette	Steven Raphael	Beverly Rothenberg	

cc: Kirsten Vital
Denise Saddler
Juwen Lam
Allison Sands
Kerry Hamill