

July 18, 2006

Dear Trustee Members,

As members of the San Leandro Community Action Network's Quality Schools Committee, we urge you to place a bond in the amount of \$103.5 million—or \$40 per \$100,000 assessed value—to address the severe overcrowding problem at San Leandro High and the most critical modernization needs throughout the district, and those modernizations that would generate significant savings in operating costs.

While we understand that there are critical modernization needs throughout the District, we believe the deplorable conditions at San Leandro High must be addressed immediately and thoroughly. We have seen various solutions brought to the table throughout the course of the facility workshops and believe that the off-site Freshman Campus offers the best solution not only in terms of relieving over-crowding, but also in terms of offering innovative programmatic opportunities. We would like to see the Campus accommodate 800 students from the outset, rather than resorting to the use of portables if demographic estimates are wrong.

We also support the expansion of the library and the addition of a Performing Arts Center, which would serve to establish San Leandro High School as the flagship school for the district. A school that represents a commitment to quality, innovative education would help to attract and keep families in San Leandro; families who would be likely to support ongoing efforts to improve schools throughout the District. We also recognize the importance of the PG&E lot acquisition to free up some of the current parking lot area and allow for parking for Performing Art Center events.

We understand that safety and ADA requirements, roof replacement, and heating systems and restroom renovations are immediate and required modernization projects. In addition, we would like to see projects such as the voice over internet protocol (VOIP) system and the replacement of all light fixtures be prioritized, thereby generating significant operating costs savings. These savings could be used to fund newly-incurred operating costs at the Freshman Campus as well as future modernization needs. We would also like to see the local area network (LAN) system issues resolved so that the district can fully utilize previously purchased software, but caution the district to thoroughly investigate technology options and their long-term implications.

While some of you may be tempted to opt for the \$100 million bond because of the psychological effect of \$39 versus \$40 per \$100,000 of assessed value, we would advise against that. We believe that those who are dissuaded by \$1 would be unlikely to vote for any bond. However, the additional \$3.5 million generated by that \$1 would make a significant difference in modernization efforts. In fact, we would even support \$41 or \$42 per \$100,000 of assessed value but defer to the expertise of the district's consultant.

That said, while we understand that the district's consultant believes that \$40 per \$100,000 has a reasonable chance for passage with the voters, we also understand that nothing can be assumed and that *any* bond amount will require significant and strategic community

education. To that end, members of SLCAN are willing to commit to assisting the bond campaign in the form of designing and updating (though not necessarily hosting) an informational website, holding a community forum on the bond in October, and offering assistance with campaign communications development and, to a certain extent, distribution.

Sincerely,

San Leandro Community Action Network
Quality Schools Subcommittee members:

Yvonne Day
Tim Felton
Mike Katz
Ethan Klos
Andrew Kopp
Morgan Mack-Rose
George Quaye

SLCAN's Quality Schools Subcommittee advocates for safe, financially secure, and quality public schools where staff, parents, and the community work together to ensure that every child is provided with the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. For more information, visit www.slcan.org