

# **Schmitz Family Partnership, Ltd. West Seattle, WA**

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October 19, 2012

Seattle School Board  
MS 11-010  
PO Box 34165  
Seattle WA 98124-1165

Subject: Schmitz Park Elementary School Proposed Closure

- The Schmitz Family of West Seattle strongly opposes the proposed closure of Schmitz Park School, for reasons detailed below.
- The Schmitz Family of West Seattle strongly supports the "One Voice" recommendations developed by the coalition of West Seattle PTA leaders.

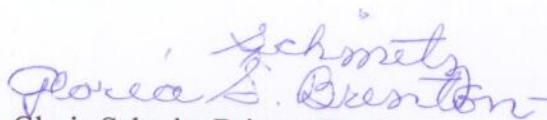
**For the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), and over 50 years ago, Dietrich Schmitz, Emma Schmitz Hartmann, Dr. Henry Schmitz and Ferdinand Schmitz II deeded to the Seattle School District seven plus acres of land adjacent to Schmitz Park for a new Schmitz Park Elementary School. The intent of this generous "gift" was for there to be a public elementary school on that land in perpetuity - and the Schmitz family requests that this "gift" be honored and respected by you as today's elected School Board members.**


Schmitz Park School sits adjacent to the only piece of old growth forest remaining in the city of Seattle - Schmitz Park/Preserve, about 100 acres. Students at Schmitz Park School participate regularly in observing, monitoring and maintaining Schmitz Park's unique native forest habitat in their "100 acre laboratory." A member of the Schmitz family speaks at the opening day of school for the flag raising ceremony and opening day events since the school opened more than 50 years ago, a wonderful and unique tradition.

Schmitz Park School is an outstanding and awarding winning elementary school program, with excellent leadership and teachers on staff. Its parent involvement level is broad based and very high. Its PTA officers and members are very engaged in the life of the school. Enrollment has skyrocketed in the last four years, and we understand the District's need to deal with overcapacity issues. However, high enrollment is a reflection of the school's success.

The Schmitz Family and the One Voice coalition strongly agree that other solutions exist for solving overcapacity/enrollment issues rather than the closing of Schmitz Park School. We urge the Seattle School District to choose another option.

Respectfully:

  
Gloria Schmitz Brinton-Davis

  
Ferdinand Schmitz III

  
Nancy S. Wilson

  
Patsy S. Carpenter

  
Julie Schmitz Broker

  
Dietrich Schmitz

  
Mary Howland Schmitz

  
Ilse Schmitz

Gunnar Schmitz

  
Vicki Schmitz Block

(and many other Schmitz family members)