

LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution 11-15-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY'S REQUEST CALLING FOR THE "TERRITORY TRANSFER" OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED AREAS OF THE CITY INTO THE LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, the La Cañada Unified School District (LCUSD) was incorporated as a K-12 school district in 1961 serving the general public educational needs of the unincorporated communities of La Cañada and Flintridge; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Cañada Flintridge (the City) was incorporated as a general law city on November 30, 1976; and

WHEREAS, the City's incorporation brought together two unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County, La Cañada and Flintridge, and united them into one community and municipality; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the City's incorporation, the jurisdictional boundaries of the City encompassed a small section of the La Cañada community that was served by the Glendale Unified School District (GUSD), generally, that area west of Rosebank Drive to the City's western border at Pickens Canyon (the "Subject Area"), which is the only area of the City that does not attend LCUSD schools; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board affirms that its foremost duty and responsibility is to provide the safest and most effective learning environment possible for the children of LCUSD; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board recognizes that since the time of the City's incorporation there has been an ongoing call to truly unite the City and achieve alignment between the educational jurisdiction and the municipal jurisdiction of the community so as to strengthen the safety and education of the community's children; and

WHEREAS, the District was asked by the community to support the "Territory Transfer" of the Subject Area from GUSD's jurisdiction in order to bring about improved children's safety and strengthen the potential for children's educational outcomes through simplifying jurisdictional coordination and aligning and reinforcing family and community interactions with children's education; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board is willing to give its support to the "Territory Transfer" if, upon the approval of the citizens' territory transfer petition, the City of La Cañada Flintridge, the Territory citizens, and the LCUSD can mutually agree upon mitigations to relieve the immediate impacts to the LCUSD related to student housing, facilities, and personnel as required to avoid any material disruptions to the District;

WHEREAS, strengthening ties between families and within a community, allowing people greater involvement and engagement with each other in civic activities which are aligned with school activities, have a direct and positive effect on student academic achievement;

WHEREAS public and school safety will materially improve when LCUSD, City and local law enforcement, emergency, and operational planning is simplified, unified and streamlined;

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the La Cañada Unified School District recognizes the magnitude and intensity of the community's desire to unite the City and strengthen school safety and school-community alignment, as evidenced by the number of "Territory Transfer" petitions submitted since the formation of LCUSD in 1961.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the La Cañada Unified School District hereby gives its unanimous support for the community's request to explore a feasible plan which is consistent with the duties of the District to its students to effect the "Territory Transfer" of the Subject Area into the District boundaries in order to:

1. facilitate, enhance, and strengthen the engagement and alignment of the residents' educational activities of the Subject Area with City activities, events, organizations, and civic life;
2. strengthen ties between families and within the community - where all citizens can increase involvement and engagement with each other and in civic activities and have these activities aligned between the community and its schools, thereby creating and strengthening "social capital" which research demonstrates directly and positively supports improved student academic achievement;
3. improve and enhance the cohesiveness between residents and their children residing in the Subject Area with those residing in the greater City community given that the education, vocational and extracurricular opportunities will be identically available to the whole of the City's community;
4. improve self-governance given that the jurisdiction of LCUSD and the City will be better aligned and the school safety and educational needs of the Subject Area can be better identified and addressed;
5. improve school and public safety as LCUSD, City and local law enforcement, emergency, and operational planning will be simplified, unified and streamlined;
6. and allow the City to simplify the equitable expenditure of resources throughout the community, particularly with respect to matters supporting public education, as Subject Area residents and their children, along with the broader City community will share identically and equally as beneficiaries of City resources and expenditures.

IN WITNESS THERETO, we, the Governing Board of the La Cañada Unified School District, do hereby adopt this resolution this 9th day of February, 2016.

Governing Board Members

David Sagal, President

Dan Jeffries, Vice President

Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

Ellen Multari, Member

Brent Kuszyk, Member