

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS FOR TRUSTEE AREAS IN CVESD AND SUHSD

DID YOU KNOW THAT ALL 5 CVESD (Chula Vista Elementary School District) Governing Board Members LIVE IN BONITA!?!?

And 3 of the 5 SUHSD (Sweetwater Union High School District) Board Members ALSO live in Bonita! (The other 2 board members also live in the NORTHERN areas of the district NEAR Bonita: Eastlake area and National City).

That's right!! 8 of our 10 Combined Board Members live in Bonita!

(But BONITA contains only about 4% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION of our HUGE Districts!)

HAVE YOU HEARD about the COMMUNITY PROPOSALS for EQUAL REPRESENTATION on the School Boards of CVESD and SUHSD?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. CVESD AND SUHSD ARE THE LARGEST SEPARATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE ENTIRE STATE OF CALIFORNIA! (44 Elementary Schools, 24 Middle and High Schools)
2. Most LARGE school districts elect board members from various geographic areas (trustee areas) within their school districts (e.g., San Diego Unified and Los Angeles Unified School Districts)...this is what we are PROPOSING for our two districts! Candidates would run for the seat in the trustee area where they live, but would still be elected at-large by the voters of the entire school district.
3. The standard method for most school districts (not the large ones) is to elect board members by "open seats," where all candidates compete for the popular vote (incumbents and challengers all compete for the open seats - if there are 3 open seats, then the top 3 candidates with the most votes win election to those seats!)
4. But CVESD and SUHSD have their own SPECIAL SYSTEM of electing board members with fixed "seat numbers" that were assigned to each board member back in the 1990's, so that school board incumbents never have to compete against each other for the popular vote (amongst themselves and all the other challengers). Our seat numbers are completely arbitrary numbers with no geographic areas assigned to them!
5. Only 3 districts in the entire state of CA (CVESD, SUHSD and Santee Elementary School District) have this special method of electing school board members by numbered seats. These were pushed through our CA State Legislature as "urgency statutes" in the 1990's WITHOUT THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE and have boosted the power of incumbency, creating an inequitable election process. The numbered seats generally prevent newcomers with limited financial resources (especially some residents of the southern and western areas of our districts) from competing for a school board seat. Let's GIVE A VOICE to residents from ALL AREAS of our Districts!
6. These petitions will hopefully be placed on the November 2008 Ballot, so South County Residents can VOTE whether or not we want to assign a geographic area to each of our school board seat numbers, in order to give a LOGICAL PURPOSE TO THE SEAT NUMBERS: EQUAL REPRESENTATION!

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NOTE: This is the 2nd time this proposal is being circulated in the South County. The previous petitions were rejected by the County Committee on School District Organization because of a legal technicality regarding proposed maps. The official maps of the trustee areas (if these proposals are placed on the ballot) will be created by the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools. A public hearing will be held in South County prior to the County Committee's decision whether or not to place these proposals on the ballot.

List of ENDORSEMENTS for Previous Petitions:

Congressman Bob Filner

California State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny

National City Mayor, Ron Morrison (*Support for Sweetwater High School District Petition)

South Bay Forum

La Prensa San Diego

Eastlake-Bonita Democratic Club

79th District Republican Caucus

Councilman Rudy Ramirez, Chula Vista

Councilman Steve Castaneda, Chula Vista

Filipino American Community Empowerment

South County Community for Educational Accountability

(Numerous parents, educators and community members)

WEBSITE: Visit the "South County Community for Educational Accountability" at WWW.SCCFEA.COM

En Espanol:

Las mesas directivas de los distritos escolares de Chula Vista y Sweetwater NECESITAN REPRESENTACION de las varias comunidades que sirven. Ahora, 8 de los 10 miembros de estas mesas directivas son residentes de Bonita. Podemos dar una voz a TODAS las comunidades que son partes de nuestros distritos escolares (las comunidades de Chula Vista, National City, Bonita, Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, y San Diego Sur).