



ATTACHMENT 18

Almond Acres Charter Academy (AACA) Update

District administration has been meeting periodically with Bob Bourgault, Executive Director and a rotating pair of AACA Board Members relative to their anticipated request to be chartered by the PRJUSD. At our most recent meeting, we discussed the impact of California Assembly Bills 1505 and 1507 on their proposal.

This legislation requires County Office of Education denial of a charter application if its approval would result in a loss of enrollment, and hence revenue, to a chartering district which is not determined by the County Office of Education to be in positive certification of its budget. As the PRJUSD Board of Trustees know, this means a reserve of at least 3% in the current and upcoming two years.

Dr. Brescia, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools, has contacted me and indicated his stance would have to be that PRJUSD may not approve an AACA application due to the current projections of significantly declining enrollment and hence less than a 3% reserve. Even if unanimously supported by all seven PRJUSD Board Members, the County Office of Education would essentially veto that approval if PRJUSD is not in positive certification and the financial impact of said approval reduced further the district's reserves.

AACA has hence been advised to expect rejection of its application unless its approval were projected to be revenue neutral to the PRJUSD. This likely would mean capping the number of Paso Robles students enrolled in AACA at its current level so that the impact of AACA charter approval is neutral or positive. AACA has also been advised to explore the viability of replacing their current Independent Charter with a more Interdependent hybrid model.

January 17, 2020