

----- Original Message -----

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Sent: Friday, December 02, 2005 12:15 AM

Subject: A Call to Arms

Folks:

I have it on some pretty good information that the certain members of the School Board (and likely a majority) are now thinking about abandoning the Hermosa Valley School gym project altogether because of the rising construction cost. Even though it can be done as promised, there is this thought now (because it's been four years) that the gym component is just too expensive. Unbelievable! All three of last month's recently re-elected members ran on a campaign promise to get the project done. There is nothing holding this project back at this time; no Jerry Compton no Earl Keegan, no injunction- nothing! Know that the budget is tight, but the gym can be built and it should be built.

It has now been four years since Measure J passe by some 67 percent of the city's registered voters to build the gym. The public still wants the gym built, evidenced by the fact that one issue, anti-gym candidate, Earl Keegan came in dead last place in a field of four in last month's School Board race.

Yes, we have all heard that to build the gym now we cannot build all of the possible class rooms we may have anticipated in the early plans. To begin, this problem has only occurred because of the delays such as the now ill-fated Plan C to use the money to bulldoze Marineland and, delay beyons that due to the failed lawsuit to stop the gym project. But what should be obvious to us all is that although many new class rooms may be added in the future, the gym plan will die forever if this frightened School Board drags it feet any longer.

Apathy serves no one that wants to build. And while continuing School Board apathy is certainly the cause of great celebration minority opponents such as Jerry

Compton and Earl Keegan for all the wrong reasons, it will be a great loss to the school community, let alone a question of voter fraud. Indeed, the gym was promised in virtually every measure J ballot argument and school mail! If the gym is now abandoned forever, it would be a throw back to Hermosa politics from days gone by from the 1980s when no one could agree on anything- from revitalizing the pier, the downtown or to allow even a simple hotel to be built on the Strand.

Accordingly, I urge you all to start discussing the issue now with School board Members and Staff extensively. The issue is coming up for a vote next week. Don't worry about the niceties- we have all been overly patient. And do not worry about the Easy Reader. The credit line of the paper is controlled by Roger Creighton (another class act from the 1980s) and he is feverently anti-gym. Just know that the paper is never going to accurately report our majority view. Write your letters of support to the Beach Reporter where you have a realistic shot of having them published. Despite all of your support and our efforts to re-elect three members of the School Board over Earl Keegan's one issue of being anti-gym, he may still win if we do make this project happen now.

Let your voices be heard now or do complain later. Apathy serves no one but our opponents in this struggle to better our school system with this wonderful legacy.
Sam Edgerton

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Sent: Monday, December 05, 2005 4:32 PM

Subject: RE: A Call to Arms

Sam-- I have delayed my response to your email for a few days. I'm glad I did since Sharon McClain's comments were most thoughtful, professional and diplomatic. To say the least I was disappointed and more than a bit annoyed by not only the substance but the tone as well: "A Call to Arms"?? By whom against whom? I must have missed that memo about the impending battle by forces unknown to me. I have also known and appreciated you as a most forceful and articulate advocate for the modernization and new construction bond, Measure J of 2002. Virtually all of the people you included in your email worked together to support its passage. I have always been able to identify the enemies of our collective efforts starting with the Gang of Three, but I never thought I would also have to watch my backsides to guard against email shots by fellow supporters as contained in your email. I may be many things, but a frightened, apathetic foot-dragger engaging in voter fraud is certainly not one of them. And neither are my four Board colleagues. Such comments are simply uncalled for and cause us to lose our sense of common purpose.

You also acknowledge the budget situation facing the new construction proposal, but you respond to it in an almost dismissive and cavalier fashion: "Know that the budget is tight, but the gym can be built and it should be built." If it was simply a matter of will-power, we would already be pouring concrete. But unlike the City, we do not have the luxury of a utility users tax or a hotel occupancy tax to fall back on should the sales tax revenue fall short or the property tax be diverted by the State. We are stuck! And we simply cannot click our heels and

wish our way back to Kansas.

My challenge to you and those who are included in your email delivery is to help us bridge a gap of between \$1.5 and \$2 million in the funding for the new construction. By the way, that includes the \$1.5 million from the state for our partnership with BCHD, not building two proposed classrooms and bond refinancing funding. I admit that I do have reservations about emptying virtually every available District account in order to do what we all would like to do with the new construction. I sincerely question whether that would be prudent in light of likely future unexpected needs by the District. I am willing to consider other sources of revenue, however. Do you and your friends have ANY leads that could be pursued to generate additional revenues, personally or through your professional contacts? Let's talk about naming rights since the Board policy is now in place. You want action, Sam, and here is your chance to help make possible what we all want. Time to put money where words are so easy. Lance

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Sent: Fri 12/2/2005 12:15 AM

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