

**LARKSPUR SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Message sent - 10/13/2008**  
**Superintendent's Perspective**

Dear Staff, Parents and Community Members:

After a highly successful first month of school, we can acknowledge that our schools are now in full operation! I hope everyone has adjusted nicely and that the school year is exciting and memorable for all. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our upcoming Facilities Master Plan Public Hearing tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in the gym at Neil Cummins Elementary School. The Board of Trustees and I will be presenting the draft Facilities Master Plan for public input and comment. We invite you to come and hear about our plan to expand and upgrade facilities and create smaller learning environments for our students. Below is an Executive Summary of the Facilities Master Plan which can also be found on our website.

**FACILITIES MASTER PLAN**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Enrollment in the Larkspur School District has steadily increased an average of 5% over the last five years, and, presently, is approximately 1,260 students. This trend indicates District enrollment will reach over 1,500 students by fall of 2013. With only two schools, this means enrollment at Neil Cummins Elementary, a K-4 school, will likely continue to exceed 800 students and Hall will exceed 700.

Schools' demographics in the District demonstrate increasing diversity, requiring additional educational program support. The combined demographic and enrollment forecasts, coupled with the age of our existing buildings, will create a strain on our already crowded facilities, limited by a lack of available classroom space. Our educational specifications require more classrooms and flexibility to meet the demands of our community for high student achievement and quality educational programs. Smaller learning environments are more conducive to safety, student learning, and staff collaboration. The existing open schools in the Larkspur School District are too large by these standards. In addition, the school site at Marin Primary is too small (acreage) by today's standards. The San Clemente School site presents challenging soil and foundational requirements, as a result of frequent flooding, that make new construction or modernization more costly.

The Facilities Master Plan Committee, considering modernization and student housing needs in the next 10 years, recommends completing priority modernization projects at both schools. In addition, a minimum of nine new classrooms, multi-use and administrative space will be needed to house students

The recommendation for student housing is to restructure the campus at Neil Cummins Elementary, such that an upper and lower campus (primary, intermediate) are created. This can be accomplished through the demolition of portables and one aging wing at Neil Cummins, replacing and rebuilding these rooms, plus additional classrooms at a different location on the existing acreage. The Hall Middle School campus also requires modernization and the addition of portable classrooms to accommodate growth. At Hall, where more flexibility already exists, the recommendation is to accommodate increased enrollment by adding portables and/or using the existing District Office as appropriate. These recommendations will allow the District much-needed flexibility in grade level configuration and program needs in the future as enrollment trends vary. The estimated cost for completing modernization and new construction at Neil Cummins Elementary and Hall Middle School in 2010 dollars is \$25,500,000.

Financing this project would be accomplished by voter approval of a Bond measure of approximately \$25,500,000 and a \$2,000,000 hardship grant through the Office of Public School Construction. The rationale and specifics of this recommendation will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow night.