

Tennis, Anyone?

A splendid set of pristine tennis courts at Oceana High School sits locked and unused. Is tennis a COVID-19 threat?

A few years ago voters okayed another bond for the Jefferson Union High School District (JUHSD), based in Daly City.

The public doesn't really know how bond revenues would be spent, but JUHSD always cites the irresistible goals of job preparation in math, technology, and science.

What we got is a chain link fence around the Oceana campus (making it more difficult to walk/bike from the north), a concrete wall, an electronic sign, more ice plant to fill in the spaces, and an all-weather track, also now locked to the public. Science education?

There are no bike racks, and students don't bike to campus. Handrails remain broken.

Young folks now climb the fence to use the all-weather track (but not the tennis fence), which used to be prime hunting grounds for hawks and pelicans hunting gophers until it became an artificial field.

There's a "private property" sign. And a "no walking dogs" sign. You might infer the public isn't welcome.

Why are these facilities we're paying for (over decades) locked?

It seems the high school doesn't care about the public except maybe when there's usually a tax increase on the ballot.

Pacifica has a member or two on the school board, but if they're advocating for public enjoyment of facilities we're paying for, I don't hear them.

For that matter, does JUHSD relate to the public at all? Is there an annual goal-setting? An open house to show off projects that students are working on? Public comments come late in the school board meeting agendas, making any public speakers wait through an agenda full of "feel good" filler items.

There is a lot of open space on campus occupied by ice plant. There are surely volunteers willing to replace ice plant with no-maintenance natives needed by birds and pollinators. But the administrators show little pride in the campus, much less in enlisting the community in a little "sweat equity."

A few years ago I spent an evening at the high school board meeting in Daly City to ask the school district to stop spraying Roundup on campus. I was the only public speaker that evening, but no interest was shown in stopping use of this carcinogen. The board evidently acts as staff directs.

Would our two high schools be more attuned to the public if Pacifica constituted its own district?

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