



Many stakeholders - residents, taxpayers, and homeowners - who were disappointed with the Del Mar Heights Rebuild were **blindsided** by the loss of the Field of Dreams. When the draft plans were first headlined in the Del Mar Times, that was the first they'd heard of losing the community fields, and they rose in numbers in opposition. No matter: DMUSD told everyone **too late**, and they unflinchingly stuck to it. **Ouch**.

It made **zero difference** that DMUSD's public notice of early meetings was at best **minimal**, primarily emails to parents with children at the school plus teachers. It made **zero difference** that DMUSD had said publicly it would **poll** residents on the design during the MM bond, but never did. It made **zero difference** that the community was given none of the **usual** prominent and public postings that are typical of other important community planning meetings, such as stoplights.

In the spirit of **fool me once, shame on you** ... I want to do what Play Outside can do to give the **entire** community notice of the Modernization Planning that will soon start at Del Mar Hills Academy, our other community school in Del Mar. This is necessary because DMUSD is doing same-old, same-old on notifying the community: primarily relying on email to a small, captured list, as you can see below. Either they learned nothing from their last try, or they still see no need for a broader community of participants than last time.

I'd appreciate **your help** in broadcasting the DMUSD email notice, which is embedded below.

Let's be clear: As we learned with Del Mar Heights, school "rebUILds" or "modernizations" potentially affect **everyone** that is near to the school and many who are not. They can affect not only kids and teachers but also community fields

and spaces in longstanding use by the public and outside organizations, public views on common public walking paths, traffic patterns, property values of adjacent properties, ecosystems, noise and emissions from cars and other activities, and more. Everyone has the right and is invited to attend and put forward their best ideas on how our very own **public money** should be spent by **public entities**. That's how you optimize a school design.

Now that **you** know, you can make a conscious decision whether to be “in the know” or out. You can decide whether to share your ideas and stand your ground, or not.

Regardless, I ask that you do your part by spreading the word to anyone that might have interest or be affected by the Hills Modernization. See the email notice that DMUSD has sent to a select group, immediately below. And thanks to a handful of conscientious local residents for sending it to me and asking me to broadcast it to the community at large.

John Gartman
President, Play Outside Del Mar



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DIST** <email@blackboard.com>

Date: Thu, May 13, 2021 at 17:02

Subject: Del Mar Hills Academy Community Design Meeting #1 - June 3, 2021

To: <removed email for privacy>



Dear Del Mar Hills Academy Community,

We are excited to announce the first community design meeting for the Del Mar Hills Academy Modernization Project to be held via Zoom on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. District staff, Mrs. Sleet, and members of the Lionakis architect team will be sharing initial information on the project scope and priorities and getting input from the community on what goals and needs you see for the modernization. The District team, along with Lionakis, will be working with Mrs. Sleet to get input from staff and students prior to this meeting, and this first input meeting will provide information that will allow our architects to further develop plans over the summer and come back to the community for further input at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. A second community meeting will be held in early September and a final community meeting will be held in early October before design ideas are presented to the Board of Trustees on October 27, 2021. We look forward to working with the Del Mar Hills Academy community to develop a design plan that will make dramatic improvements to a school that is almost 50 years old.

All community members are welcome and encouraged to join in this design process.

If you plan to attend this meeting or would like to be involved in future planning meetings, [please fill out the form at this link.](#)

Please join us on June 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. by using the Zoom link below.

Please click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:

<https://delmarschools.zoom.us/j/88954684368>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16699009128,,88954684368# or +12532158782,,88954684368#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 889 5468 4368

International numbers available: <https://delmarschools.zoom.us/j/kjwymtWvG>

We hope to see you on June 3rd.

Sincerely,

Chris Delehanty

Executive Director, Capital Programs & Technology
