

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The Winston School announced today an agreement was reached that would give the independent school a 55-year lease on the land that has been its long-time home in Del Mar. The City of Del Mar and the Del Mar Union School District completed negotiations on the 5.3 acre Shores Site on which Winston School is located. The school agreed to help finance the purchase of the land in exchange for the long-term lease agreement.

Headmaster Mike Peterson expressed the enthusiasm of the Winston community. "This is a great day for Winston. This deal means that the Winston School is in Del Mar for at least two generations. Winston's participation in the acquisition of the site helps ensure the preservation of this one-of-a-kind open-space in the City of Del Mar. The terms of this agreement will allow Winston to improve the facility and educational programs of the school."

Winston Board President Dr. Sarita Eastman, one of the founders of the school in 1988, remarked, "Winston's worthy mission--preparing bright children with learning differences for college and for successful lives--will be well served by the arrangement made today. Students from as far north as Los Angeles and as far south as the Mexican border can continue to count on Winston's caring teachers and small classes to find ways to help them achieve their potential. We're very pleased, and we're confident we can do our part in the fundraising effort."

Over the last two decades Winston has served nearly 1000 students in the San Diego area, helping them to overcome learning difficulties in reading, writing and mathematics. In recent years, Winston has sent 90% of its students on to 2- or 4-year colleges.

Del Mar resident and long-time Winston teacher, Linda Castile, thinks the agreement will benefit everyone. "We will be able to maintain the quiet character of the

neighborhood, give Winston a permanent place to do its good work and benefit the School District as well. It's a win-win-win scenario."

Winston has agreed to raise at least 35% of the \$8.5 M required to purchase the property. The remaining portion will be raised by citizens of Del Mar. The School announced earlier in the year that it had raised about \$1.1M in pledges from its Board members, including a \$1M lead gift from Louise and Mick Ukleja whose daughter is a Winston alumna.

Winston and a coalition of interested neighbors joined forces in September 2005 to create The Friends of Del Mar Parks, a committee of the Del Mar Foundation, to heighten awareness of the Shores cause and raise the needed funds when the City and School District reached an agreement.

"This is a day that will be long remembered for putting our children first, and for honoring the intent of the original Kerckoff gift of the land for the Shores School" commented Laura DeMarco, Chair of the Friends of Del Mar Parks.

Under terms of the 55-year lease, Winston will continue to use about a third of the 5.3 acre site for its program. The remaining portion will be allocated for parkland and playing fields. The School has agreed to allow limited use of its facilities by the community, subject to availability. Winston also has committed to begin the steps required to renovate the campus buildings within 10 years and will contribute to maintaining the baseball field.

Winston Board member Linda Pinney, Founder and Chief Business Officer of Asteres Inc., lives in Del Mar and came to know Winston when she and dozens of Del Marians got permission to walk their dogs on Winston's campus after school hours. "Winston is eager to become a permanent part of the community and will work diligently to maximize the recreational and educational value of this precious land for many years to come." said Pinney.

Peterson concluded, "We've all made an extraordinary commitment to a better future. We're grateful to the Del Mar Union School District for being a good landlord to Winston for the last 19 years and to Dr. Easton and the DMUSD Board. The Winston Community

appreciates our neighbors' welcoming us into the village of Del Mar for the long term, to Mayor Hilliard and the City Council for its persistence in closing this deal, as well as to Laura DeMarco, John Graybill and Joe Sullivan and the Friends of Del Mar Parks, all of whom have embodied Winston's motto (borrowed from the school's namesake Winston Churchill) 'Never give up.'

For additional information about The Winston School go to www.thewinstonschool.com. For more information about Friends of Del Mar Parks or to obtain a copy of Winston's Memorandum of Understanding with the City, go to www.delmarparks.org.