

2035

Leadership is about thinking ahead. While many focus on today, my responsibility is to look toward tomorrow - not just for one school, but for the entire district. Districts that fall into chaos are usually the ones that react instead of plan ahead. They dismiss superintendents at the first bump in the road and chase radical change without a coherent roadmap.

Social media amplifies this problem. A few “Keyboard Warriors” can make a handful of loud voices seem like a movement. When that happens, I stop and ask: does this person or group have a history of helping Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD), or a pattern of disruption? The Good Book says, “Out of the mouth (and the fingertips) comes the heart.” Follow someone’s trail - online or otherwise - and their true intentions reveal themselves. Chaos attracts chaos.

Despite the noise, DVUSD has had a remarkable year. We beat enrollment-loss projections. Our community passed the Override. We earned the highest State assessment scores in district history. Our students brought home more than 70 State titles in fine arts, academics, and athletics, again. And in the midst of all this success, we learned of another major expansion of TSMC - the Taiwanese Semiconductor Manufacturing Company - located right in the geographic center of DVUSD.

So, with all this positive news, why am I talking about school repurposing and boundary adjustments now? The answer is simple: **2035**.

The State expects to approve the sale of hundreds of acres to the Pulte development group this January. Their plan includes roughly 15,000 homes—reduced from 20,000 to allow for more parks, bike paths, and business development. For perspective, Anthem has about 10,000 homes and was projected to take 18 years to build; it finished in nine. We can expect a similar pace from Pulte. The first homes are anticipated for 2031/2032, which means DVUSD must prepare for 2035, not revel in 2025.

Focused boundary adjustments for next year and limited school repurposing the following year will keep us ahead of the curve. TSMC’s expansion will bring around 40 support businesses, and as home prices continue rising in central and northern DVUSD, more families will seek more affordable, entry-level housing, in our southern section. That means continued stability in our southern schools. My goal is not to close any buildings, but to repurpose a few strategically so we can balance enrollment and use our space wisely in the interim. By 2035, I expect we will need every one of our current buildings - and likely several new ones near TSMC - but that’s a conversation for another day.

The DVUSD Boundary Committee has been working since last May and will continue with recommendations for modest boundary adjustments in 2026–27 and potential repurposings in 2027–28. All planning will keep 2035 in view. Any changes will include “grandfathering,” allowing students to remain at their current school, though busing will not be provided - an approach we’ve used successfully before.

The future is bright for DVUSD as we prepare wisely for 2035. The question isn’t whether TSMC’s growth will impact us, but how much. Time will tell – but, with a little planning, we will be ready.

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