

## Janice Stern

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**From:** Julie Testa  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2013 8:14 AM  
**To:** Janice Stern  
**Cc:** Nelson Fialho; Jerry Thorne  
**Subject:** East Pleasanton Task Force

Julie Testa

Pleasanton, Ca

April 13, 2013

East Pleasanton Task Force Members,

As community members on the East Side Plan committee you are charged with developing and recommending a plan for new residential development that will be in the best interests of the Pleasanton community. You must have a full understanding of the impacts of that plan to make a responsible recommendation. Please request a full report and presentation on the current capacity and financial conditions of PUSD facilities as well as the impact of new development on the quality of life of Pleasanton schools.

City staff has told the EPSP committee that PUSD has not made a formal request for a school site and has indicated that students from new growth can be accommodated. The committee members must understand the reason for this position that contradicts PUSD's 2011 School Facility Fee Justification Report. The PUSD report states, "The District's current and projected enrollment is larger than its pupil capacity (based on State classroom counts and loading standards). The District, therefore, does not have sufficient capacity to house students generated by future development. These students will require the District to acquire new school facilities."<sup>(1)</sup>

The District has acknowledged that the capital facilities funds are "distressed." PUSD has a \$27 million facilities debt that they cannot pay. PUSD needs developer fees to pay that debt, they are supporting new development even though our schools are 118% over capacity by PUSD calculation. The fees that they will collect will be used to pay off the existing debt, which is why they will not ask for a school site or be forthcoming about the capacity of our schools. There is no room to house new students; PUSD had 1,847 unhoused students in 2011 (1). New growth will have a serious negative impact on the quality of life at our schools and traffic commuting to schools. Current residents will be asked to pay additional taxes to relieve the burden.

What PUSD does not tell the community is how badly overcrowded our schools are by State CDE school building standards. Nearly all of Pleasanton schools exceed the CDE recommendation for “maximum enrollment.” CDE states “School Facilities Planning Division does not recommend exceedingly large schools.” CDE also states “In very large schools many students find it difficult to participate in student government, sports, and other activities. In smaller schools more students participate in activities, and close relationships between students and staff can be more easily achieved.” “Both very large schools and very small schools may cost more per student to operate”(2).

Pleasanton high schools are off the chart for recommended school size. The condition gets worse when factoring the acreage at our campuses. AMADOR enrollment in 2012 was 2,636 students on 40.2 acres the state recommendation is 64.4 acres, if you have no choice but to have schools of that size (2). Amador is overcrowded by roughly 160% of land capacity.

**Pleasanton General Plan** states Pleasanton will “Encourage school enrollment sizes that maintain neighborhood character, provide facilities for specialized programs, and promote more personalized education. The current target is **600 students per elementary school, 1,000 students at each middle school, and 2,000 students at each comprehensive high school**” (3).

Based on their facilities debt and past history I do not believe PUSD will build a school if land is identified,. One elementary would not mitigate the dire overcrowding on our high school campuses. I would like the EPSP committee to ask for an alternative plan for senior only housing for the East Side Plan, to mitigate school and some traffic burden on our existing community.

If kids were like cans of tuna we could keep packing them in...but they are our children.

Respectfully,

Julie Testa

(1) 2011 PUSD SCHOOL FACILITY FEE JUSTIFICATION REPORT

<http://206.110.20.201/downloads/businessservices/Dev%20Fee%20Justification%20Report%20Final%204-13-10.pdf>

(2) Guide to School Site Analysis and Development

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/guideschoolsite.asp>

“In very large schools many students find it difficult to participate in student government, sports, and other activities. In smaller schools more students participate in activities, and close relationships between students and staff can be more easily achieved.”

“Both very large schools and very small schools may cost more per student to operate.”

(3) Pleasanton General Plan for school sites: <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/genplan-090721-pubfac-commprog.pdf> p. 6-2, p. 6-23, Goal 4

DRAFT FMP Section 4: Elementary School Site Plans

ALISAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 660 10.01 acres

DONLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 753 19.5 acres

FAIRLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 764 8.22 acres

HEARST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 696 11.03 acres

LYDIKSEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 653 11.1 acres

MOHR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 700 5.43 acres

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 730 9.52 acres

VINTAGE HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11 Enrollment 661 6.58 acres

WALNUT GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2010/11 Enrollment 661 11 acres

DRAFT FMP Section 4: Middle School, High School and District Office Site Plans

HART 1084 SITE SIZE 18.8

HARVEST PARK 1,178 SITE SIZE 21.6

PLEASANTON MIDDLE 1203 SITE SIZE 26.26

AMADOR 2,636 SITE SIZE 40.2

FOOTHILL 2,275 SITE SIZE 43.2

Student Population Projections Fall 2011 – Fall 2021

<http://206.110.20.201/downloads/businessservices/FY12StudentPopulationProjectionsDemRpt.pdf>

Dependent upon the District's current available capacity it is likely that the equivalent of at least one K-5 elementary school will need to be constructed over the next few years.

**government** code section 65970-65981

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=gov&group=65001-66000&file=65970-65981>

"(a) The governing body of a school district which operates an elementary or high school shall notify the city council or board of supervisors of the city or county within which the school district is located if the governing body makes both of the following findings supported by clear and convincing evidence:

"(1) That conditions of overcrowding exist in one or more attendance areas within the district which will impair the normal functioning of educational programs including the reason for the existence of those conditions.

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Julie Testa

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If you think your actions are too small to make a difference, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.

--Unknown

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