

PRPE Executive Director Comments for the PRJUSD School Board Meeting 4/27/21

Comments Related to Agenda Item H 1A

Hello All, “Difficult, Twice as complicated and time consuming (as the transition to trustee area district before the 2022 election cycle).” This is a quote from the District’s lawyers at Lozano-Smith attached to this agenda item. That legal opinion continues that, the change from 7 to 5 trustees for the PRJUSD would require “a public hearing”. It would also “usually require an election by the voters. To avoid this requirement the District would need to prepare and apply for a waiver from the State Board of Education.” It does not opine on the possibility that the State Board of Education could very well reject that waiver. The legal opinion continues, “The District will need to apply to the County Election Commission for approval in the reduction in the number of trustees.” that could also be rejected.

What the opinion doesn’t say is how much it will cost the taxpayers. Legal billable hours are expensive and this is defined as a “difficult and complicated process.” How much is the current transition to trustee area districts costing the district already including the services of Lozano-Smith and the costs associated with the current Agenda Items H 1B, H 1C, H 1D, H 1E and H 1F?

Finally, the most important reason to reject this idea is that again from the legal opinion, “the reduction in the number of trustee areas would reduce representation.” So the board would have to authorize an expensive taxpayer (i.e. voter) funded process with no guarantee of success in order to reduce the representation of the community on their elected school board. Perhaps this is why Lozano-Smith also notes that, “it is especially rare to see a reduction in the number of trustees contemplated here.”

Please focus on the students of this district and the best return to the normal school year possible and reject political machinations that reduce the community’s voice. Thank you for all your service. Jim Lynett PRPE Executive Director