

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS - HIGHLANDS/FOOTHILL ATTENDANCE AREA

- Dear Committee, As a former employee of Rio Linda School District for at least 8 years, a former employee of Grant District for 16 years and a volunteer between both districts for the past 33 years, I believe that I have enough knowledge to speak of the subject of converting the ex-Don Julio campus into an extension of Creative Connections Arts Academy for grades 7, 8 and 9. As you know, it has both positive and negative aspects. What you may not know is that you are suggesting the break-up of a large family. Actually, the real term at CCAA is Phamily. If you're interested as to why they call themselves a Phamily, just visit CCAA and ask anyone on campus. At CCAA, the older students take care of the younger ones. They interact during exploratory and special interest times. It provides an atmosphere of love and peace while learning. The staff, both teachers and classified, not only provide a fantastic, accelerated education, experience within the many arts, but lots of love for the children. In return, the children have a great amount of love and respect for the teachers, staff and each other.

I personally would rather have my child stay at the present location but it's not up to me. I just want you to understand that in order for this to work it is imperative that the Phamily atmosphere be maintained. All of the strict rules that are followed at CCAA must be carried to the new location such as no fighting, at least a 2.0 GPA, excellent attendance, no drugs, no weapons, no cliques, and a strong respect for all adults and all students alike. All of the teachers and classified must have a great love for the children, the arts and be able to act as a family with each other. I'm not sure that Mr. Porter and the school board has a complete understanding as to what type of a miracle has happened since the establishment of CCAA and that's too bad. Hopefully, you as a committee might research this by personally talking to staff, students, parents and especially former students who have benefitted from their experiences at CCAA.

Whatever decisions you make, please do your very best to keep our Creative Connections Arts Academy Phamily together.

- Fyi-from the CCAA parent forum last Wednesday night. Most of these families will be back Wednesday, so it will be good to know where they are coming from.

One of the parents there came up with a really neat idea to compromise on moving the 7-8 grade:

Move 7-8-9 to CCAA the first year.

Year two, it becomes an 8-9-10, and the 7th grade stays at CCAA

Year three it becomes a 9-10-11, and the 8th grade stays at CCAA

Essentially, it is like the current CCAA 6-7-8 graders just move to the DJ campus and move upward there, growing the program. CCAA would go to k-6 for one year, then build back their 7th and 8th.

Another idea was to open to 10th to see how much interest we would get in bringing people back....many of the teachers are still in touch with the 9th graders and many are unhappy with their current school.