

## Allocation of Prop Z Funds Setting a Dangerous Precedent

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Members, Board of the Board of Education:

I am writing to request that you remove from consideration item H-15 from your meeting on July 26, 2016. Moving forward on a plan to use, at minimum, \$20,000,000 of Prop Z bond funds targeted for charter schools in order to fund the construction of a new Innovation Academy Charter School, currently housed at the Scripps Mesa Conference Center, to a projected-to-be-acquired site in Kearney Mesa, is both foolhardy, and, perhaps, criminal. How can you address the needs of all San Diego Charter Schools by allocating at least \$20,000,000 to one school while setting aside no more than \$7,000,000 of the \$27,000,000 line item in the budget to only one in the cohort? We can also assume that cost overruns will occur, reducing again dollars for charter schools. I can address the certain to occur backlash in the charter community.

As a former seminar teacher, I often met with parents of Language Academy Charter School children. The existence of that school, at that time, was threatened by pressure from the district to move from one site to another as parents sought to find a permanent home to house the program. There are always "Language Academies" whose fate is in doubt due to the unavailability of a facility. And, yet, the District is denying the legitimate demands of other charter schools by putting the pot of Prop Z funds into one school, Innovation Academy, which already has an unencumbered site at the Scripps Mesa Conference Center. I can assure you that charter school parents will "... not go gentle into that good night."

I sat through the slick and expensive presentation Lee Dulgeroff made at the January, 2016 School Board meeting recommending the sixty-six year leasing of the Scripps Mesa Conference Center to Monarch Corporation with a return of significantly less than the funds to be set aside for the newly constructed Innovation Academy. I was appalled that only one board member requested information about the annual cost of operating the 4000 square foot Stem Lab and the community garden. At that time, Lee said that those figures were not yet available. And, yet, the Board voted to accept the proposal. I suggest that each one of you in your personal budgeting would not allow such uninformed decision making. How could you not expect the same BEFORE voting to approve the proposal to lease the property to Monarch, the only bidder? You should have, at a minimum, demanded additional information and tabled the proposal until the district provided such.

To continue to throw money at such an ill advised project is reprehensible. I again request you remove item H-15 from the agenda. The voting, tax paying public will see through the sham and recognize it for what it is; the giving away of the Scripps Mesa property under the guise of a lease for the benefit of a builder, not the students.