Message From Our Torrance Unified
Communications Department

FACT SHEET: HAMILTON SCHOOL SITE

What is happening with Hamilton School?
The Torrance Unified School Board has asked staff to follow up on previous requests in 2017 and re-explore the current options for changing the use of the Hamilton School site.

This is for four main reasons:

1. The State of California is headed into challenging financial times, and we need more ongoing revenue sources
2. We can't afford the ongoing maintenance expenses, and past school bonds didn't cover adult schools
3. Nearby property developments have demonstrated the current value of Hamilton
4. We need improved facilities for our Transition students.

Is Torrance Unified planning on selling the Hamilton school property?
Unlike a sale, which just provides one-time funds and leaves the decisions on what to do with the property completely up to the buyer, Torrance Unified is looking to ***exchange*** the property for something that will create ongoing, sustainable income for the District, such as a different type of property.

An important benefit of an exchange is that we can put "conditions" that a developer must follow such as enhancing community access to greenspace or requiring enough parking spaces for new houses.

What will happen to the North Torrance Little League and Girls Softball fields Torrance Unified has sponsored at Hamilton School for decades?
Torrance Unified has gone on record stating we are ***absolutely committed*** to ensuring that baseball and softball will continue ***in North Torrance*** without missing a season. Torrance Unified staff has been working with the leadership of the sports organizations, ball field design experts, and the City of Torrance to explore options for investing in new or enhanced facilities as new locations for the ball fields.

What will happen to the other programs that currently exist at Hamilton?
We are working with our Special Education Department and labor partners to move Transitional facilities to a workable location. While initially planned for North High, based on community feedback, we are now looking at Levy Adult School. We are planning to keep Adult School programming in North Torrance at other school sites during the evenings, and a new rented location for both day and evening classes.

Who will pay to ensure that North Torrance ball leagues continue to have a place to play?
While not required, Torrance Unified is committed to using several million dollars from the exchange to ensure the leagues still have four regulation, high-quality fields to practice and play games on in ***North Torrance***, two each for North Torrance Little League and North Torrance Girls Softball**.**

Where could the North Torrance ball fields move?
Torrance Unified is exploring several locations including Lincoln Elementary (two fields), Magruder Middle School (two fields), El Nido Park (two fields), McMaster Park (two fields), and South High School (two fields). No decisions have been made yet. You can see potential sketches in the community presentation presented to the community on May 1 and May 9.

Is this a "done deal" already with some agreement already in place?
Absolutely not. We can assure you that no final decisions or deals have taken place. We have been actively holding meetings to hear from representatives of various community groups over the past few months and many crowd-sourced ideas have already shaped and changed our potential plans several times.

How and when will this decision be made?
The decision to change the use of the Hamilton site will have to go through a public School Board vote, a public Request for Proposals (RFP) to find a developer, a public vetting of potential developers, and public decisions by the City Council regarding zoning, traffic, and other considerations. There is no set date for the School Board to decide, and they are holding their July 8 Board meeting in North Torrance so they can hear from the community on this issue.

Why has Torrance Unified let Hamilton get so run down?
The main source of funding for capital improvements and major maintenance on Torrance Unified buildings comes from taxpayer-voted bonds. The last four bonds that our Torrance community passed have not included funds for our central buildings where our employees work such as student testing, welcome center, and IT, or any of our Adult school campuses like Hamilton. Our feedback from the community is that they only wanted to focus funding on schools where our TK-12 students actively attend.

Why did Torrance Unified pick Hamilton for this project instead of Levy or Griffith?
A 7/11 committee explored the need for Hamilton back in 2017, and determined that it was not needed for the school district's continued future growth and goals. In the past, when we had to modernize Arnold Elementary School, we had to move the students to Levy School for a long-term stay. We also did the same with Hull Middle School students. During these processes, Torrance Unified had to invest in significant upgrades to Levy to keep the students safe, which meant that Levy is more up to code and in better shape than Hamilton.

How can residents and other community members get involved with this process?
We are committed to continuing to listen to the community to find suitable solutions. We are continuing a public process to gather input for the School Board to consider as they make their decision. You can find out more about any upcoming meetings and online ways to share your thoughts at tusd.org/hamilton.