



Crescenta Valley Town Council

April 24, 2014

Glendale Unified School District Board of Education
223 North Jackson Street
Glendale, CA 91206

Re: Sagebrush Territory Transfer

Robbyn Battles
President

Harry Leon
Vice President

Mike Claessens
Recording Secretary

Danette Erickson
Treasurer

Cheryl Davis
Corresponding
Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charles Beatty

Frank Beyt

Dr. Young Seok Suh

Robert Thomas

Kyle Studebaker, alternate

Leslie Dickson, alternate

Krista Smiley, alternate

Dear President Boger, GUSD Board of Education and Superintendent Richard Sheehan:

The Crescenta Valley Town Council would like to go on record opposing the Sagebrush Territory Transfer for the following reasons:

1. Glendale Unified has provided a six year plan for the transfer of students to La Canada, yet not one possible plan or strategy has been presented to our community other than you will listen to parents for the first year if the territory transfer is approved. The future of Mountain Avenue needs to be discussed with our community now. La Canada can clearly plan for the future of their community and schools yet the fate of La Crescenta and its neighborhood school is to be placed on hold for a year with ultimately no true control over its future at or around Mountain Avenue Elementary.
2. The community is not done speaking on this issue. We were informed by the Board there were to be public comments through the month of April into May yet to our disbelief two school Board members have already voiced they will vote in favor of the transfer. There needs to be additional outreach to our community and a promise going further that the Board will remain neutral until such vote.
3. The community needs more than a 6-year access agreement to the bridge and property connecting Mountain Avenue School. This needs to be permanent. This is the only access from Briggs to Ocean View North of Foothill. In an emergency, lack of access could be disastrous. In addition, as Sagebrush wants to "Unite" this will clearly draw the line to deny access for our children that will continue to want to connect to their neighboring communities. Lastly, all board members need to understand clearly how this access affects our community. To learn that one of the Board members is making a decision regarding this transfer which includes the property on Ocean View and access across Pickens Canyon and has never been to the site is troubling to say the least.
4. We have to look at the needs and listen to the concerns of our community. There appears to be great concern about the taxes placed on La Canada and the phase in of students. The GUSD Board represents all of the constituents not just Sagebrush. Where is the outreach and concern for the tax payers on the west side of the Pickens Canyon Bridge? Where is the 6 year plan to keep Mountain Avenue a top school in La Crescenta? Where is the plan to deal with the additional stress to our infrastructure as the district brings new programs to our community?

In closing we would like to say that although it appears there is great support from Sagebrush residents the overwhelming consensus from both sides is that Mountain Avenue is a great school. So why are we attempting to unite residents in La Canada at the sake of our students and our schools? The decision to transfer this territory is not in the best interest of Mountain Avenue, the school district or our community.

President

Robbyn Battles

cc: Sussy Nemer, Field Deputy, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's Office
Rebecca Witt, Principal, Mountain Avenue Elementary