



Remarks to the Carlsbad Unified School District Board of Trustees -  
4/25/2012

On behalf of the classified employees of Carlsbad Unified, I wanted to speak tonight on the issue of relocating Carlsbad Village Academy and Seaside Academy to the Carlsbad High School campus; more specifically, the classified layoffs generated by closing the CVA campus.

You asked the School Closure committee to come up with a recommendation of how to best handle the relocation of students, if the Board decided to close the CVA campus. We participated in those meetings, and the final determination of the committee was that the students should have at least one classified 'front office' staff position, both to handle the unique clerical requirements of the continuation school and independent school students, but also to help try and maintain some sense of continuity and school identity. In fact, that was the recommendation you voted to accept at the last board meeting.

These students have already chosen to obtain their education outside of the conventional high school environment. They have created a very close-knit and unique learning environment and are currently thriving on the CVA campus.

Now you are going to not only remove them from the safe environment they are in, you are planning to remove all the admin and clerical support they have been depending on for their success.

Part of the proposed savings in relocating the alternative schools to the Carlsbad High School campus are achieved by cuts to Admin and classified staff. However, the savings listed for 1/2 of an Administrator salary is not actually cut, but shifted to a restricted account, away from the General Fund.

We would respectfully request that the Board consider keeping one of the Admin Support positions scheduled to be cut tonight, and shift the cost of that position also to the restricted fund. We strongly feel that stripping away all the office support staff will be very detrimental to these students, and contribute to them feeling even more isolated and abandoned.

This budget crisis has created such a nerve-wracking and stressful environment throughout the district, for students and staff alike. Cutting both these support positions would create bumping across several different classifications and affect far more classified employees than just these two on your list tonight.

We were encouraged by the progress we were able to make in our negotiated settlement with the district, and look forward to finding new ways to both control spending and increase revenue for Carlsbad Unified. We are committed to help the district save money, but we seek to do it in ways that are the least disruptive, both to students and our classified members and their families.