

Letters to the Editor 10/09/14

Old school schooling

Dear Editor:

In response to a letter from Chris Miller ("Built it and they came," ER Letters, September 25, 2014) would like to clarify how the Hermosa Beach Community Center is being used today and how that relates to the School District. The City of Hermosa Beach owns the Community Center and fully utilizes the space for community activities, including hosting at-risk teen programs, disabled adult programs and various other recreational activities. To state that the Center sits empty all day is simply false.

As we have stated publicly, the City of Hermosa Beach and the Hermosa Beach City School District (HBCSD) have united efforts to alleviate the issue of overcrowding within school facilities. Over the past year, research and examination of the current properties available through the City for use by the District have been carefully vetted to examine resources available for short-term needs. Additionally, the City and School District are also involved in managing the long-term planning efforts currently being considered by the District to ensure the City goal of support for top quality schools.

Together with the Governing Board of the HBCSD, we have determined that the Community Center site does not satisfy California state legal requirements to be used as a school. There are many misconceptions about easy, cost-effective ways for the City and the School District to provide facilities within currently owned properties, but upon further review current properties once considered as viable options for school resources and additional office spaces are challenged by state laws and regulations, some of which include Exchange of Properties: Education Codes 17536, Education Section 17537 and Title 5 – California Department of Education Code of Regulations. In summary, these laws prevent the use of the buildings for school purposes.

Tom Bakaly, City Manager
City of Hermosa Beach

Q for questions

Dear ER:

I just finished reading Measure Q, in which the Hermosa Beach Board of Education is asking Hermosans for \$54 million. I was astounded to find that Measure Q is nothing but a slush fund. Every project mentioned in Measure Q is a project that might get done. Or, it might not get done. How much does each project cost? Measure Q does not provide a cost estimate for any project. Which projects will

be done first? Measure Q provides no priorities. How did the Board of Education come up with the amount of \$54 million? Why not twice that amount? Or half that amount?

Oh, and the citizens' oversight committee? They don't oversee anything. They don't get to vote on anything. They are auditors. Their only job is to verify that funds were spent as the Board of Education planned. The citizens' oversight committee will not prevent Measure Q from establishing a giant slush fund for the Board of Education.

I am very big on education. But if you are someone like me who wants to know what you are getting for your money, consider joining me in voting against Measure Q.

John Williams
Hermosa Beach

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California Code, Education Code - EDC § 17536

The governing board of a school district may exchange any of its real property for real property of another person or private business firm. Any exchange shall be upon such terms and conditions as the parties thereto may agree and may be entered into without complying with any provisions in this code except as provided in this article.

California Code, Education Code - EDC § 17537

Before ordering any exchange of real property the board shall adopt, by a two-thirds vote of its members, a resolution declaring its intention to exchange the property. The resolution shall describe the properties to be exchanged in a manner to identify them, and the terms and conditions, not including the price, upon which they will be exchanged.