

The Truth about the Plan to Build Boys and Girls Clubs on Middle School Campuses

Background

- Las Virgenes School District rejected this plan because of overcrowding at their middle schools. Conejo Valley School District approved this plan after Boys and Girls Club Chairman Cal Johnston donated \$5000 to the reelection campaign of school board president Mary Jo Del Campo.
- Oak Park rejected a similar plan by the Club to take over a popular neighborhood park.
- Due to strong opposition at Sequoia, Redwood and Colina middle schools, Clubs are trying to build the first club at Los Cerritos, using that club as leverage to get the three other clubs built where they are not wanted.

Program Fees

- Boys and Girls Clubs promote their low cost annual membership of \$15-25, but they do not mention fees for various programs. (Clubs need to charge fees – membership only amounts to \$15,000/year for all four clubs.)
- **Boys and Girls Clubs after-school programs are not free:** According to their national headquarters in Atlanta, they typically charge up to \$30/week per child (\$130 per month).
- **Transportation is not free** – If your child attends a nearby elementary school, Clubs charge up to \$80 per month per child for transportation to the middle school site, for a total fee of \$210 per child.

Alternative Programs

- After-school programs are offered by the Conejo Recreation and Park District at Redwood School, using existing school facilities. This program costs \$200/month.
- This program could be subsidized by the City and local corporate donors to make it more affordable

OVER...

No Real Benefits to Schools

- Boys and Girls Club claim that their building can be used by the school during the day, but there is no space suitable for classroom usage except for the computer lab.
- Club buildings benefit Club staff and management, with director's offices, management offices, a staff work area, a reception area, snack room, staff bathrooms, and lockers.

Giveaway of Public Property

- The proposed Club includes a 10,296 sq.ft. building, a 3,120 sq.ft. delivery / patio area, plus an estimated 1500 sq.ft. for side easement and a front entrance – a total of 15000 square feet - enough space for three modular classrooms.
- Giving this land to Clubs will prevent future classroom expansion, accelerating the need for additional middle schools, costing taxpayers millions of dollars!
- (Four clubs) x (15,000 sq. ft.) x \$13/foot = \$780,000 gift of public property to a private organization for a \$1/year lease.
- The modular buildings will be paid for by local corporate donations. The clubs will use school parking lots, connecting to existing sewage, water, gas, electrical power, internet and telephone connections. While utilities are separately metered, the infrastructure is paid for by taxpayers.

No Disclosure

- Income from after school programs may equal (150 members per club) x (four clubs) x (\$130 per month) x (9 months) = \$702,000 per year. How will this money be spent? What are salaries and benefits paid to the Club Board, President, Directors, Managers, staff, etc?
- Club Board meetings are closed, finances are confidential, and parents have no control over Club staffing or policies

Who is Behind This Plan, and Why?

- The Conejo/Las Virgenes Boys and Girls Club is a consortium of wealthy local developers, politicians and corporate executives who may be more interested in public relations benefits and future zoning concessions than in the welfare of local residents.
- Club Board Chairman Cal Johnston has many future commercial development plans in Thousand Oaks. The public relations benefit from this project will assist him in getting favorable zoning decisions. Dan del Campo, Joe Gibson, and Tim Stephens have used Boys and Girls Clubs as part of their political campaigns.