



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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Eighth Area Elementary School will not be built

SAN DIEGO – On May 25, 2004, the Board of Education approved that the Eighth Area Elementary School under Proposition MM not be built due to declining enrollment.

The Eighth Area Elementary School was originally to be built in the Sherman Heights area to relieve overcrowding at the existing Sherman Elementary. Because Sherman Heights is a declining enrollment area, the Board directed district staff to study whether the school was needed elsewhere in the district to relieve overcrowding. Staff determined that enrollment projections do not support the need for an additional new school to accommodate forecasted growth beyond the other 15 schools being built or rebuilt under Proposition MM.

The Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee which oversees Proposition MM supported the decision, stating: "The ICOC's charge is to ensure the responsible expenditure of taxpayer funds. It would be irresponsible to build a new school that is not needed."

The original budget of \$30 million will be placed in a reserve account to be allocated toward future priority needs within Proposition MM. The funds can only be allocated upon recommendation of staff and the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and final approval by the Board of Education. These future needs could include the new Memorial Area Middle School (originally budgeted as an elementary school), additional funding requirements resulting from the continued escalation of land costs, construction costs and raw material costs, etc.

In a separate decision on April 27, 2004, the Board approved the demolition and rebuilding of the existing Sherman Elementary using \$18 million of state facility funds and \$3 million of Proposition MM modernization dollars. Thus, Sherman Heights will still receive a high-quality, new facility. The Design Task Force for the rebuilt Sherman Elementary is underway. The contract award is planned for November 2005.

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