

To my old friend

Dear ER:

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify misstatements contained in Gordon Evan's letter ("Hermosa School District's new math," ER Nov. 10, 2005). I know Evans to be an intelligent, caring and most articulate personal friend of many years. That is why I was so surprised to read assertions so clearly based on misinformation and a misunderstanding of School Board actions over the past three years.

Gordon basically rehashes the same old tired complaints submitted to the court by the Committee for Responsible School Expansion (CRSE). The court has held that voters were fully aware that the new construction called for in Measure J did include a gym, that the Open Space Initiative and City Codes were not violated, and that neither the constitutional provisions of Proposition 39 nor the statutory provisions of the Education Code have been violated by the District. And the court came to these conclusions not just once, not twice, but three times!

Shortly after the passage of the bond measure in 2002, the School Board hired a well-respected land use consultant to assess possible land purchases, commercial and residential, bordering Hermosa Valley School. After lengthy discussions and numerous meetings, the Board determined that a land purchase was not economically feasible.

Since 2002, dozens of meetings have been held involving neighbors, community members, consultants, City and District staff, to determine workable alternatives. The current proposed site and facility design is the result of three years of those efforts: Two new classrooms and two science labs, a new library/media center and a multi-purpose gymnasium facility. This is a net gain of five teaching stations. The Board has also been working with responsible neighbors over the past several months to rewrite regulations imposing reasonable restrictions on the after-school use of these facilities. Short of abdicating the elected Board's governing authority under State law as demanded by CRSE, we are still willing to sit at the table for honest talks if CRSE is willing.

These are the facts and no amount of distortion or disinformation by CRSE can change them. CRSE has had its opportunities in court. Three strikes and you're out. The delays caused by these merit-less complaints have increased construction costs between \$500,000 and \$1 million since May, along with District legal bills exceeding \$20,000 that could have gone to teachers in our classrooms and for our students. Please, CRSE, stop this insanity now!

Lance Widman, President

Hermosa Beach School Board

[Share](#) |

Copyright 1999-2013 [Easy Reader News](#). All Rights Reserved.

Sections

[News](#)

[Sports](#)

[Surfing](#)

[Dining](#)

[Arts & Entertainment](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Photo & Video](#)