

BMES PTO

Dear BMES PTO Families and Friends:

We're writing to confirm that, as anticipated, the CCUSD Governing Board last night voted (three in favor, two opposed) to initiate the timeline for the closure of Desert Arroyo Middle School (DAMS).

Please note the following events in this regard:

1. Public Hearing, Thursday, February 25 -- The CCUSD Governing Board will hold a Public Hearing (time and place not yet specified), at which members of the community can speak or share their points of view about this matter.

2. Final Vote, Tuesday, March 30 -- The CCUSD Governing Board will meet (time and place not yet specified) to take action or cast its final vote regarding the closure of DAMS.

Last night, CCUSD administrators said that the closure of DAMS was necessary given the current economic climate and the potential severity of cuts to the District's budget. The State's 2010/2011 budget for education is not yet confirmed, and it could take several months for it to be finalized (last year, the education budget was finalized by the State in mid July), but you can review CCUSD's budget update and projections [here](#).

The BMES PTO Executive Board is deeply concerned about the potential closure of DAMS. The potential closure of DAMS has ramifications for our community on many different fronts. While this situation is of immediate concern to our fifth grade families, it is a situation that affects us all. Many BMES families have older students currently enrolled at DAMS, or they plan to send their current BMES students to DAMS in the future.

Should the CCUSD Governing Board decide on March 30 to close DAMS, Black Mountain Elementary School will become a K-6 elementary school, and future 7th and 8th graders will have the option to a) attend Sonoran Trails Middle School on Pinnacle Vista or b) pursue open enrollment at the District's new [Desert Sun K-8 Academy](#) just south of Dynamite or c) apply to the new [Cactus Shadows High School Prep Academy](#) that will be installed at the old Black Mountain campus on 60th Street.

Cactus Shadows High School Prep Academy

At last night's Governing Board meeting, we also learned the following

about the new Cactus Shadows High School Prep Academy planned by the District:

1. Informational Meeting for Parents. The District will hold an informational meeting for parents about this new school on **February 16, at 6pm**, in the CCUSD Governing Board Room, at the old Black Mountain campus, on 60th Street. As we've previously reported, this new school will consist of a grade 7-12 configuration, with just 50 students per grade level. Students will need to apply for enrollment in this school, but no information about the precise criteria for selection or admission has been shared. In its first year, or in the 2010/2011 school year, the new CSHS Prep Academy would kick off with 7th, 8th, and 9th grade classrooms and add one grade level each subsequent year.

2. Costs. The District says that "some paint" is all that is needed to prepare the old Black Mountain campus for the new CSHS Prep Academy, and that no other significant expenses are associated with the launch of this new school.

3. Flyers Distributed. The District reported tonight that "informational flyers" about this new school have already been sent to "certain parts of the District in the south" and "8,000 homes in Rio Verde and Troon." It is our understanding that no BMES families have received these flyers, and we will be following up on this matter immediately to find out a) why this information has not been shared with us and b) to obtain these informational flyers and/or to ascertain when they will be made available to our BMES families.

4. Decision to Launch Deadline. The District projects that the final decision to launch the new CSHS Prep Academy in the 2010/2011 school year will be made no later than May 1. Should the District not launch this new school in the upcoming school year -- due to either insufficient enrollment or an inability to secure faculty members -- they indicated tonight that their planning would nonetheless continue and the school would open in a subsequent school year.

If you have questions about the potential closure of DAMS, or any other recent developments in the District, we encourage you to [contact CCUSD](#). You can find additional information about these matters on our Web site, www.bmespto.org.

The BMES PTO Executive Board will be monitoring this situation closely and will be communicating our concerns and recommendations to District officials in the near future. If you would like to discuss this matter with us, we encourage you to attend our next general PTO meeting on Wednesday, February 10, at 9:15 am, in PTO Room 501, or to [contact us](#) via e-mail or phone.

In the meantime, thank you as always for your ongoing support of our BMES students.

-- The BMES PTO Executive Board

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to lisa4lfa@aol.com by lisa4lfa@aol.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#)
| [Privacy Policy](#).

BMES PTO | PO Box 426 | Cave Creek | AZ | 85327

Email Marketing by

