

September 16, 2025

Members of the HMESD School Board of Trustees,

The Howell Mountain Education Foundation (HMEF) was formed over 30 years ago as a non-profit organization whose mission was to support education and opportunities for the children of Howell Mountain. At its founding, HMEF was designed to work in conjunction with Howell Mountain Vintners & Growers Association, to channel funds raised at the HMVGA's annual auction to projects and programs to benefit the kids in our community. Historically, funds raised at each auction were allocated to HMEF for the purpose of distribution for our stated mission. Often these funds were granted to Howell Mountain Elementary School (HMES) for various projects. The HMEF helped fund the lower playground renovation, school computers, art room supplies, music instruments, myriad field trips, books, books, more books, and this library is named for one of our founding members for his personal donation to renovate and update it.

The nature of the relationship between the HMVGA and HMEF, and in turn, HMES changed a few years ago and HMEF has not distributed funds since 2021, and none have been requested. The HMEF has agreed to dissolve the organization, and this summer held its final meeting, where we agreed to donate the remainder of funds raised in years past to HMES for the purposes specified below.

The balance of funds is approximately \$50,000. Final amounts will be presented once accounts are ready to close. We expect to know final numbers by October 2025.

The HMEF requests that these funds be earmarked/allocated to be used as follows:

~Half the total amount (approx. \$25,000) is to be used for school-based Arts & Music.

Moneys will be spent as agreed by the HMESD Board for equipment, materials, programs that expand and enrich HMES students' experience and access to art and music at school.

~Half the total amount (approx \$25,000) is to be used to send 8th grade students on an annual trip to Yosemite National Park. This has been a priority in years past and the HMEF feels strongly that this tradition should continue as it has been and can be life-changing for kids in our community.

Please accept this final donation and with it, our best wishes for the students and staff at HMES.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jaime De Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Howell Mountain Education Foundation

Tara Bianchi, Heather Griffin, Randy Dunn, Rodney Rose, and Jaime Jones