

The following statement was provided by the Hayward Education Association to NBC Bay Area on Oct. 12, 2021:

Any thoughts around school closure must involve an explicit, and inclusive process - thus far the District presented their school closure "plan" and tried to say it is a result of the school Usage and Design team (who was looking at sprucing up schools and using the sites as a community school)

A school district is more than housing students in buildings and filling every crevice with students - it is about providing a well thought out strategy about the teaching and learning environment.

We need to create a pause button in order to meaningfully respond to the district's perceived budget woes so that they are not on the backs of our students and the people that provide direct services to the students.

The community must be given a chance/a voice to make sure our next step is strategic - minimizing harm educationally and emotionally at a time when the mental health and our well being is so fragile - the town halls do not provide the chance nor a voice. We have seen townhalls before - they are presentations, q and a and we will get back to you. The integrity of the Town Halls comes into question when the one earmarked for Year Rounds is after the Board meeting! - something that Year Rounds did not miss since 3 of the 4 year rounds are targeted to be closed.

Schools with repairs such as Chavez (with its new roof), Faith Ringoold (with its grant) with special programs such a newcomer program called World House are questioning their future and the future of their grants and programs and perhaps more importantly the recipients --- the students. Three of the 4 year rounds are closing, leading one to wonder if all year rounds will be closed eventually - a schedule many in our community rely upon.

While the Hayward community, students and staff are still coping with the trauma of Covids impact on their lives and the return to school sites, HUSD is hastily imposing substantial changes that will compound the trauma in their lives. These traumatic events include school closures, changes in types of schedule at high schools which involve major changes in the way teaching and learning takes place but not having the time to prepare for any changes, and more. These decisions feel preconceived and not well thought out. The decision makers are so removed and out of touch from the reality of life in our schools that they have been shocked at the response from the community.