

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I worked in NSSD for 20 years and I came to understand the value of the neighborhood school. Some of our children came from broken homes, others had left behind families and neighborhood friends when they immigrated to the USA, and some were so poor that the school was the only place that gave them some social status. The neighborhood school was often the one constant in their lives....sometimes generations of a family had attended our school. Teenagers would walk to evening activities where they would get compliments on their mature appearance...they could share their successes and sometimes fears with us. I began to see how important the small local school can be. Mostly I consider it a valuable argument against home schooling...particularly when the child's home life is shaky.

Good luck on your decisions...many campuses are in dismal condition and remodeling is just an expensive band aide. I'm retired and I still cringe when I think of the awful conditions that I worked in...dirty, moldy, dark, too warm/too hot, crowded rooms that literally made me sick. Kids deserve better conditions than that...but there are trade-offs. Good Luck

If there will be school closures, I recommend the oldest and schools that need the most repair be closed. Thank you

Yes, please make Pioneer school Kindergarten thru 8th grade. We prefer that over sending our kids to Foothill Junior High. Yes please. Yes!  
Thank you,

No way! Don't do it! Kindergarteners and eighth graders at the same school can't be the answer! The whole point of "middle schools" was a recognition that ages 11-13 were critical years in child development, and that children in this age bracket would benefit from their own schools as they begin to develop into young adults. We can't just ignore the research here. But I am realistic - combining schools saves money. If this should go forth, though, what is Twin Rivers willing to do to ensure the safety of the younger, smaller students? My 5th grade son and his friends have been complaining about a gigantic 6th grader at their school who plays too rough on the basketball courts. I can't imagine adding even bigger students to his school! I know

all about separate lunch and recess schedules, and resource officers, but the students still mix before and after school, and pre-teens are going through puberty at younger and younger ages. They're big!

And . . . aware! My daughter is in 1st grade. I don't even need to comment on my concerns for her if K-8 happens. I am really trying to support the public school system, but at the end of the day, I would go charter if my kids' school had to go K-8. Thanks for soliciting comments...

I do not believe that any elementary school in a high risk neighborhood with underperforming students should be shut down. As a professional organization we owe it to those families to show them we believe in our message that school is the most important thing in a young kid's life. We cannot show ownership of that belief if we close the only access that those parents have to education- their home school. The community school needs to stay put and stay open to provide a place parents and children can walk to school. Many of these parents do not have transportation that will allow them to get to and from meetings at the new schools regarding their child(ren) and thus we cut off the parent's access to the school. Their message will not be heard if they are not able to be present at meetings and events. Also, do we really want kids that are five, six, and seven waiting for a bus with kids that are age 10, 11, and 12. Do we want them to wait in front of a school that is in a neighborhood where guns, fast reckless young drivers, people with bad intentions and/or winter weather will pose threats? IF we really did care about kids and their test scores, then we would demonstrate that by what we do. WE would not take school further away from the home.

We call ourselves professionals, but if we were really professionals, we would honor the research that has been done in neighborhoods like the ones we service and follow the recommendations of those who did the research. IN study after study, the main factor in turning test scores around is by rallying around the school, getting parents involved and making them feel welcome. That is how you begin to earn the trust of the parents. Then we can begin to close the gaps. Closing the gaps in children's learning does not occur if schools are shut down. The message we send is that schools are not important, "especially yours". Is that really the message Twin Rivers wants to send to its poorest community.

WE need to find another answer. A different answer. One that honors families that will be disconnected if we continue on the path we are taking. It is our community.

Make K-8 schools. Add adult education classes. QUIA moneys are allocated to that site. Those children deserve to have the benefit of having smaller class sizes and a school close to their home.

THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX FOR THE ANSWERS.  
WALK THE TALK. Don't make fools out of us.  
Sincerely,