

EasyReaderNews

Letters to the Editor 3-1-18

District on a Mission

Dear ER:

The Hermosa Beach School District is about to destroy the most historically significant building in its jurisdiction, at a great cost in both dollars and community character. The North School main building is a fine example of Mission architecture of the 1920s. It is structurally sound, and its classrooms are large and bright. With proper renovation, upgrades, and replacement of its missing clay tile roof, it could be a beautiful place for our kids to learn and thrive. Yet the District intends to tear down this handsome building, and the two adjacent 1930s buildings, too. The proposed replacement building is a large, utilitarian mass, adorned with ridiculous imitation buttresses, with the overall look and feel of a public housing block. Almost as bad is the proposed multi-purpose building, which could easily be mistaken for a self-storage facility.

The decision to obliterate everything on the campus is expensive and unnecessary. The proposed enrollment of 510 students is too large for the local streets to accommodate. The City Planning Department has indicated that the proposed school size will result in unsolvable traffic and safety issues, and the Fire Department has determined that the most effective method of resolving problematic emergency access to the site requires a design change.

It is obvious that the School District should reduce the number of students it plans to put on the North School campus. Reducing the enrollment size would decrease traffic problems, decrease the cost of new construction, and would still reduce crowding at View and Valley schools. This would also allow the District to save the original North School building, a valuable link to our city's past.

Jim Fasola

Hermosa Beach