

San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO)  
Public Hearing  
Redwood City School District  
Monday, December 6, 2021

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Date:** December 6, 2021

**Place:** Held Remotely via Zoom

**County Committee on School District Organization Members Present:**

Virginia Bamford, Samuel Leinbach, Bill Lock, Dennis McBride, Hilary Paulson, Rosie Tejada

**County Committee on School District Organization Members Absent:**

Greg Dannis, Lynne Esselstein, Maria Hilton, Lillian Markind, Melchoir Thompson

**Staff Present:**

Niambi Clay, Secretary

Timothy Fox, Deputy County Counsel

**Co-Petitioners Present:**

Leigh Amaro

Ben Depoorter

Royal Farros

Andrea Kohler

**District Representatives Present:**

Dr. John Baker, Superintendent, Redwood City School District

Priscilla Aquino-Dichoso, Chief Business Official, Redwood City School District

Alisa MacAvoy, Board President, Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

María Díaz-Slocum, Board Vice President, Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

Janet Lawson, Trustee, Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

Cecilia Márquez, Trustee, Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

Mike Wells, Trustee, Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Paulson called the public hearing to order at 5:34 p.m.

**2. Discuss and Take Action on Resolution for Online Remote Meetings (AB 361)**

The CCSDO approved, by a vote of six in favor (Bamford, Lock, McBride, Leinbach, Paulson, and Tejada) and five absent (Dannis, Esselstein, Hilton, Markind, and Thompson), by unanimous consent, the Resolution for Online Remote Meetings (AB 361).

### **3. Description of Petition**

Secretary Clay shared that a petition to transfer territory was received by the County Superintendent on October 7, 2021, to transfer territory from the Redwood City School District to the Las Lomas Elementary School District. The petition involves 22 parcels on Greenways Drive and 3 parcels on Alameda de las Pulgas, for a total of 25 parcels. She outlined the timeline of the petition, explained the steps which had been taken, and described the materials which had been shared with the CCSDO, as well as the information and data being gathered to share.

### **4. Overview of Petition Process and Public Hearing**

Secretary Clay provided a timeline for the petition, indicating the last day to make a decision is February 4, 2022.

### **5. Presentation by Petitioners**

Ben Depoorter and Royal Farros, co-petitioners, provided background and detailed information on the territory transfer petition.

### **6. Presentation by School District**

Superintendent Baker stated the Redwood City School District opposes the territory transfer petition. He, along with Chief Business Officer Aquino-Dichoso, Board President MacAvoy, Board Vice President Díaz-Slocum, Trustee Lawson, and Trustee Márquez shared the reasoning behind the district's position.

### **7. Public Comment**

Laura Soderblum, co-petitioner, asked whether the petition had been denied and about the position of the Las Lomas Elementary School District.

Per BJORKE and Andrea Kohler, co-petitioners, discussed safety considerations, measures, and initiatives.

Roger Sherrard, co-petitioner, discussed safety concerns, the diversity impact on Redwood City Schools, and potential future territory transfers.

George Mallinckrodt, community member, discussed the issues of bullying from high school students, traffic concerns, and adjusting speed limits.

Leigh Amaro, co-petitioner, discussed safety concerns, the lack of action over the past 10 years, and the relatively small impact the territory transfer would have on the budget.

#### **8. Next Steps**

Secretary Clay explained the next steps were to start discussion and deliberation at the regular meeting immediately following the public hearing, as well as at the regular January meeting, and then make a determination by the February 4, 2022, deadline.

#### **9. Adjournment of Public Hearing**

Chairperson Paulson adjourned the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.