

E-mailed Parent Comments as of November 17, 2009 – 3PM

...as a Brookside parent who moved here for our school, loves our school and wants to see it thrive for our soon-to-be 3 kids, I'm emailing you all with some thoughts and questions.

First off, there are some clear benefits to splitting Brookside into two k-5 campuses:

- For families, it would be significantly more convenient to drop-off/pick-up/volunteer/remain involved with one campus. And one campus would increase the number of years that many siblings will attend school together. My kids would be thrilled to go to school together for 3 additional years and I would LOVE one location from this standpoint.
- Presumably, two campuses of k-5 would generate less traffic congestion as parents no longer race from one campus to the other at drop-off and pick-up times. (This benefit is somewhat offset by the new population of younger kids who would need to be dropped-off at Upper by a parent b/c they are not yet ready to ride the bus...possibly leading to an increase in traffic down Butterfield.)
- The smaller consolidated school community would accommodate all of the students of our continuously expanding district and eliminate the need for a transition in 3rd (or 2nd) grade from Lower to Upper...not sure how significant this second point is since my experience has been limited to my two kids at Lower. But I've heard anecdotally that even though this can provide good preparation for the White Hill transition for some, it is difficult for others.

But there are some major drawbacks to this proposal:

- Most significantly, maintaining two (and possibly three) additional k-5 campuses will require a significant duplication of resources and administrative support. How will the Ross Valley School District fund four (let alone five!) k-5 libraries when keeping our current library that requires only one set of resources that span k-5 proved challenging? How will the District secure funding for strong leadership and support services for two (possibly three) full additional k-5 campuses?
- If geographical boundaries are used to split Brookside into two campuses, we will potentially end up with the same situation that existed years ago when Brookside was merged into one. While the financial implications of Brookside Upper encompassing the more economically advantaged portion of our community are now offset by District-wide programs like Yes, there remain social implications of creating two campuses with (I assume) different economic profiles.
- As a parent of two kids who are somewhat intimidated by older kids, we've always valued the intimate, "safe" environment that Brookside offers with an initial elementary school experience of only k-2. They've both developed social confidence while maintaining an innocence that, as parents, we partially attribute to the fact that their school environment has been limited to other kids within a 3-year age range.
- Finally, from an infrastructure perspective, Brookside Lower seems significantly disadvantaged. The entire campus (with the exception of the library/art building) is in need of serious capital improvements – from the classrooms to the multi-purpose room to the concrete

walkways that are cracked and somewhat dangerous. With the exception of the fields (not for long!), Brookside Upper, it seems, isn't in these dire straits. Which leads me to wonder...

Why are we considering investing significant one-time and ongoing resources in both splitting Brookside into two k-5 campuses *and* opening another k-5 campus, thereby creating a District with **five k-5 campuses within five miles**? Has anyone proposed/evaluated the option of re-building Brookside Lower (which needs the capital investment anyway) to accommodate a growing elementary school population rather than opening an entirely new site? While this would be painful in the short-term, requires a bond (which is necessary anyway) and may not eliminate the need to convert Brookside into two k-5 campuses, it may offer a more efficient long-term solution that would limit resource duplication to four District elementary schools while addressing the need for significant site improvements with the bonus of "greening" our school. There is even at least one Bay Area company that specializes in green modular classrooms <http://www.projectfrog.com/>.

In either case, it seems that the decision to split Brookside into two k-5 campuses must be considered in conjunction with the decision to open another k-5 school – not as two separate decisions....we need to take the big picture/long-term considerations into account so we don't end up with a District of five elementary schools in various states of disrepair and lacking the funds to support a fulfilling/well-rounded educational experience and administrative operation.

here is what I would, as a parent, add to the list of Pros

- Teachers would have expanded perspective on the developmental AND ACADEMIC needs of the kids by having all grade levels present on one campus.
- Siblings all on one campus: better bonds among siblings and opportunity, honor, and duty for the older kids to be responsible for the younger ones and role model for them.
- A small K-5 school would give closer relationship opportunities to single children who would have more chances in their elementary school years to keep the same friends.
- Volunteering for parents on only one site would make their life more manageable: imagine helping with a book fair, with lunch supervision, picture day, popsicle day,... where ALL your kids are.
- Parents don't have to run from one site to the other for two different Halloween parades, for two different Wednesday morning meetings, to help in different classrooms.....
- Each site, starting with the principal, would become intimately familiar with students and their needs, weaknesses, and strengths being able to do a better job.
- Opportunity for meaningful contact between students in cross grade level situations (mentoring, buddy program, greet little kids at drop-off at the start of the day,...)
- transition challenges from second to third and anxiety about older kids at upper campus for some students and families would be eliminated
- not true that kids need the experience of a transition to third grade in a different campus to have a better transition in middle school: at the end of second grade changing school is way more hard than at the end of fifth grade.
- coming from five K-5 small settings, transition to middle school would be the same for every kid in the district, and there would not be the intimidating, too big, and too close group coming from Brookside.
- Decrease in traffic and carbon emissions due to less trips back and forth from the two campuses.
- the actual campuses are already two different and separate schools with

no or very little connection among teachers or kids, they have two principals, two offices, and they are already run independently.

-the new site necessary to face the increasing school population would anyway bring changes to families, teachers, libraries, number of textbooks, etc.

-The existing K-5 schools in the district seem to work fine and to achieve better scores than the Brookside K-2 campus.

Seems like the "con" issues (or pro status quo issues) break down into the following categories:

--Effects/concerns regarding education (i.e. fewer teachers=less competition and choice for parents; less ability to share ideas between teachers)

--Social effects (i.e. friends split up, etc.)

--Cost

--Transition issues (which I think should be tabled and not included as part of the discussion--first yes or no should be decided; the how can come later)

--boundary changes (related to social effects)

--appropriateness/timing (i.e. why spend money on Brookside when the money is needed elsewhere)

--equity between campuses (related to cost but inevitably there will be some differences between the campuses)

I was at the parent club meeting this morning briefly but had to leave early. I got the pro/con list and noticed that the "pro" side was missing what I think is a big positive: smaller class size per grade (i.e. 3 classes per grade vs. 6-7 classes per grade) leads to a closer bond between the kids in the grade, greater familiarity with the other children and families in that grade level, less transition issues every year. Currently, every year our kids have to learn the names and faces of so many new kids and "start over" with friends in the class for the most part. Especially in the lower grades, they may only recognize 1-2 kids from the year before. Same with the parents. I would prefer 50 kids per grade so we can more easily get to know all of our kids peers and their families. Also, less families per campus, same effect - easier for the families to get to know each other, creates bonding.

Thanks for leading the initial discussion on the idea for dual K-5 campuses. It occurred to me after today's meeting that there is one other important consideration that wasn't reflected.

Currently, there are many families in Sleepy Hollow who send their children to private schools (neighbor San Domenico, St. Anselms, among others). It would be interesting to see if that would change if a dedicated K-5 school were in their backyard.

There are approx. 750 home owners in SH, but some of those are empty-nesters. Regardless, there may be an increase in attendance if a change were made. Especially if they knew it no longer meant driving between campuses, etc.

As it gets further down the road, it might warrant a survey through the Sleepy Hollow Home Owner's Assn to see if it would affect the decision of future school plans. There are many young SH families who will be entering the system over the next few years, and it could swing the enrollment numbers if they changed their school plans. The other interesting fact might be that it does NOT affect their decision for private school. This might draw the boundary lines further out than originally thought.

I'd like to give you some feedback about the Principals Forum during the Parent Club meeting held yesterday. I was incredibly disappointed to learn that the meeting was only about hearing the staff's opinions on the two K-5 campuses and not about hearing from the parents - certainly not how it was advertised. I know some parents attempted to speak up, but most parents left there feeling that they would need to attend the Monday night meeting in order to express their opinions. This was a missed opportunity for parents to share their opinions and for you to hear what parents have to say and feel on the matter. In addition, some parents arranged for child care in order to attend this meeting only to be told to come back again on Monday evening. □ □ Secondly, after further review of the handout you distributed, "Discussion with Brookside Staff Members", I found myself both astonished and demoralized. Have you noticed how few times the children or their needs are mentioned or referred to in "cons" section of this document? It would have been helpful to hear the staff's specific concerns for my children's academic or social issues in moving to two K-5 campuses. Instead we received a document that outlined all the reasons why the staff don't want to change and how it would affect their jobs or create more work for them. Is that what your discussion with them was about? One example, "#12 - Easier to stay as is than to change it". What kind of message does that send to our school's parents and children? Is this what you want us to think about the Brookside staff? How is this item (as well as many others on the list) at all related to what's best for our school community? Coming on the heels of the enormous amount of time parents gave to Oktoberfest in addition to an email sent out just this week asking us to come dig ditches at BUC, we are given a handout that basically says - in the face of obvious parent interest in this topic - "It's easier this way - we don't want to change". It's almost impossible to believe educators would think this way let alone put it on paper and hand it out to a group of highly involved parents. □ □ I am looking forward to the meeting on Monday so that you can both listen to parents and really hear our perspective. The schools split as they are now is an enormous challenge for our children and our families in many regards. To date, it does not seem that you two nor the teachers are interested in hearing about those challenges and how they affect our children. □ □ Thank you for your time.

I feel the split campuses offer many benefits for our kids. If the schools were bigger and the K-5 campuses would have 4 classes per grade, my opinion would be different but we all know that it will be around 2 classes per grade if this were to happen. I went to a K-8 but we had 4 classes per grade. That is of course the ideal scenario.

The benefits I have experienced are as follows:

A K-2 environment at Lower is magical. All is geared entirely to this age group. The chance for the 2nd graders to be the oldest on campus is great for self-esteem. Kids feel special, like leaders and role models for others. Both my girls went to a Montessori pre-school and they actually stayed there for Kindergarten for exactly the same reasons. Both girls came into Brookside at 1st grade confident and ready to expand their horizons. They got to play the role model and even taught younger kids.

I feel the transition to 3rd grade at Upper is exciting and kids look forward to it. They see it as a big step. Again that environment can be especially geared for that age group.

I am a big proponent of kids having social possibility. Having 4+ classes per grade offers any kid this. If they don't make friends one year, they will the next because we can shuffle them around again. The majority of kids go to White Hill and then on to Drake. These are larger environments and the Brookside kids are used to this. When they get to 6th grade, they know more than 1/2 the kids in their grade, sometimes even more if they went to Walker Creek with Wade Thomas. They are used to changing schools which makes the White Hill transition easier.

I also see the value of the larger team of teachers. In the 3rd-5th grades, teachers each get to specialize in an area of science or social studies or even sometimes language arts, The kids move from teacher to teacher based on what the subject is. There are huge benefits to this.

I understand that the logistics between the two campuses is not easy (especially for working parents) but I think some of those could be improved anyway. I find the benefits outweigh the logistical issues for parents and would do it all again if my kids were younger and I had to do it again.

I am writing you as a parent of the Ross Valley school District for over 10 years. I was active in writing letters and attending meetings regarding our campuses being split. I am writing you today to open up this discussion again. I may sound like a broken record to some but as you are somewhat new to the district I feel the need to share my thoughts with you. Below are many reasons I feel that we should have 2 K-5 campuses. I might add that I will not benefit from this split as this is my 2nd child's last year at Brookside as he is a 5th grader. My experiences on the other hand are mine but many families share the same frustrations. If our district is about equity among the schools let me share what Wade Thomas and Manor have that we do not.

1. Families have all of their children all on one campus. My children were never on the same campus.
2. The two other schools do not have the logistic nightmare that we have getting our children at pick up and drop off.
3. Volunteering is easier. They don't have to double their volunteer efforts like we do if you have children at two campuses.
4. After school care. The other two schools do not have to pay for transportation for their 3-5 grade children to get to after school care. This clearly discriminates against those families that both parents work.
5. Older children mentoring. Most of the children at both campuses are only exposed to children

with a 2-3 year age difference.

6. Stay and Play after school programs. Kids that go to after school care cannot attend Brookside Stay and Play classes. They have no way to get to lower campus after the classes are finished. This seems to discriminate again against families that work.

7. Consistency of children throughout the years in their classes. There are kids in my neighborhood that my children have never been in class with after attending Brookside for 6 years.

8. Big Buddies. Children were assigned Buddies that were almost their own age (at one campus) or if they were at separate campuses never saw each other at recess, school activities, etc. Not really an authentic link to each other.

9. Children mentoring other children. I really think that older children and younger learn from each other. Brookside lacks that with a maximum age difference of 3 years.

10. Traffic and Safe Routes to School. Simply one school, one drop off and one pick up. No driving back and forth between campuses.

In conclusion we are all about school community bonding and our Brookside Community has so many obstacles. I felt while at Upper Campus I had absolutely no relationship to lower campus. I feel we are (despite all of the efforts) two separate campuses. Having three children you can have a Kindergarten drop off, late bird drop off, and then upper campus drop off and then two different pick up times at two different campuses. Please and we wonder why there is so much traffic on Butterfield! Having new sidewalks won't change any of this. I would be happy to be on a committee to discuss the above concerns.

Thank you for your time.

I have a 4th grade boy and a 2nd grade girl. I live one block from BSL. My daughter was in a ½ split class as a 1st grader. My daughter walks to school and my son either bikes down Butterfield or takes the bus when it is raining. I have co-chaired Octoberfest for the past two years and have volunteered in the classroom each year and been a room parent twice. I think I have attended all but one parent club meeting the past three years.

When my son was in kindergarten and the discussion of turning Brookside into two separate schools was had, I like you was neutral because I had not yet experienced the unique situation at BSU. Her is my opinion as to why I would like to see Brookside stay a K-2 split 3-5.

Academically:

As stated in last weeks meeting, the teachers like to team-teach in groups of 3 to 5. I think the way third grade science rotation works with every teacher teaching the one unit all year gives the teacher a chance to teach to her strength and the children exposure to different styles of teaching. Also, with the new everyday math program teachers are able to meet in groups to review its strengths and weaknesses.

I love that the libraries have such a wide selection of books geared to those particular grade levels. Combining them would limit the amount of books for each grade level.

Financially

I understand revisiting this topic as a new wave of parents are in the district and we do need to open a new facility, but at a time when our district is strapped, making such a big change that would cost quite a bit of money to re do libraries, add a computer lab at lower , change desks etc. it doesn't seem to make sense for right now.

Parent club and fundraising. I think it is great that Brookside can pull from such a large pool of people to participate in parent club, YES and fundraising. If it does become two separate schools, it limits the volunteer talent and a fund-raiser as effective as a single school could not pull off Octoberfest.

Traffic

One of the main reasons cited for this study was traffic. Every Wednesday our cul de sac is full with kids being picked up from Lower. The early late schedule at lower where there is limited parking alleviates this all other days. More 3-5 kids might be able to walk to school, but all of those kids would be being released at the same time with late bird readers potentially causing more parking needs around BSL.

Frankly, I have more trouble getting out of my street onto Butterfield at 3:30 when San Dominico is released than I ever do at 3:00 when BSU is coming down Butterfield.

Socially

My son's 4th grade class has 35 boys and 52 girls. Because of this it was very infrequent in the K-3 that boys would be with their friends. As going to the larger class of 3 classes of 29 the boys have much more options to make friends. I know this might be a unique situation, but to think that if the numbers worked out that 1 campus had 1 class and the other campus had 2 classes, those kids are stuck with the same 30 kids for 6 years. This way there is a pool of 90 kids to make friends with.

More split classes. A smaller school could mean more split classes. Although out experience was mostly positive, it is very limiting socially for the children in those split grades, especially as they might loop with the same teacher.

2nd grade self confidence – the 2nd graders get a dose of self confidence when they are expected to be leaders at Lower Campus

3rd grade ownership. Since there is much less parental participation in the Upper grades, the 3rd through 5th graders really feel like it is their school. I think that many of the kids get a bold of self-esteem when they have to take the bus or ride to school themselves and be responsible.

Student council and morning meetings – projects are geared to those age groups and have impact on the school as a whole.

Parental participation. It was rejuvenating for me as a parent volunteer to be working in a new environment at BSU. Just a change of scenery renewed my enthusiasm for volunteering at school.

I have 2 children at Upper (5th and 3rd). I wanted to voice my opinion about the possible change. Last Year, my 3rd Grader, and her classmates, were dragged through the exercise of being separated from classmates that they have bonded with and formed lasting friendships, because of the 2nd graders being split at Upper and Lower. It was a hard year for a lot of the kids in this grade and they were all so happy to be together again this year. I would hate to see them split again as they head into some critical years - 4th Grade Camping trip, 5th Grade Walker Creek.

If you can understand the mindset of the 3rd grader - they are so thrilled to finally "graduate"

to Upper and I would hate to be the parent who had to tell their child that they were being sent back down to Lower. I know they campuses will have all grade levels, but there will be some kids who go kicking and screaming.

If this happens in my current child's 5th Grade year and she is separated from her classmates for her final big year, I will be devastated. This poor class has already been separated once. Please do not do this to them again.

SUGGESTION:

Could we allow the kids at Upper to stay at Upper and slowly integrate a K-1 into the mix over the next several years?? The same could happen at lower - new families or volunteer families could make up new 3-5th at lower.

First, I'd like to say thank you for holding the meeting to discuss two K - 5 campuses for Brookside and giving everyone the opportunity to be heard. It is important, as parents, to feel heard on subjects like this that affect our lives so significantly on a daily basis with children at Upper and Lower simultaneously.

I wasn't able to stay for the entire meeting because I wasn't able to get childcare so I'm emailing my comments to be added to the "post-it" lists.

Cons for existing K - 2 and 2 - 5 split:

- traffic congestion on Butterfield is bad environmentally, for safety of bikers/walkers, for residents
- can't get to both school on time if you have children at both
- older kids are left to loiter at upper too early in the morning in order to make it to lower on time
- biking conditions to upper are unsafe due to the traffic and the distance some have to travel
- biking distance for my 8 year old is too far for him to truly ride safely alone from both a traffic and stranger danger perspective
- as a family we would prefer to not have our son riding his bike to school alone yet, but feel forced to send him out in order to try and find ways to help alleviate the traffic congestion/polution, and get our kindergartner to school on time, so adds to family stress/anxiety
- if biking, we have to leave at 7:45 am to get to upper and turn around to make it to lower by 8:30, so tired cranky kids and mommies
- due to the commuting issues, we have a different schedule every day which creates anxiety for younger children at upper regarding how they will get home, "I don't know if I'm biking today, walking, taking the bus, or my mom is picking me up..."
- the driving back and forth for special events at both campuses, such as Halloween parades and parties, wastes gas, car wear/tear, pollutes, congests neighborhood traffic, wastes time, children get short-changed on their own events because parents are dashing from one campus to the other
- the "graduation" of 7 and 8 year olds to upper causes them to grow up over night and mature in ways that are not all positive
- younger children lose the positive nurturing/mentoring influences of older kids both in the class and on the playground
- older children also lose the positive influences of being with younger children where the pressure to be cool is off because they are automatically cool simply for being older
- the grade sizes are so large, particularly for 3rd, that children don't get the opportunity to form

long lasting friendships and are forced to make new friends as well as parents meeting all new parents each year. How does that social disconnect affect their learning, community building, their future abilities to connect with others socially and in the workplace? This is a very important point that should not be overlooked because of its long-lasting ramifications.

- siblings are separated
- children lose opportunity to interact with the teachers they bonded with and who they can continue to learn from on campus
- teachers don't know the kids as well because they aren't on same campus as long
- kids that need resource lose the teachers that know their needs and have to get newly adjusted at upper
- principals don't get to know the kids as well
- kids don't know principals as well
- why do children need to "graduate" at 7 and 8 years old? The instability creates unneeded anxiety

Pros for two K - 5 campuses:

- Less traffic congestion with families closer to campus and able to bike/walk
- alleviates unnecessary anxiety and stress on families regarding commute schedule and safety if both children get to school on time, together, with less family stress to get out the door at a more reasonable hour
- safer streets for our children to bike/walk
- healthier community with more children and adults biking, walking, talking, community building, etc. good, good, good.
- saves time
- saves gas
- saves wear and tear on your vehicles
- saves money
- saves the environment
- benefits of older and younger children being together, older ones staying younger and younger ones getting the valuable mentoring and nurturing from older children
- siblings together is better for family dynamic, mentoring, nurturing, comfort, security, logistics for parents
- faculty gets to know families better and vice versa helping develop better understanding of children's needs and builds community
- kids with special needs would keep the same resources
- smaller grade sizes build deeper relationships among the children and the families
- For students, being known by adults such as the principal, teachers and other parents in the community helps build self-confidence and social skills
- when people are more connected, they are more likely to invest more with their time, money, effort, emotions, and therefore are more likely to come together as a stronger and more unified force to make the schools even better
- STABILITY for families for six years
- more stable family unit brings more positive impact to the classroom and school community

Response to site-based arguments for status quo:

All facilities are different. We make the best of it. It's not the square footage of the multipurpose room or the length of the field that will matter in the long run, but it is the quality of the teacher, the support of a good principal, and an active parent community that will hit a strong education out of the ballpark. We have all of that. Now let's make it even better.

I think it is important to restate that if change is coming for our district in the form of an

additional campus and boundary shuffling, why should we continue to use the fear of change as the only real excuse not to make two K-5's at Brookside? For those that argue "why change", we are anyway, so let's do it in a way that best serves the family community (i.e. the customer) of our district.

Thank you for including my comments.
Parent of 3rd grader at Upper and kindergartner at Lower

I have two student at Brookside: 1 at lower in 1st grade and 1 at upper in 4th grade. I attended the meeting on Monday night at lower. I wanted to give my feedback on what I thought I heard and to support splitting the schools into 2 K-5 campus'

I was pleasantly surprised to hear the emotion and caring of the parents in attendance. It seemed to me, like the place was packed with like-minded families, all of whom were in favor of 2 K-5 schools. I am in favor of the split for these reasons:

- Emotionally it benefits the children to have a smaller community of students, families and staff to keep up with. This large and separated community is AWESOME, but HUGE.
- Logistically for families with more than 2 children, it just makes more sense for the parents/caregivers to get to and from drop offs and events.
- When students are not so emotionally stressed from their oversized community, they can focus on more immediate issues in their classes and social aspects in a smaller setting
- Children with siblings can see them during the day for added emotional stability for many children
- Eliminates the stress of the move to upper as a 3rd grader
- Keeps the children from "growing up too soon"
- Students stay connected with teachers from prior years
- Safety-wise, less traffic at the schools because more families will be able to walk or bike

The only thing I recalled hearing about why this has not happened already was because "change is difficult". Frankly, that made me nauseous. I hope that isn't really the reason we haven't already made the change to split the schools into two. What are we waiting for?

I wanted to give my input regarding the possible splitting of Lower and Upper Brookside. Being a parent of three children (4th grade, 1st grade and 2010 Kindergartener), I am definitely in favour of turning the campuses into two separate K-5 schools. First of all, having my children all at one school would make pick-up/drop off much easier for us as a family (and for anyone with more than one child!), much safer since lower campus is within walking distance to our house, and provide a sense of security for my children and myself knowing that their siblings are all at one school. Also, I think that a smaller group of children and families would give us an enhanced sense of community and a chance for my children and me to develop closer relationships with their fellow classmates.

I should give my two cents about the discussion even though my kids will

probably be on to White Hill by then.

I feel the split campuses offer many benefits for our kids. If the schools were bigger and the K-5 campuses would have 4 classes per grade, my opinion would be different but we all know that it will be around 2 classes per grade if this were to happen. I went to a K-8 but we had 4 classes per grade. That is of course the ideal scenario.

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I also see the value of the larger team of teachers. In the 3rd-5th grades, teachers each get to specialize in an area of science or social studies or even sometimes language arts, The kids move from teacher to teacher based on what the subject is. There are huge benefits to this.

I understand that the logistics between the two campuses is not easy (especially for working parents) but I think some of those could be improved anyway. I find the benefits outweigh the logistical issues for parents and would do it all again if my kids were younger and I had to do it again.

Those would be my main points.

I attended the meeting Monday night about creating two K-5 campuses. I wanted to voice my opinion and concerns outside of that meeting, as I felt it was becoming a forum for everyone's personal agendas regarding their own child.

1--I don't care strongly either way, but would say my preference is to keep Brookside the way it is, and use the money that we were told at the meeting has been "set aside" (more on that below) to remodel/add new classrooms or purchase portables. People in that meeting were complaining about having to travel between campuses, and one mother even said it was "impossible" to get her child to school on time. Many, many of us have been doing the two-campus thing for years with multiple children--it IS possible to get your child to school on time.

2--However, if two K-5 campuses are created, I cannot urge you enough to do it in a way that leaves the **current 3rd grade class intact**. That class (my daughter Annie's class) was the lab-rat experiment class last year when they were split up between the campuses. That class has paid their dues and the school owes it to them to let them stay together for the next 2 years and graduate from Upper campus. It is difficult at best for them to feel secure and continue learning if they are shuffled around and split up every year. I have heard over & over "kids are resilient," but over time, this type of constant movement wears on even an 8-10 year old.

3--Keeping the current 3rd grade class together, I urge you to keep the teacher teams together as well. I am speaking about Bessonette/Coye, Leader/Brandt. If you keep the current 3rd grade together but split up these teachers between campuses, it would be, in my opinion, disastrous. Many of us parents look forward to our kids having these teachers, and the kids as well look forward to being with their siblings' former teachers. If I knew that one of these teachers was going to move to the campus where Annie was NOT, I'd be forced to make a really tough decision that could adversely affect my kid. Parents have enough stress already without having to worry about this.

4--I was pretty shocked when someone at the meeting asked where the money would come from to create these two campuses and Bryce said there is money set aside. Please correct me if I heard this wrong. However, if I did hear it correctly, can you please tell me where that money was last year when we were told there was *no money* to create portables and the only solution was to split up the then-2nd grade class? How did we suddenly get enough money to create 2 fully functioning, all-age-appropriate campuses?

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I'd appreciate your comments. Again, I speak for many parents of the **current 3rd graders**: Do what you have to do for Brookside, but please do not split this class up again, and do not split up the current 4th & 5th grade teacher teams.

Response from Bryce Sumnick, Superintendent Ross Valley School District:

Thank you for your comments about the two Brookside campuses. Your comments under number 1, 2 and 3 will be charted and organized along with other comments from parent and staff for consideration.

As to your #4, I can not imagine what it was that I said that made you think we have money "set aside" for construction of two K-5 sites at Brookside. We do not I am sorry that there was a misunderstanding.

I hope this addresses your concerns.