

From: [Ayindé Rudolph](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [McCarthy, Kimbra](#); [Shrivastava, Aarti](#)
Subject: Letter regarding tonight's study session
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:55:14 PM
Attachments: [City Council MVWSD Dec 14 2021.pdf](#)

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Please see the attached letter regarding tonight's study session. Thank you.

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Respectfully,

Ayindé Rudolph Ed.D.

Superintendent

Mountain View Whisman School District



<https://www.mvwsd.org/>



District Office
T 650.526.3500
1400 Montecito Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94043

December 14, 2021

City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: Study Session: Google North Bayshore Master Plan

Dear Honorable Council Members:

We know parents choose to reside here for the quality of work and life in Mountain View, driven primarily by our quality schools. While parks, city services, transportation and other amenities play a role, ultimately, families choose to stay in Mountain View because of our wonderful schools. Enrollment growth is a certainty, and we need your help to provide for our community's students. We are asking for a firm dedication for school land/open space to provide for the students who will live in these future homes.

Growth is coming. City staff continue to estimate that up to 20,000 new residential units will be added in Mountain View in the next couple of decades. The recent RHNA requirement, coupled with already approved projects (2349 that impact MVWSD) and an upcoming master facility plan for North Bayshore, East Whisman and possibly Terra Bella further cements that growth in our area is a certainty. As of our last estimate, this growth likely will result in more than 3480 new students to our schools (Link to: [MVWSD Board meeting presentation](#), 11/4/2021).

Affordable housing is important to families. MVWSD welcomes housing of all kinds; especially ones that make it more affordable for our families, teachers and staff to live within the confines of our city. The actions of our Board of Trustees over the past seven years complement the city's approach. In the coming years, MVWSD will contribute to creating 156 affordable housing units in Mountain View or in a neighboring community. We applaud the leadership that Mountain View City Council, the staff and the community have taken to create more stable housing for all. More importantly, we are extremely grateful for, and encouraged by, our collaboration with the City.

Neighborhood schools. As outlined in the City staff report (12/14/2021), Council provided direction for Google to dedicate a four acre parcel for use as open space and a future school site. This direction, coupled with the RHNA requirement's direction to assure that there is "equitable access to high-resource areas (high-performing schools and jobs)," is a strong signal to developers that our City Council views schools as an integral part of a burgeoning community.

With your leadership, I am confident in our community's ability to provide the jobs, and I am hopeful that our continued partnership will yield a solution for new schools. As we all know, our community has come to expect elementary schools that are within a mile radius of the neighborhoods that they serve. More importantly, I have heard each of you express your commitment to every student being entitled to an equitable education. This is especially true for communities like North Bayshore

where there will be a higher concentration of below-market housing. I fear that over time our communities' (businesses, City Council, residents) interests and investments may shift, which could have a deleterious impact on any future school.

A billion-dollar facilities problem. Achieving that promise, especially for our most vulnerable families, will require considerable resources that stretch beyond what the District can currently absorb. As you know, MVWSD is faced with a billion-dollar facilities problem (the cost of land and facilities for a new middle school and three new elementary schools). Alone we do not have the ability to raise the necessary capital or leverage alternative revenue streams to completely fund the cost of building additional schools. We will be forced to not only reevaluate our school boundaries, but also consider unconventional funding and land strategies.

Resources are needed no matter where new schools are located. Additional school facilities, which are often the civic center of any community, should be nestled into budding new communities. But no matter where future housing is located, MVWSD is required to provide the schools necessary for enrollment growth. Addressing this concern will require leadership, compromise and determination. If a community facilities district (CFD) in response to the skyrocketing cost of land is truly an impediment to development, then the solution should not be to place the burden of the project's viability on one entity. Instead, all interested parties should sit down and explore all options. We, (City Council, developers, and School Districts) should create an approach for construction funding and land acquisition. While these strategies can vary in approach, they need to reflect the reality of the situation. Our discussion of the viability of funding options should not only have general public appeal and support, but also a level of transparency that engenders goodwill.

We are proud to serve the students and families of this vibrant, dynamic community. Moreover, we are grateful for your direction to develop a solution, and for the ongoing dialogue and thoughtfulness that City staff has shown over the past seven years while we worked toward a solution. Together, we can create the communities that our future neighbors deserve, as we all have a moral obligation to build a vibrant community that serves as a beacon of hope for all.

Respectfully,



Dr. Ayindé Rudolph
Superintendent

Cc:
Kimbra McCarthy
Aarti Shrivastava
MVWSD Trustees