



HAYWARD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



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October 15, 2021 – Friday Follow-up

TOWN HALL MEETINGS



This Week's School Board Meeting Recap

A big **thank you** to all of those who came to the School Board meeting! Despite Sara Prada's suggestion of extending the public speaking time, we know some folks did not get a chance to speak. Please consider taking your message to the Town hall meetings:

- Monday, October 18, 2021 4:30pm-6:30pm (Hayward HS Region) [Zoom Link](#)
- Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:00pm-7:00pm (Tennyson HS Region) [Zoom Link](#)
- Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 5:30pm-7:30pm (Mt. Eden HS Region) [Zoom Link](#)
- Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:00pm-7:00pm (Year-Round Elementary Schools /Faith Ringgold School of Arts & Science) [Zoom Link](#)

We would also like to thank Glassbrook, Strobridge, and Faith Ringgold for organizing and holding rallies in opposition to their sites' school closure and school closures in general. We also send thanks to those who joined the rallies from other sites in support of our neighborhood schools. The rallies were covered on the news with one reporter saying, with watery eyes, "You can feel the love and sense of community!" We wish the Board would appreciate that aspect of our community!

The District says that they have a \$14 million deficit:

We know that the District projects this deficit for the 2022-2023 school year, based on incomplete data that neglects the substantial COVID-19 funding from the State and Federal government. Decisions about closing schools with a major impact on our community demand full transparency of District revenues and expenses.

The District says the announced closures are not yet a finalized plan:

But announcing the closure of eight specific schools sounds like a plan to us. The announcement includes new boundaries to be created, where students would be moved, impacts on teachers, increasing school capacity, and more. It also fails to take important considerations into account, and lacks the time, thoughtfulness, and stakeholder participation required to be successful.

The District scapegoats the School Use Design Team (SUDT) for recommending school closures:

SUDT members report feeling betrayed by this characterization of their work, having discussed many site issues at the direction of District leadership.

The District says it wants to hear from the community:

We support this 100%, and believe that community voices should have been included long before any plan was announced. We encourage all staff, parents, and community activists to raise their voices in unity to express our demand for a student-centered plan that places their learning first. We all know the District has to meet their financial bottom line, but our students deserve to be treated better than numbers in a spreadsheet.

Instead of the chaos and pandemic that the District is creating, we urge them to hit the pause button on their next steps so that all stakeholders (parents/guardians, labor groups, administration, community members) can study the enrollment and budget together. School closures are not an automatic fix to the District's budget shortfall. Any plan that includes closing schools must genuinely provide quality

education to all of our students, and mitigate any harmful impacts to our communities as much as possible.

In the end, we may come to the conclusion that a site needs to be closed, but there are too many questions outstanding to make an informed conclusion: Can we better use existing resources? Can we reduce administration costs away from our classrooms? Can we rely less on outsourced positions and services? Can we make less crowded sites and classrooms sustainable? Would "community school" models be a more effective and sustainable model for some of our schools?

The budget is not just about numbers, it reflects priorities - **let's push a pause button and make sure our next step makes our students our priority!**

Next Steps

- Plan on attending [town hall meetings](#) and [school board meetings](#).
- Write your School Board members
- Recruit volunteers for the HOT (HEA Organizing) Team and start getting your site organized for action.
- Continue to informational picket before or after school to inform the community (do not block entry and exits), send HEA your flyer so we can review and put our logos on it so the action is a protected activity

Include in your messages:

- That the remedy to a perceived deficit should not be on our students' backs!
- "Push a pause button" (a lengthy one) so we can get to the table and work collaboratively and meaningfully on addressing enrollment and its impact!
- In solving one problem we cannot create another larger one!
- We will all be impacted - school will be crowded, schedules will need to be adjusted, staff and communities will be dispersed and lost
- Please remember to include any specific strengths that a site stands to lose with a school closure or more students added to the site (ballet programs, grants, community-based murals, etc.)

The HEA Board meets this Monday and will be discussing future actions, including an all-call for an old-fashioned HEA rally - very public, very large, and very loud!

Every contribution is a contribution to our future - students, members and community alike.

SB 95 - COVID Sick Days

If you have an absence for COVID reasons, please note "COVID" in AESOP. While the 80 hours from SB 95 have expired, we are in the process of negotiating and hopeful that we can recoup the use of sick days.

Passing of Retired Member - Dr. Marilyn Maxwell-Brown

For those who knew long-time, retired, HEA member, Dr. Marilyn Maxwell-Brown, funeral services will be held this weekend. Details can be found [HERE](#).

**We are stronger when we
Stand Up! Stand Strong! Stand Together!**

 **Mark Your Calendar** **Mark Your Calendar** **Mark Your Calendar** **Mark Your Calendar** **Mark Your Calendar** **Mark Your Calendar**

- HEA Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, 10/18/21 @ 4:00pm
- HEA FRA Meeting – Monday, 10/25/21 @ 4:00pm
- School Board Meeting – Wednesday, 10/27/21 @ 6:30pm