

PRPE Comments to PRJUSD School Board 1/26/21

Comments on Agenda Item I2. (7-11 Committee Report)

This is Jin Lynett again. I am now speaking as a resident, citizen and taxpayer in Paso Robles. In 1993, I was hired by the district to be a 4/5 Bilingual Elementary school teacher at Georgia Brown. I taught there until 2000 and I was a part of the district working group that visited Dual Immersion schools in California and ultimately decided to support the transition to a Dual Immersion Magnet program at Georgia Brown. We all know the spectacular success enjoyed by the Dual Immersion program. It accomplished its primary goal of better integration of all the student groups in Paso Robles and every year we have seen long lines of parents hoping to enroll their children in the program. The 7-11 Committee has recommended that Georgia Brown be closed. Unfortunately, this appears to be much more a decision related to ongoing construction at the new Speck site and not the benefit of the location of Georgia Brown. Georgia Brown is located in an area with the most socio-economic disadvantaged and English Learner families in the district. I know it is a heavy lift, but I would recommend that the Speck site would be best utilized as residential units for essential workers and the Georgia Brown site could be modernized in phases. If you close Georgia Brown, you will essentially disenfranchise an entire geographic section of the city, you will need significant mitigation around transportation and the key role Georgia Brown serves as a community service hub in Oak Park and surroundings. You will also exacerbate the critical shortfall of Spanish speaking students who are absolutely essential to a successful Dual Immersion program. Please pause any construction under Measure M at the Speck site until a full evaluation of the ramifications of the closure of Georgia Brown have been publically explored. Thank you.