Bard-Paramount Academy responds to DUSD vote

We appreciate the consideration of the Paramount Bard Academy Proposal by the DUSD board. We also appreciate the "YES" votes by Romeo Agbalog and Hubert Rabanal. Having said this, we disagree with the findings made by DUSD staff and legal representation.

Legal counsel for DUSD and DJUHSD focused on several concerns that were clearly legal interpretations that were in turn disputed by Paramount Bard Academy legal counsel during their ten minute presentation. The main concern for DUSD seemed to be the fact that the Paramount Bard Academy would not be serving all grades (K-8) during the first year of operation. This was a surprise to Paramount Bard Academy officials due to the numerous conversations that taken place before this meeting about the concern of taking too many students away from the district. DUSD legal representation delivered a contrary message by saying he recommended the Paramount Bard Academy Proposal be denied because more students weren't being taken away sooner.

We have designed a plan in our Proposal that will phase in grade levels over time for two reasons. The primary reason is to reduce the impact on the local districts by spreading out enrollment over time. We feel this will give the local districts a chance to make plans based on enrollment that is below average yearly growth. Our second reason for the phase-in of grade levels is our desire to carefully build a strong culture and curriculum that will have a greater chance of success with limited grade levels and students numbers.

Brent Malicote
Principal