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Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2006 11:29 AM

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Subject: Hermosa Schools

Dear City Council,

I am sure you have read in the paper about the school needing donations to cover the shortfall from what they get from state funding. This is for such things as having smaller class sizes (20 students per teacher) for Kindergarten thru 3 grade, Assistant Principal to help with discipline, music teacher and science lab. This year the school is approximately \$50,000 short and they are hoping to get this shortfall by the end of the summer so no programs have to be cut.

I would like to formally ask the council to donate to the school for this shortfall and was wondering how to do it. I would like this to be put on the August agenda for discussion.

If the answer is "no", I would like to know who exactly is saying no and why it can't be put on the agenda. I know that neighboring cities donate to their school districts every year and \$50,000 is just .25% of your \$20 million budget (less than 1/2%). I don't think it is too much to ask and we all know the value that schools give to their communities. If the city needs to donate to a particular program, maybe you could donate approximately \$73,000 every year to keep the small class sizes (this would still be less than 1/2% of your budget). If Hermosa ends up being the only local city to cut small class sizes, it could have a domino effect, as good teachers may leave to neighboring districts that have better working conditions (smaller classes) and more important to the city, families choosing to live in those areas.

Please let me know how to proceed with this request.

Thank you.
Kristine Keegan