

April 28, 2017

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Education Member,

Please vote against the NUSD petition moving forward to election. I am concerned about segregation, disruption of programs and unclear motivations of those in favor.

I am a teacher at Northgate and I have 3 children, ages 10, 8 and 4 in the feeder pattern here in the neighborhood. My hope and plan is for them to attend Northgate, which I believe to be an amazing place where high levels of teaching and learning happen daily. Admittedly I am biased as I really do love Northgate High School.

The Northgate area has some of the highest property values in MDUSD and is not the most diverse demographically. If NUSD carves out certain areas surrounding Ygnacio Valley High and Oak Grove Middle this issue will only get worse, clearly not meeting the State criteria number 4 of forming a new school district - NOT promoting discrimination and segregation.

#4 CA -Legal Criteria Governing Reorganization Proposals -D

Discrimination or Segregation. The reorganization of the districts will preserve each affected district's ability to educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.

I want my 3 boys to grow up in a safe neighborhood but not go to a school where all the kids look like them. That is one of the reasons my wife and I bought a house here in the neighborhood and why we wanted our kids to go to school here.

I understand there would be significant disruption of Educational Programs. Programs in NUSD schools that would have to move to continue serving all MDUSD students include: Bancroft Dual Immersion, Autism Magnet Program at Valle Verde, Foothill, and Northgate, & Autism Early Intervention Preschool at Valle Verde. This does not seem fair to our students and while my 3 boys do not appear currently that they would be utilizing those programs it seems unfair to all the students that do and would use them.

If you send this proposal forward to an election, please ensure that the entire MDUSD district has the opportunity to vote, as MDUSD as a whole would be affected with lower total funding from the state. MDUSD will need to relocate district programs in order to continue serving MDUSD students. Therefore all MDUSD families should have the opportunity to vote.

I have been a teacher at Northgate the past 4 years and really love teaching here. MDUSD has improved our benefits and pay significantly the past 4 years. I really feel supported by MDUSD. This past year I, as a teacher, have only felt attacked and belittled by the NUSD/CAPS organizers. I was not asked for my opinion (ever) about how much I liked teaching here, what improvements could be made or how well I thought our students were learning. This all makes we questions the motivations of those in support of creating a new district. Would you not want to build on what is already working well at Northgate? It seems to me you would want to preserve your dedicated, passionate teachers?

Thank you for your time and consideration on this.

Sincerely,

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"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." - Francis of Assisi