Question 1: If the District has plenty of capacity within the five high schools, why did they ask Sandhill Property for additional space within the Hills at Vallco? Wouldn’t it have been better to ask for real dollars (the value of the $1/year leased space), which can be used for teachers/staff, students and programs in the high schools?

While FUHSD does have the capacity on our campuses for classes and group activities, what we do not have is a place for students from all five schools to collaborate together or a space in the community that would facilitate the types of interactions between businesses and students that would enhance our ability to provide the job skills necessary for 21st century employment. The Innovation Center would fulfill a longtime dream of the District to have a central space for our students to work together and collaborate on many projects and productions. There is no ten thousand square foot space available at any of our campuses and Vallco has the unique advantage of being centrally located and accessible to all five of our schools, while also being close to major bus lines that would allow students to reach this location easily. There are many District programs that have expressed interest in trying to find a central, large location for their activities. This space could facilitate our Robotics programs in working collaboratively, serve as the venue for a District musical and the annual District Art Show, and provide a place for collaboration among our journalism and yearbook teams. These are just some of the uses our teachers and students have envisioned for such a large District space. A space of this nature would provide our community with the opportunity to see our amazing students in action. Having these various activities and projects take place in a very public venue would help people residing within the District, and beyond, know that the teenagers of the Fremont Union High School District are an asset and treasure to our community.

The District chose not to request a lump sum of money from Sandhill in lieu of this facility, as it is not possible to use a one-time lump sum of money to hire or pay staff long term. Once one-time money is used up, we would be faced with a situation where staff would have to be terminated or salaries would be cut. In order to provide dollars that could improve teacher salaries or add staff a more permanent source of funding such as the parcel taxes and property taxes shown in the attached charts would be necessary.

Additionally, the costs of building such a facility ourselves, including the purchase of land and equipment, would be prohibitive for FUHSD.

Question 2: Sandhill has been accused of not following through on their promises in previous developments. Does the District have an airtight agreement with Sandhill Property?

Attached is the public MOU signed with Vallco. Given that this is a public document, and that this agreement has elements of mutual benefit, it would be unwise legally and from a public perception point of view to go back on the commitments made in this document.
**Question 2a:** Did the FUHSD Superintendent actually advocate for/endorse the Hills at Vallco project?
I thought that she was not allowed to lobby on behalf of developers.

No, The Superintendent did not advocate for or endorse the Hills at Vallco project. The Superintendent did however negotiate community benefits with developers in the best interest of FUHSD. Developer fees are woefully inadequate to provide the funding needed to support additional students or mitigate the other impacts that new construction can bring. As new developments are being proposed and discussed it is prudent for a superintendent to make recommendations that ensure the needs of the District are addressed by developers as their projects are constructed. One of the main things that the Superintendent requested was that all developers step up and make the parcel taxes levied on homeowners more fair. She asked that they develop a strategy to pay the various parcel taxes (both current taxes and future augmentations or changes) on the rental units proposed in these projects. Vallco was the first to step up and offer this as a viable option (see the MOU). The Innovation Center was among other options offered, as well as an option to have parents drop off CHS students in the parking lot at Vallco in the morning and have the Vallco shuttles take students to school, in order to reduce the traffic in the mornings that currently happens around the start of school. The District continues to work with Marina Foods and the Oaks on the community benefits that they will be providing the district.

**Question 3:** Has FUHSD done an analysis about how much it would cost to set up and operate the new Innovation Center within the Hills at Vallco? How does it compare to the cost to set up such a program within school capacity that we currently have available?

The District has considered the costs of the proposed Innovation Center in broad terms, including the costs of personnel to staff the center. Our analysis has shown that the creation of the center at Vallco would be a huge benefit to FUHSD in terms of costs and benefits to the District.

**Question 4:** How does the parcel tax deal with new rental apartment developments work? Can we see the actual language by developers committing to this agreement?

Per the attached agreement, the owner/developer is committing to cover these costs.

**Question 5:** It is understandable that with the previous bond measure, the priority was given to fixing those schools with serious infrastructure issues, and raising capacity at the ones high enrollment growth. Lynbrook residents cannot help but feel like LHS is the last in line to get facility improvements done. It is possible to take a look at the various amounts spent for each of the schools on an inflation-adjusted basis, as a kind of reasonableness test?

This question has been asked in an important way. The community clearly understands that the District needed to spend dollars where the needs were the greatest, which meant that our first priority was fixing serious infrastructure problems and building classrooms where enrollment was increasing. While LHS did get a significant portion of the last bond to upgrade fields, build solar panels, overhaul the pool, improve the failing rafter tails throughout Lynbrook’s campus, rebuild the domestic water and fire suppression system, improve entry structures and electronic signage and landscaping, completely upgrade the technology infrastructure and build a significant library upgrade, it is true that this campus has not received new classrooms or a new cafeteria as the other campuses have. In addition, the District has focused a larger share of District deferred maintenance dollars on Lynbrook in the past seven years.
to ensure that the classrooms were well maintained with new carpet, paint and technology. However, Lynbrook is the priority for this bond and the second greatest number of dollars from the current bond will be spent on Lynbrook. Only Homestead High School is receiving a greater number of dollars, and that is due to the enormous cost (over $10 million) to complete the repair of the campus infrastructure. While the other campuses had little choice in how their bond dollars would be spent given their classroom and infrastructure needs, Lynbrook has been able to make many choices about how the current bond dollars are being allocated. The list of projects and their projected costs, along with how dollars are being spent at the other sites, can be viewed on the FUHSD website.

Adjusting the dollars for inflation is tricky since the costs of construction do not always parallel the trends for inflation and there are many variables that affect the costs of bond projects.

As a final note, at no time in campaigning for the bonds was it suggested that the District would take the total dollars and divide by five so that each of the five schools would receive equal funds. We received much feedback that the District needed to forthrightly state that the dollars would be spent on our greatest needs. The Board and the District also wanted to ensure that Lynbrook got a significant share of the upgrades and dollars to improve its campus.

**Question 6:** Is true that the Board promised LHS a new theater when they asked us to pay more parcel tax during the last election, but when the money was raised, the theater was replaced with a renovated dance studio?

We presume that this question is referring to the Bond not the Parcel Tax. Unfortunately, some individuals in the community have perpetrated the misinformation that a new theatre was promised to Lynbrook. What is true is that a new theater was one of the items that LHS, as well as other schools in the District, put on their wish lists for upgrades when contemplating another bond. It was never promised, as the individual school wish lists totaled almost $450 million, while the bond was for $295 million. Given the enormous costs for a new theater, which were estimated to be between $40 and 50 million dollars, it was determined that a new theater was beyond the reach of this bond given the other needs for Lynbrook and our other schools. There is a wonderful plan to dramatically improve the theater lobby by enclosing the entry and creating an inviting space that could also be used for art display as well as a comfortable space for theatergoers to mingle, buy tickets and use upgraded restrooms. Other upgrades to the theater will be discussed with all staff who currently use the space.

**Question 7:** Information from FUHSD Board presentations shows that our high schools are not even close to reaching their maximum capacity, but I am hearing comments implying that student population density may be a problem in our high schools. For example, a friend of mine’s daughter is a junior at Cupertino HS, and she said that she often would skip lunch because the lunch lines were too long. I have heard about students at Lynbrook HS not getting into the AP sections that they wanted. Some students are not able to get their seventh period classes, and think that the cause is overcrowding. Driving our kids to any of the five high schools seems to get more challenging every day, due to traffic congestion. How do we make sense of this? Should we keep increasing the number of students in our high schools? Is there a need for a sixth high school to help address the perception of overcrowding?

This is a complex question with many parts. We will address each issue one at a time.
Our experience has been that lunch lines are never longer than 15 to 20 minutes. Lunch periods are 40 minutes long, so students have ample time to eat their lunch even if they do have to wait in line. And while demand has been heightened as the District has renovated cafeterias and improved the quality of the food, we have also improved lunch line efficiency through the use of pay point systems and are committed to ensuring that all of our students can eat healthy, delicious meals in an efficient timeframe.

There are many reasons that a student might not be able to take the AP class he or she wanted, however, overcrowding is not one of them. The District offers classes based on student sign ups taken in the spring of the previous year. Every school receives a number of class sections based on their enrollment using a formula of the number of classes a student typically takes at each grade level. The other constraint is class size, which is determined by the agreement between the teachers association and the District. It is a contractual agreement that is closely monitored by the teachers and the District. For over 15 years, FUHSD has not guaranteed seven classes for students. Rather, we guarantee six and offer seven when there is space available in a particular class. This limitation is due to financial constraints; each section of a class costs about $22,000 for staff. Every school creates a master schedule based on the signups from students, the number of sections that they are assigned based on their enrollment, number of students required per class and, to some small degree, the teachers that they have available to teach particular classes. Because of these many constraints there are times when students cannot take a class that they are hoping to take. Sometimes they will need to postpone taking a particular class to another year because priority was given to older students to take the class. Sometimes a class is not offered at a time when a particular student can take it, so they have to make a choice between two classes. A few students have always had difficulty getting a particular class, but this is not an issue of overcrowding. In fact, in the LHS example raised here, it may be declining enrollment that is causing the issue. If a school’s population declines, there are fewer class sections and courses that the school can offer and the number of times a particular class can be offered becomes more limited, so conflicts that would lead to a student not getting a particular class increase.

There is no doubt that the traffic has become a significant issue throughout the Bay Area and particularly in Silicon Valley. I know that there are a number of groups trying to address this issue in big ways, but it will take time to successfully make a change. The District has conducted several traffic studies over the last several years, installed signage and taken a variety of other measures to improve drop off, pick up and traffic around each of our five schools. In terms of building another high school we would need to find about 40 acres located close to one of our existing schools, which we do not think exists, nor would it be affordable. The District does own a sixth site in North Sunnyvale, unfortunately it is not where there is significant population or population growth. Consequently, reopening the old Sunnyvale High School would not solve the issue raised here and it would take many years to design, gain approval for the design through the Department of State Architecture and it could cost as much as $350 million dollars to build it. FUHSD believes the community needs to come together to try to solve the traffic issue and we, as a District, are very willing to participate in any way we can to help reduce the problem.