



WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Adam Schaible

Superintendent

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May 21, 2020

Santa Rosa City School District Board of Education
Attn: Governing Board Trustees
211 Ridgeway Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Governing Board Trustees,

Section 47605 of the Education Code requires a charter school to operate within the geographic boundaries of that school district. As of July 1, 2020, pursuant to subdivision (a)(5) of section 47605, any charter school that was operating outside of the boundaries of the authorizing school district prior to January 1, 2020, may only continue to operate outside of the authorizing school district's boundaries only through such time as it submits a request for renewal of its charter petition. In order to continue operating the site, the charter school shall obtain approval of the school district in which the charter school is located or must submit a request for the renewal of the charter school to the school district in which it is located.

Currently, the Cesar Chavez Language Academy operates at 2480 Sebastopol Road. The school's current location is within the boundaries of the Wright Elementary School District and the Santa Rosa High School District. When the Cesar Chavez Language Academy was originally authorized, the charter school should have been authorized by the Santa Rosa Elementary School District as the school serves or will serve grades K-8 (see Education Code section 47605(a)(6) ("a petition to establish a charter school shall not be approved to serve pupils in a grade level that is not served by the school district of the governing board considering the petition")). Once the school moved locations to the Cook Middle School site, the charter school moved into Wright Elementary School boundaries. Under current law, the Cesar Chavez Language Academy in its current location runs afoul of the location requirements contained in Section 47605 of the Education Code. At its next renewal, in order to continue operating at its current site, the Cesar Chavez Language Academy would have to receive the approval of the Wright Elementary School District to stay at its current location or submit its renewal petition to the Wright Elementary School District.

The Wright Elementary School Board members would like to give the Santa Rosa City School Board advance notice that such approval should not be expected (when the current Charter expires). Additionally, attached please find a resolution, passed at the May meeting of the WESD Board, calling upon SRCS to maintain a comprehensive middle school in West Santa Rosa. It is our hope that SRCS can find a way to preserve Cook Middle School for Wright students to attend and to maintain enrollment at Elsie Allen High School.

Sincerely,

Wright Elementary School District Governing Board

Karen Irwin Magee, Governing Board President

Robin Jackson, Governing Board Trustee

Carmel Curiel Larios, Governing Board Trustee

Carolyn Dixon, Governing Board Secretary

Stan Greenberg, Governing Board Trustee

May 21, 2020

Date

**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DRAFT RESOLUTION #05-02-19/20:
DISCUSSION CALLING FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE
SCHOOL BY SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS ON THE COOK MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS**

WHEREAS, the Wright Elementary School District (WESD) Board hereby believes that it is in the best interest of the West Santa Rosa community to continue to have a neighborhood Middle School;

WHEREAS, the WESD Governing Board acknowledges and applauds the efforts that Santa Rosa City School District has made to improve the academic and extracurricular offerings at Cook Middle School;

WHEREAS, the WESD Governing Board believes it would be a disservice to the students and families of the Wright District to close the Cook Middle School campus;

WHEREAS, the WESD Governing Board believes that neighborhood schools connect families to their schools and school staff to their local community;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board believes that neighborhood schools serve a vital function in the local community, as a gathering place for meetings, concerts and other local celebrations;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board believes that bussing West Santa Rosa students to other Middle Schools outside of their community is an unnecessary hardship for those students that could leave them feeling like “outsiders” in their new school(s);

WHEREAS, Many Cook Middle School students require afterschool programs and currently are close to home when they finish their afterschool programs which supports working parents;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board is concerned that closure of Cook Middle School could lead to future closure of Elsie Allen High School, which also supports the West Santa Rosa community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the Wright Elementary School District that the District hereby calls upon the Santa Rosa School Board to maintain a comprehensive, traditional middle school in West Santa Rosa by keeping Cook Middle School open and not allowing a charter school to occupy the campus in its stead.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by vote of the members of the Governing Board/Board of Trustees of the Wright Elementary School District on May 21, 2020.

Trustee Karen Irwin Magee aye Trustee Carolyn Dixon aye

Trustee Stan Greenberg aye Trustee Robin Jackson aye

Trustee Carmel Curiel Larios aye

AYES: 5 **NOES:** 0 **ABSENT/NOTE VOTING:** 0

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct resolution duly adopted by the Governing Board of the Wright Elementary School District.



Clerk of the Board, Carolyn Dixon

May 21, 2020

Date