

# North Monterey County Federation of Teachers AFT 4008

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## MEMORANDUM OPPOSITION

To  
Petition of Territory Transfer  
from North Monterey County Unified School District  
to Lagunita School District

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Monterey County Office of the  
Superintendent of Schools

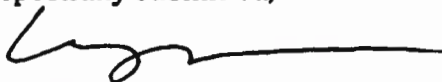
North Monterey County Federation of Teachers (NMCFT) opposes the Petition for Territory Transfer from North Monterey County Unified School District (NMCUSD) to Lagunita School District submitted to Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) by Amy Bordi, representing certain owners of 13 existing Assessor Parcels.

On behalf of over 250 NMCFT members, NMC Federation of Teachers urges the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization to deny the Petition which negatively impacts NMCUSD and ultimately our students and community members of whom are former students of NMCUSD. NMCUSD must ensure that it is allowed to retain its resources in order to ensure the District continues to graduate students college and career ready, positioned to give back to their community.

NMCFT agrees with the preliminary review that this proposed territory transfer will negatively impact NMCUSD with a projected magnitude exceeding \$4.5 million, thus denying NMCUSD the benefit of property tax based growth enjoyed by neighboring districts. In addition, disadvantaging our students, families and staff in the ability to maintain long-term stability for our community and negatively impacting the District's educational programs. More over, we are concerned about the continued trend of removal of territory and the cumulative impact of such removals and the patterns of how this impacts the make-up of our District compared to Lagunita.

This Petition contributes to losses in ongoing revenue, puts the burden of "redistributed" tax assessments from current and future General Obligation Bonds on our residents. It also will permanently reduce the opportunity to enjoy growth in enrollment as areas which are anticipating additional development are taken from NMCUSD community to benefit other LEAs. High quality public education is based upon the premise that a well balanced tax-base will ensure stability for delivery of programs and services. This Petition would do the opposite for NMCUSD.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Moore,  
NMCFT President



**Richard Medrano  
1592 Los Altos Way  
Salinas, Calif. 93906**

November 12, 2019

Monterey County Committee on School District Organization  
901 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: NMCUSD and Lagunita Petition to Transfer Territory

Dear Committee Members,

I spoke at the public hearing held at Lagunita regarding the proposed territory transfer. I oppose this transfer of territory as Lagunita School does not have the ability or desire to serve all students, and as a result they deny inter-district transfer renewals.

My oldest son attended Lagunita from grades K-3 on an inter-district transfer from Salinas City Elementary. Also, my youngest son at age 5 attended his Kindergarten year at Lagunita. After about 1 ½ months at school, we noticed that my youngest son was experiencing some learning challenges. The principal at school, Mr. Stonebloom, told us that our son should "red-shirt" and take a year off in order to mature. We requested the school test our son, in order to validate that he had a maturity issue, not a disability, but they did not test him. Upon their failure to do so, we received an independent evaluation from Stanford that indicated certain disabilities that our son had. After hiring an advocate for my son and several meetings at the school, my son started receiving minimal assistance. The school principal, Mr. Stonebloom, said that they could not offer the services my son needed, and that they would not provide him with extra assistance over the summer. He cited not having enough money for summer services and that he would get lost in the next year's Grades 1&2 combo class. Eventually, services over the summer were provided for my son.

Meanwhile, my wife & I submitted inter-district transfer renewal requests for both of our sons, the oldest to go in to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and the youngest for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. My wife made repeated attempts to reach the school using email and phone calls but no one ever responded to our inter-district request for either of our children. When we approached the county office of education for an appeal, they said we could not appeal because we were never denied. We were just completely ignored by Lagunita. So my oldest son, who had been in school there for four years was not able to return, as was my younger son not able to return. The disrespect of no notification or communication whatsoever was frustrating for us, and my oldest son switching schools after so many years was devastating to him; he lost his community of friends from school. We have found other families who have experienced the same treatment when it comes to serving kids with special needs.

Thank you for allowing our family to share our concerns regarding Lagunita School and their ability to serve all students, and not just hand pick the ones they want.

Richard Medrano



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