

# Petition to Stop Closing Meyerholz School

Local parents of the Meyerholz community members have started a petition with over **1424** signatures to stop the closures so far.

The superintendent of Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) is planning to close three neighborhood (NBH) elementary schools (Regnart, John Muir, and Meyerholz) during the pandemic time. Two of the three schools are in the West San Jose (95129) area. It has created social unrest and anxiety in the WSJ community. The closure will make the residents in the WSJ community suffer more in this current pandemic time.

We, the Meyerholz community, are opposed to closing the Meyerholz neighborhood school. **Reasons are:**

1. CUSD has NO financial pressure to rush into a decision.
  - Huge amount of surplus and record-high financial stability (\$36 million in 2021 balance, with \$15 million pandemic subsidies from California state).
  - No decline in funding: State funding is based on the high pre-pandemic enrollment number.
2. Meyerholz NBH has NO long-term enrollment problem.
  - Meyerholz school enrollment is 322 and West San Jose schools' enrollment is 940 in Nov, 2020.
  - Current enrollment decline is temporary due to covid:
    - o Kids in private-school and home study may come back when covid concern is gone.
    - o Families remote-working in other places will come back when offices reopen after covid.
  - "Overflow" kids from Meyerholz to other schools were not counted in Meyerholz's enrollment.
  - Lots of rental properties in Meyerholz NBH provide stable enrollment into Meyerholz.
3. Closure of Meyerholz makes it harder for many low-income kids living here to pursue education.
  - Kids could drop out to avoid far-walking and dangerous crossing of busy Bollinger twice daily.
  - It entails extra financial, physical, and mental hardship to low-income families.
  - NO representation from low-income groups in CAC and NO consideration of their needs in proposals.
4. Closure of Meyerholz drives kids away from their own neighborhood.
  - It deprives the rights of neighborhood kids to spare resources for alternative
  - Only 1 school left in West San Jose for ~1000 West San Jose K-5 kids; 2 schools out of 3 being closed.
5. Validity of 2020 CAC process and report is questionable:
  - No representation from Meyerholz neighborhood.
  - CAC criteria itself is questionable.
6. Money can be saved by streamlining district staff and programs, instead of by closing schools.

We urge the board to delay the vote and allow more time for the superintendent and Meyerholz community to work out new recommendations. **We recommend:**

- Keep Meyerholz school open.
- Allow time for Meyerholz to grow its enrollment: balance enrollment within WSJ; encourage apartment managers to give higher priority to families with elementary age kids; open enrollment for the whole district to attend Meyerholz.
- Allow Meyerholz to develop after-school enrichment programs by leasing out unused portable rooms
- Allow Meyerholz to become a STEM alternative school.

School closure is a crucial decision. Unilateral decision and action will divide the Cupertino community. We sincerely ask the board to delay the vote and allow more time for us to come up with a better proposal that will reflect the common interests among all Cupertino schools.