

School Board transparency needed

Dear ER:

The recent controversy regarding statements made by the Hermosa Beach School District's attorney, Robert Anslow, at School Board meetings underscores the lack of impartial public review of these proceedings.

Most residents find it difficult to attend School Board meetings in which critical decisions are often made late into the evenings. For years now letters and e-mails have been imploring the Hermosa Beach School Board to televise their meetings for the benefit of the public. Its members, however, have largely ignored these requests.

Currently the only record of what transpires in School Board meetings are the published minutes, which are severely edited versions of the proceedings. Sometimes the meetings are recorded and very often, for inexplicable reasons, the recordings are unintelligible or fail altogether. Such was the case in the important parcel tax and budget meeting in which Anslow spoke on Feb. 27.

Considering that the School Board spent \$18.9 million of public money on improvements and new construction with the last bond and may have control of another \$1.7 to \$2 million per year of parcel tax money, there needs to be greater scrutiny of the district administration by this community. Parents with young children and Hermosa teachers should pay particular attention to School Board meetings and examine their decisions instead of blindly believing their rhetoric. The public needs to demand action, or the School Board members who seem content with the lack of oversight will ignore this letter, like all the rest

Myo Prassas
Hermosa Beach