

## Sad ending for ACEL

The ACEL board is saddened to close our school. We did our best to manage the financial crisis and we are responsible for the outcome. We learned on March 4 that our loan company refused funds to pay salaries and bills. On March 5, at an emergency board meeting, we voted close the school. Since opening, students and parents were invited to open monthly board meetings, where we discussed our financial situation. Few have attended, until the March 5 meeting. We didn't receive any written complaints, questions or concerns from parents or students until after that meeting.

In addition to disappointment, most ACEL students and parents have expressed gratitude for the valuable learning experiences at our school and for the caring staff. They appreciate the community service projects, such as our garden, meadow restoration and the water crisis projects.

The protesting students stood up for what they wanted. We welcomed them back to school with open dialogue and focused on solving problems to keep the school open. Later that day, we learned that funding stopped. This is a sad ending for ACEL, but we continue to support our students and encourage them to be leaders with integrity.

John Minkler

Fresno