

Superintendent

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February 7, 2017

Dear Mayor Rosenberg and City Council,

New housing is a sign of our community's health and prosperity. The Mountain View Whisman School District supports the thoughtful expansion of housing that meets the needs of all our residents, especially in instances that make adequate housing within economic reach of our families. MVWSD's 5,100-student body is diverse. Our families speak 49 different languages and come from a variety of socio, economic and cultural backgrounds. Great schools are the foundation of successful communities. Our goal is to continue to partner with the community to create excellent schools for all of our kids and for as many neighborhoods as possible.

With new housing comes additional students. As you know, the Board voted to re-open Slater School on North Whisman for the 2019-20 school year. The reopening is in response to the growth our community has experienced, but does not take into consideration the future growth in East Whisman and North Bayshore, likely to result in the need for more student seats. According to our demographer, this could almost double our enrollment by bringing an additional 3,679 students (1,379 in North Bayshore and 2,300 in East Whisman).

The growth in the city's northern half will likely be significant in upcoming years and requires planning on multiple fronts. Opening a new school influences traffic patterns, and use of community resources. Considering the amount of traffic already in North Bayshore, we want to offer those communities' future children the ability to have safe and convenient commutes to school.

As they say in the South, "mother earth isn't making any more land." It's important that we work together to reserve space for future schools that will be needed due to increased housing. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I implore both of our governing bodies and senior leadership teams to work together to find solutions to these issues.

I am happy to meet to talk more.

Respectfully,


Dr. Ayindé Rudolph
Superintendent