

Dr. Lovely and Members of the Board of Trustees,

My colleagues and I believe that district priorities should focus first on the needs of students, especially in these times of continued fiscal challenges. When cuts are necessary, they should be made equitably, and as far from the classroom as possible where they least impact students. This means providing teachers with the basic tools required to support the best student learning possible. Resources that include:

1. A classroom to meet confidentially with students and parents, before school, after school, between classes, and at lunch. A classroom to plan and prepare lessons, contact parents, grade lessons, as well as complete the host of administrative duties that are a daily part of teachers' jobs. The decision to prematurely remove portable classrooms from Carlsbad High School will significantly erode teachers' ability to support student learning. For each CHS teacher losing their classroom, 5 other teachers will also lose access to their classroom for 5 hours each week during their preparation periods. Teaching is about building relationships with students and that does not easily happen when teachers have no place to meet or work.
2. IT support that allows students and teachers online and wireless access to the Internet using the computer notebooks that were previously purchased for each classroom, as well as the various portable devices now being brought to school by students. Support must include sufficient bandwidth, individual student sign-in credentials, and IT servicing of district owned computers that are presently being used by teachers and students. Carlsbad High School students and teachers have been waiting years for this support. Support that was supposed to be included with the rebuilding of Carlsbad High School.
3. Access to a sufficient number of working copy machines that are available before, during, and after school. The wear on machines, increased maintenance cost, and loss of teacher productivity due to the reduction of personnel charged with running the copy center is simply not cost effective and results in less efficient teaching support.
4. Student-to-teacher ratios that facilitate learning. The present 38-1 class size average means many classes with over 40 students and continues to adversely affect student learning. Providing students with appropriate instruction, feedback, and opportunities to apply what they are learning has become impossible. This is especially concerning in light of the Common Core Standards now being adopted which require more hands-on learning opportunities and feedback for students – something impossible to do with 40 students in a classroom.

The growing inequities between Sage Creek High, Carlsbad High, and Carlsbad Village Academy, are of great concern. We firmly believe that all students deserve the same access to a quality education regardless of the Carlsbad school they attend. Student support and equity must drive the budget process and this begins with adequate classroom space; IT and copy center service support, and class sizes that promote learning.