

WE GET LETTERS: Week of April 5

Apr 5, 2018

Reopening Pier Ave. School

As a homeowner, business owner, graduate of the Hermosa School system and a former city councilmember and mayor of Hermosa Beach, I have first-hand knowledge of the great schools we have in Hermosa Beach. Our schools have provided thousands of South Bay Children with the strong foundation needed to excel in life.

As a graduate of Pier Avenue School, my memories of middle school in addition to excellent academics included a gymnasium, baseball stadium, and an auditorium for school assemblies, plays and graduations. These facilities were all shared with the community outside of school hours for more than 50 years.

Today one could add skateboarding, emergency preparedness and South Bay history to the classes that could be offered to middle school students at a reopened Pier Avenue School.

To set the record straight, as a former city councilmember during the time of the sale of the Pier Avenue School to the City, I can attest first-hand that when this issue came before the council, we absolutely guaranteed that the students could return to use the school if needed in the future. A simple lease-back option was included within the contract between the district and the city. As I have always said: "Why wouldn't the City Council allow Hermosa students priority use of Pier Avenue classrooms and facilities?"

This entire matter of current overcrowding could be quickly resolved by City Council members honoring the contractual agreement between the city and school district to allow the 7-8 grade students use of classrooms at Pier Avenue School while the construction at View and Valley Schools takes place over the next few years.

—George Barks, Redondo Beach