MARIN COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
Special Meeting

Larkspur Corte Madera School District, Cove School Gallery
330 Golden Hind Passage, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 6:00 pm

The meeting of the Marin County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) will be held on **Wednesday, November 30, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Larkspur Corte Madera School District, Cove School Gallery (330 Golden Hind Passage, Corte Madera, CA 94925).**

A G E N D A

1.	Welcome/Call to Order	Ms. Butler
2.	Attendance/Introductions	Ms. Butler
	a. Committee Members by Roll Call	Ms. Mares
3.	Consider Approval and Adoption of Agenda	Ms. Butler
4.	Consider Approval of Minutes, CCSDO Meeting of November 28, 2022	Ms. Butler
5.	Open Public Hearing	Ms. Butler
	a. Explanation of the Petition & Presentation of Facts	Ms. Mares
	b. Guidelines for Public Hearing	Ms. Butler
	c. Chief Petitioners	*15-Minutes*
	d. Larkspur Corte Madera School District Representatives	*15-Minutes*
	e. Reed Union School District Representatives	*15-Minutes*

Each member of the public who wishes to address the committee will be limited to 2-minutes. Time may be shortened at the discretion of the chairperson.

	f. Petition Proponents	*45-Minutes*
	g. Petition Opponents	*45-Minutes*
	h. Next Steps	Ms. Mares
6.	Close Public Hearing	Ms. Butler
7.	Adjournment	Ms. Butler

Agenda Item 4:

Consider Approval of Minutes,

CCSDO Meeting of November 28, 2022

MARIN COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Special Meeting
November 28, 2022 | 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Special Meeting of the Marin County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) was held on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Gallinas Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94903) in the Board Room.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Chairperson Debbie Butler called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Attendance/Introductions

Secretary Designee Terena Mares conducted Roll Call of Committee Members. Members present/absent:

Committee Member	Present (Y)/Absent (A)
Debbie Butler	Y
Karen Crockett	Y
Derek Knell	Y
Robin Moses	Y
Stephanie O'Brien	Y (remote)
Kathy Ohm	Y
Elizabeth Robbins	Y
Richard Sloan	Y (arrived 5:40)
Stuart Tanenberg	Y
Raoul Wertz	Y

A roll call vote indicated that a quorum was present.

Staff members present: Terena Mares, Secretary Designee of the Marin County Committee on School District Organization; Jon Lenz, Deputy Superintendent for the Marin County Office of Education; Amy Carrera, Assistant Project Supervisor for the Marin County Office of Education; Robert J. Henry, of counsel.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Consider Approval and Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Butler called for a motion to approve the November 28, 2022 Agenda.

M/s/c Ohm and Tanenberg; to approve the November 28, 2022 Agenda.

Motion carried:	Aye: 10	No:	Abstain:	Absent:

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM 4: Consider Approval of Minutes, CCSDO Meeting of November 7, 2022

Chairperson Butler called for a motion to approve the November 7, 2022 Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting.

M/s/c Knell and Wertz; to approve the November 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Motion carried:	Aye: 9	No:	Abstain: 1 (O'Brien)	Absent:

AGENDA ITEM 5: Appointment to Supervisorial District #4, due to resignation of committee member A.J. Brady, effective November 6, 2022

Three candidates were interviewed for the appointment to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization for Supervisorial District 4; Laura Anderson, Amos Klausner, and Tara Evans.

Candidate Amos Klausner was not in attendance, he provided written responses to the interview questions.

Following deliberation, Chairperson Butler called for a motion to appoint to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization for Supervisorial District 4

M/s/c O'Brien and Ohm; to appoint Amos Klausner to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization for Supervisorial District 4

Motion carried:	Aye: 10	No:	Abstain:	Absent:

AGENDA ITEM 6: Administer Oath of Office to Elected CCSDO Member

As appointee Amos Klausner was not in attendance, Secretary Designee Terena Mares will schedule a time to administer the Oath of Office to the newly elected Member.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjournment

Chairperson Butler called for a motion to adjourn the November 28, 2022 Meeting.

M/s/c Ohm and Tanenberg; to approve the adjournment of the November 28, 2022 Meeting.

Motion carried:	Aye: 10	No:	Abstain:	Absent:

Chairperson Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

DRAFT

Agenda Item 5a:

Explanation of the Petition & Presentation of Facts

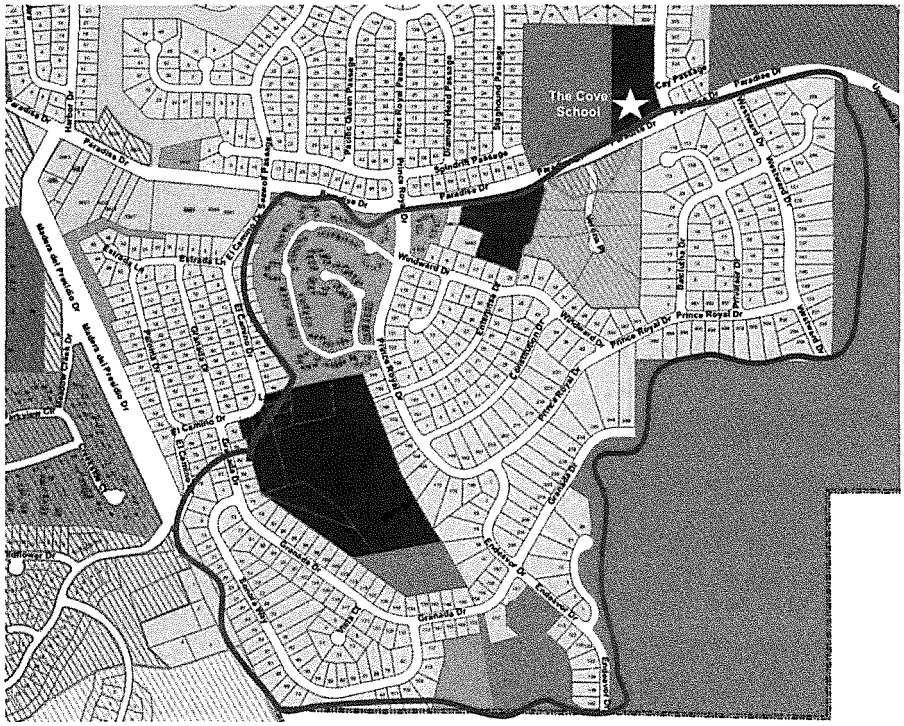
1. Petition Received by County Superintendent of Schools: 10/27/2022
2. Petition Submitted to the Registrar of Voters: 10/28/2022
3. Certificate of Petition Verification Received from the Registrar of Voters: 11/10/2022
4. County Superintendent of Schools Validated Petition: 11/11/2022
5. Number of Parcels in Territory: 463
6. Number of Registered Voters in Territory: 909
7. Number of Signatures on Petition: 281
8. Number of Valid Signatures: 247
9. Number of Individual Emails/Comments Received Regarding Petition
    a. In Support of Petition: 21
    b. In Opposition to Petition: 166

PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

To the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County:

Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 35700, subdivision (a), the undersigned, constituting at least 25 percent of the registered electors residing in the territory proposed to be transferred, now within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, Marin County, petition that the boundaries of the Reed Union School District be changed to eliminate from it the territory hereinafter described. The undersigned persons petition that the territory be transferred to and included within the Larkspur Corte Madera School District of Marin County.

The property to be transferred is described as follows:
The territory is in east Corte Madera, California. It is south of Paradise Drive, between El Camino Drive and Westward Drive, an area that includes the following addresses:



- Granada Drive #58-248
- Sonora Way (all) #1-117
- El Camino Dr #50-61, 76-78
- Vista Court (all) #1-14
- Prince Royal Dr. #51-508
- Verona Place (all) #1-7
- Endeavor Drive (all) #1-142
- Endeavor Cove (all) #1-25
- Constitution Drive (all) #1-45
- Windward Drive (all) #1-53
- Buccaneer Ct (all) #1-17
- Enterprise Drive (all) #1-37
- Mariner Green Drive (all) #1-116
- Mariner Green Court (all) #118-162
- Westward Drive (all) #1-208
- Balclutha Drive (all) #1-258
- Privateer Drive (all)#1-116

The undersigned request the changes in the respective boundaries of the school districts for the following reasons:

1. The territory is geographically part of the Town of Corte Madera and therefore should be included in the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. This neighborhood should attend their community schools. The distance from this territory to the Reed Union School District requires us to leave our community for school. Ring Mountain is a natural barrier between our neighborhood and Tiburon, separating this neighborhood from a true community experience with the Reed Union School District.
2. The Cove School (of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District) opened in 2014 and has close proximity to this territory. It is on average less than 1 mile (a range of 0.2 - 1.1 miles) from our territory to The Cove School, whereas it is on average over 5 miles (a range of 4.9-5.9 miles) to Reed Elementary of the Reed Union School District. It is in the best interest of kids to attend their community school and to then continue in the district through 8th grade for social/emotional growth and educational consistency. Additionally, Hall Middle School of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District is on average a half a mile closer (a range of .2 - 1 miles closer) than Del Mar of Reed Union School District.
3. Some streets in this neighborhood are already in the attendance boundaries for the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. Incorporating these streets into the district is a continuation of the attendance

boundaries that would bring our neighborhood back together so everyone in the Marin Estates, Mariner Green, and East Corte Madera Hillside subdivisions would attend the same school district as other neighborhoods in Corte Madera.

The Chief Petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are:

1. Craig Blok [redacted]
2. Heather Armstrong Choate [redacted]
3. Paul Burton [redacted]

Corte Madera Schools *for* Corte Madera Kids

ALIGNING SCHOOLS WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

A petition with more than 25% registered-voter support is currently being validated. It supports **changing the school district boundaries** for areas of East Corte Madera (ECM) **from Reed Union School District (RUSD) to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (LCMSD).**

We are still hopeful that RUSD and LCMSD can reach an agreement that allows current IDT students and siblings to continue in LCMSD through Hall middle school.

WHY SUPPORT THE PETITION?

- **COMMUNITY CONTINUITY – DEEPER SENSE OF BELONGING**
  - Align our children's schools with our local community's identity
  - Create consistency and convenience of extracurricular activities and sports teams within our community
- **PROXIMITY OF SCHOOLS TO HOME**
  - The Cove is steps away from our homes - walk, bike, scoot with friends
  - Safer in an emergency. Easier for kids to unite and egress with families
  - Lowers carbon footprint - reduced Tiburon Blvd traffic
  - Commute time saves over one hour per day; 20+ hours per month
- **CLEAR PATHWAY FOR RUSD FAMILIES TO REMAIN AT RUSD**
  - LCMSD BP 5117 provides a path for funding for kids to go to RUSD
  - LCMSD and IDT families have always been committed to school choice

The updating of ECM district boundaries is overdue. RUSD's Granada School (in ECM) closed in 1980s. LCMSD's Cove School opened in 2014. Our neighborhood school has changed, yet district boundaries remain unchanged. Let's make the change so our kids can attend the schools in their community and get them off the roads and into the classroom.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 5, 2022 at 10:02:29 AM PDT
To: Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>, Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>
Subject: Please remove my name from petition

Hi there,

Confirming I would like my name to be removed from the redistricting petition:

[redacted]

Thank you!
[redacted]

[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

The information contained in this correspondence is intended only for the individual or entity named above, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. Dissemination, distribution or copying without the prior approval of the sender is strictly prohibited. If you think that you have received this message in error, please delete it and notify the sender. Marin County Office of Education

Alexis Oberlander

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 10:00 PM
To: Terena Mares; Mary Jane Burke; Alexis Oberlander; Jon Lenz
Subject: Corte Madera Redistricting Erroneous Signatures

Terena, Mary Jane, Alex and Jon,

I was unable to attend the meeting tonight, although my East Corte Madera neighbors updated me on it.

I saw the signed petition and noted several errors of neighbors who signed, but have since moved out of the neighborhood - either through selling their house or moving out and renting to others. I understand you'll be going by their voter registration (so I hope they updated it), but wanted to call your attention to the erroneous ones of which I am aware.

[redacted]
Signed 6/5. House sold 7/5

[redacted] 1 signature:
[redacted]
Signed 6/11. House sold 6/16

[redacted] 3 signatures
[redacted] Signed June 11. Moved out July 31 and out-of-state renters moved in

[redacted] 1 signature:
[redacted]
Signed 6/11. House sold 8/23

[redacted] 2 signatures:
[redacted] House is currently on the market to be sold

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Best,
[redacted]

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:01 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke; Terena Mares
Cc: Superintendents Office; Brett Geithman
Subject: LCMS / Reed Mediation - School of Choice
Attachments: RUSD ECM Family Letter.pdf; RUSD ECM Signatures.pdf

Dear Marin County Office of Education,

I am part of a collective group of Larkspur Corte Madera parents and community members, extremely concerned about the possible elimination of Inter District Transfers between Reed Union School District and Larkspur Corte Madera School District.

I, and many others, fully support Superintendent Geithman's proposal of "School of Choice" and am encouraged by the willingness of both Districts, along with your office, to enter into mediation on the issue. As your office enters into this process, I felt it important to ensure your office was fully aware of the parental and community support for IDTs. With that:

1. In just 24hrs a LCMS **community petition** reached almost 200 signatures in support of IDTS, and currently has 231 (https://chng.it/QxpVWjzFwf).

2. A **collective families letter** has 71 signatures supporting East Corte Madera parents/ residents/ home owners the choice to send their kids to their community embraced Larkspur Corte Madera schools.

3. **Multiple emails** have gone to RUSD Board members and the Superintendent in support of the LCMS proposal, including community members who have lived here for 45 years, Town Council members, education professionals, family and child therapists, neighbors, parents, and many others.

The support for IDTs is far reaching, with a feel that:

1. Corte Madera **resident's taxes should support their community schools and children**

2. A **hardship should not be placed on Corte Madera resident families** to drive past their community schools to try and artificially immerse themselves in another community's school

3. **Children should be the top focus across communities**; and they will get the best educations when they and their families are surrounded and fully supported by their community at ALL grade levels with the appropriate and essential funding

4. A more **permanent solution** should have been reached years ago (with the Granada school closure, Cove school opening, new housing developments built, etc.), and would be best going forward, so we do not have to mobilize on this every five years

I, along with countless others closely watching the outcome of this anxiety ridden process, am hopeful an agreement will be landed that has the best interest of our children, families, and the community in mind.

Thank you.

[redacted]

May 15, 2022

Dear Reed Unified School Board Members,

We, the families who reside in East Corte Madera and whose children are currently attending the Larkspur Corte Madera School District on Interdistrict Transfers (IDTs) are writing this letter to convey our appreciation of the IDT agreement that has been in place for the last eight years and allowed our children to be part of a magical, nurturing and neighborhood community. As a new IDT agreement is being negotiated, we, along with members of the East Corte Madera community that are pursuing IDTs, respectfully ask for your help in finding a solution that prioritizes the social-emotional growth of all children, facilitates community cohesion and reflects a fiscally responsible approach.

We support the idea that families in our neighborhood would continue to have choice regarding where their children attend school. We also know as parents that a sense of predictability for young children leads to a sense of safety and subsequently to higher levels of happiness and academic performance. Given that Covid has caused social, emotional and academic disruptions over the last two years, we are very concerned about additional disruptions to the continuity of our children's educational experience. We believe that our children maintaining their healthy relationships with their friend groups and trusted adults at The Cove School and Hall Middle School will be critical to their success. Additionally, we are hoping to avoid any abrupt changes which could trigger stress for students and parents and exacerbate mental health issues across the family system.

We also acknowledge the State of California changing Larkspur Corte Madera School District to a community funded district as of 2020-21 school year along with declining enrollments in both districts creates a challenging situation. We appreciate the professional and collaborative engagement of all involved parties - The RUSD Board, Dr. McGrath, The LCMSD Board, Dr. Geithman and the impacted families and broader community.

We hope that all parties will continue the respectful dialogue, role model the growth mindset we teach our children and arrive at a consensus that will best support all children and families in a fiscally responsible way. We strongly believe that any changes in the new IDT agreement should be implemented gradually to minimize disruptions for families and allow time to plan effectively for a smooth transition.

Thank you for your volunteer service and ongoing collaboration.

Please see attached pages for a list of parents who are in support of the above letter.

I am adding my name as a signatory on the letter dated May 15th, 2022 to the Reed Unified School Board regarding the Interdistrict Transfer Agreements to indicate my support for the information contained therein.

	Name	Email
1.	[redacted]	[redacted]
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23.		

	Name	Email
24.	[redacted]	[redacted]
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Redistricting petition

[redacted]

Sat 10/29/2022 9:34 AM

To: Terena Mares tmares@marinschools.org

Dear Ms Mares,
Please remove my name from the petition to change districts. I do not want my neighborhood to change districts. I love the Reed district. I signed it after being told something completely different. I called the [redacted] and told [redacted] to take my name off, but not sure if [redacted] did. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

RUSD LCMSD Petition

[redacted]

Wed 11/2/2022 4:35 PM

To: Superintendents Office superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org ;Terena Mares
[redacted]

Plea e remove our name from the petition to change the territory between Reed Union School Di trict (RUSD) and Larkspur Corte Madera School District (LCMSD)..
Our names were signed without receiving full information.

Kindly confirm

[redacted]

[redacted]

Fwd: Contacting Signatories of School District Boundaries Petition

Kimberly McGrath <kmcgrath@reedschools.org>
Tue 11/1/2022 4:32 PM
To: Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>;Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>

Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District
"We are even stronger together!"

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]

Dear School Board Members,

I was one of the people lied to by [redacted], the petitioner for the school district boundary changes. [redacted] informed me the petition was to allow families to choose which school their children will attend.

Because of the fraud perpetrated by the petitioners, I feel that the only appropriate course is to void the petition.

If this does not happen, the least the school districts can do is to contact the people who signed it and inform them of the situation and confirm their signatures.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

East Corte Madera Petition

[redacted]

Mon 10/31/2022 12:57 PM

To: Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>;Superintendents Office <superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org>;Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>

Cc: rusdsuperintendent@reedschools.org <rusdsuperintendent@reedschools.org>; [redacted]

Hello Superintendent Burke,

My [redacted] and I attempted to remove our signatures from the LCMSD district transfer petition which is garnering a lot of conversation at the moment. I do not trust that the organizers removed our signatures so I was told to contact you to be sure. We are [redacted] is copied here) and we live at [redacted]. Would you please confirm our removal from the petition?

I would further like to express that, as parents of a Reed [redacted] that appreciate how wonderful the school and RUSD are, and that now understand how easy it is to get our [redacted] to/from school, we are firmly against the redistricting effort. Furthermore, this petition was circulated under false pretenses, with organizers claiming "school of choice" rather than the truth of a very serious district change with no actual choice.

The bottom line is that a vocal portion of the 1/3 minority of LCMSD parents in the ECM Hillside neighborhood are attempting to override the 2/3 majority of families with children who wish to continue attending RUSD.

I implore you to do everything in your power to protect the children attending Reed schools against the extremely selfish and divisive actions of a few outliers.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Thank you,

[redacted]

Alexis Oberlander

From: Mary Jane Burke
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 9:33 AM
To: Terena Mares
Cc: Alexis Oberlander
Subject: FW: Redistricting Petition

Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Superintendent of Schools
(415) 499-5801
@Burkemaryjane

From: Kimberly McGrath <kmcgrath@reedschools.org>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 9:29 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: rusdsuperintendent@reedschools.org; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Redistricting Petition

Hi [redacted]
Thank you so much for taking the time to send this email. I consider you part of the Reed community and want you to stay as well. I understand your perspectives and will be expressing my opinions and perspectives at the two upcoming public hearings that will be held by the County Board on School Organization. These two events will be the best place for you to express your perspective as this is the first governing body that will hear perspectives and will determine whether the petition should move onto the state or not.

The first public hearing will be on November 30th at 6:00 in the Cove Gallery at the
Cove School
330 Golden Hind Passage
Corte Madera 94925

The second is Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM at
Del Mar Middle School Gymnasium
105 Avenida Miraflores
Tiburon, California 94920

Take care and I hope to see you there.

Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District
"We are even stronger together!"

On Fri, Nov 18, 2022 at 9:24 AM [redacted] wrote:

> Dear Dr. McGrath,
>
> In regards to the petition to redistrict our neighborhood (East Corte Madera), I am writing to express my firm objection to this. We purchased our house in 2013 knowing it was in the Reed Union School District. In fact, we moved from a home close to the Cove school in [redacted] and have many friends from that neighborhood. My [redacted] who is now at Del Mar Middle, started [redacted] at Reed Elementary. At that time, we chose not to pursue an IDT with Cove school as some were doing for a couple of reasons. First, Reed schools are excellent and have a great reputation for strong academics. Second, we did not want to be in a situation where an IDT was not renewed for any of our [redacted] or when any of them [redacted] school. Our [redacted] ride the bus and walk to [redacted] practices that take place at the [redacted] field.
>
> We have been a part of the Reed community for [redacted] years now and with my [redacted] being in [redacted] grade, we hope to continue for another [redacted]
>
> We have [redacted] at [redacted] Reed school, who have done very well in school, made friends, went to [redacted] aftercare/summer camp at [redacted] participated in [redacted] events and much more. We are a part of the Reed community and want to stay there.
>
> I hope we have RUSD's support in opposing this petition.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 8:00 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Against the territory transfer of the East Corte Madera Hillside

Dear CCSDO Board Members & Superintendent Burke,

As a parent and homeowner from the East Corte Madera hillside, I'm writing to state our family's strong opposition to the territory transfer of our neighborhood into the Larkspur-Corte Madera District. The petition which was presented to myself and our neighbors was framed around school choice, not a complete district transfer. Even the petitioner who gathered signatures from our neighborhood, disavowed the effort as being deceptive during the last public CCSDO meeting, and stated that she was giving false information to share with the ECM community. Every neighbor who I've met had the same experience; believing the petition to be about school choice, not redistricting.

Our children have attended Neil Cummins, the Cove School, Hall, Del Mar, and are both now at Redwood. Our [redacted] from Tiburon also attended all the RUSD schools. We know the comparative merits of both districts. Attending the schools of RUSD is not a hardship, but a privilege. Reed, Bel Aire and Del Mar are some of the finest public schools in Marin, with strong teachers and a supportive community. People move to East Corte Madera so that their children can attend the Reed School District.

We were very lucky to have our [redacted] attend Del Mar for [redacted] and [redacted] grade, after an incredibly challenging [redacted] grade year at Hall. The teaching staff and counselors at Del Mar helped us to realize that [redacted], which went unnoticed at Hall. [redacted]. They sent regular alerts to help us track [redacted] progress and assignments, and gave [redacted] the tools he needed to be a successful [redacted] at Redwood, where [redacted] is getting great grades. We are so thankful for the help and assistance of the teachers and counselors at Del Mar. It has changed our [redacted] educational path.

Now a small group of parents on the East Corte Madera Hillside are pushing to take away the ability for all current

students and future students to attend RUSD, for the short-term benefit of having close proximity to the Cove School. But after grade school all those kids will still need to commute to Hall. The commute distance from the East Corte Madera Hillside to Hall is just as long, or longer then the commute to the RUSD Schools, plus it means cutting over busy 101 before navigating the crush of Redwood High School students in the same neighborhood.

Tearing apart our community and shrinking the student base of RUSD, just for the short term convenience of a small group of parents is not worth it. Rather than creating a closer community for the East Corte Madera hillside, it will fracture and divide the neighborhood. Please encourage the two districts to go back to the bargaining table and find a solution for IDTs before allowing this territory transfer petition to move forward. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Fwd: CM RUSD Redistricting Petition

[redacted]

Fri 11/4/2022 5:01 PM

[redacted]

> Dear Ms. Mares,
>
> I don't believe our names are on this redistricting petition that would change East Corte Madera RUSD status to LCMSD, but I would very much appreciate it if you would check and, if we are in fact, listed as petitioners, please REMOVE our names from this petition.
>
> While our [redacted] are now grown, we were thrilled to have them be RUSD students. I can only imagine the dismay of many ECM Hillside parents to realize their children might be transferred from their RUSD school to one in the Larkspur/CMSD, against their wishes.
>
> Thank you for your attention to this matter.
>
> [redacted]
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 4:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Corte Madera Parents NOT in favor of redistricting

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for sharing your opinion on the petition that residents of ECM have initiated. It is important for us to hear all perspectives. We understand this is happening in the community and that has its own process.

Concurrently, please know that from the school district perspective, our goal is to find a solution where the interests of residents in ECM are met. One option would be an interdistrict permit agreement between RUSD and LCMSD, which would not require redistricting. The districts are committed to continued conversations on how to support the students and families in both districts.

Thanks,

Dr. Brett Geithman
Superintendent
he/him/his
Larkspur-Corte Madera School District
230 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939
415.927.6960 x3202
#WEareLCMSD
www.lcmschools.org
bgeithman@lcmschools.org

From: [redacted]
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 1:16 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Corte Madera Parents NOT in favor of redistricting

Dear Kimberly, Brett and Mary,

We are emailing because we are parents of two children, [redacted] grader and [redacted] grader who attend Bel Aire and Reed Schools. We want to let you know that we are very pleased to be a part of the RUSD community and are not in support of a territory transfer or redistricting of the East Corte Madera from RUSD to LCMSD. We have become aware that there is a vocal group of folks who are circulating a territory transfer petition and seeking to redistrict our neighborhood and we want to make sure that our voices are heard as well- we are not in support of proposal in this petition.

We appreciate that the Marin County Office of Education is hosting an informational meeting tonight about this issue. We are unfortunately not able to attend but will listen to the recording and look forward to learning more about how we can express our opposition to redistricting.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 4:12 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Corte Madera re-zoning school district

Hello-

My name is [redacted], and I live in East Corte Madera a few minutes from the Cove School.

This email is in regards to zoom call that will discuss the re-zoning of our neighborhood from Reed district to Corte Madera.

I don't know if enough signatures have been collected to move forward, however I feel compelled to share my opinion on this situation....

I have [redacted] kids. In the fall they will be entering [redacted] We have been at the Cove school since our kids started school. I know both Reed and Corte Madera are still negotiating the terms of the IDT between the two districts.....

Depending on how the negotiations go we will be compelled back to the Reed district as that is where we are zoned.

My question or concern is this. I would be devastated to be in a situation where my kids are forced out of their current community (Cove/Corte Madera) to a new one (Reed/Tiburon). And after settling into a new community (depending on how long re-districting takes to approve and implement) after a couple years to be wrenched away again from a new community they have so recently built. Especially given what they have been through with the pandemic after the last couple of years.

It is not ok for my kids to be the victims of this unfortunate situation of district lines/inter district transfers.....

I would ask that if the redrawing of the district boundaries are to take place for there to be some sort of guarantee that those kids who are at Reed can stay there contingent on nothing.

I know that IDTs have behavior contracts etc... but if we are made to go back to reed I would want my kids to be treated as part of the community - not as a transfer who was granted the privilege to go there contingent on grades/behavior/attendance etc....

I understand that there are a lot of moving parts , but I ask you take this perspective into consideration as I know other families who above all else- want stability and consistency in their child's education.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and again for taking this into consideration.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2022 8:54 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Detrimental experience if ECM redistricts

Dear Dr. McGrath and Marin Education Leaders,

My name is [redacted]. My [redacted] is in [redacted] class, [redacted]. We live in East Corte Madera at [redacted].

I am opposed to redistricting our neighborhood to LCMSD.

We moved from San Francisco to our home in 2018 when [redacted]. We had heard about how phenomenal Reed was, and was interested in this neighborhood because it was zoned for Reed. When the time came for [redacted] we wanted Reed because of the access to education and resources not usually found in public schools. We were particularly interested in the curriculum we heard about and even friends who teach at Redwood shared they could always tell which kids went thru Reed. They were academically prepared, kind, active leaders in the school. That is what I want for [redacted]. As a working Mom outside of the home, logistics and care after school are very important. I'm incredibly grateful for the bus. One, it teaches [redacted] who is fiercely independent and born leader some autonomy in and safe way, and two, the bus schedule works perfectly for me to put [redacted] on the bus then get to the ferry and be in the office on time. I could not make it to work on time with the current Cove start and ferry schedule. Therefore I would be forced to look for morning help. In addition, we love the diversity of [redacted] and flexibility they offer and the fact they pick [redacted] up from campus. I would not be able to give [redacted] access to these classes If [redacted] were to attend Cove because I can't pick [redacted] and take [redacted]. Additionally after school [redacted] takes the bus home on Friday and the extra time on the bus with [redacted] friends also allows me the extra time for work I need.

In summary, we absolutely love our experience at Reed and would lose childcare options, likely forced to hire morning help, and loss of access to valuable learning and enrichment opportunities for [redacted] if forced to the Cove.

Thank you for the work you're doing to enrich the district and support our kids now and keeping them there in the future.

Sincerely,

[redacted]


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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Date: November 23, 2022 at 1:48:12 PM PST
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Do Not Validate

Hi Bob, Thank you for letting me know. There do seem to be *new* details you should talk to Mary and CCSDO about today. We are within the 30days of the education code, Mary still has the authority to amend now. Specifically consider these reasons:

For item 3 below, the 68 signatures, CCSDO knows significant changes were made to the petition on 6/10/22, Terena and Mary Jane Burke recommended them. They likely didn't know on 6/10 there were already 68 signatures collected, but they know as of monday or today. This in direct conflict with CCSDO Q&A posted 11/22/22: ***"Is it permitted to change the territory description and attach it to signatures that were signed based on a previous version of the petition? Response: "No."***

For Item 2 below, the 'false statement' precedent seems abundant enough for you to use, so there is a basis in the law, and the 27 signatures [redacted] collected should be removed. Also the +/- 100 emails Mary and Terena received requesting removal should be considered if they noted "false statements' in their email request.

You had offered to respond to questions, apologies there were all very specific. Only 20 signatures need removal to be under 25%, plenty of reasons available. There are a huge amount of resources being spent against this petion across my 900 ECM neighbors and also all of Tiburon, CCSSO can still do the right thing on this matter now, the vast-vast majority of this community would like to NOT fiercely prepare and go to public hearings when this petition is so obviously 'not sufficient' petition. Can you confirm you will share this new info with the CCSDO committee large group?

Hope you have and your family have a great Thanksgiving.

[redacted]

On Wed, Nov 23, 2022 at 8:42 AM [redacted] wrote:

Hello [redacted]-

You may not be a lawyer but you have a good eye for the issues. I am not going to respond to each of your questions but I will represent to you that the issues presented by you were all evaluated before the petition was found to be "sufficient".

At this point the county superintendent of schools has transmitted the petition to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization and her office no longer has jurisdiction over the "sufficiency" of the petition.

Going forward the County Committee will hold public hearings and then make a final determination, as provided by Education Code sections 36710 and 35753.

Bob Henry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 21, 2022, at 10:51 AM, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Hi Mr. Henry, I suppose I do have a few quick questions. And apologies in advance, I'm not a lawyer.
>
> 1. EC35704 has an A,B,C part to item 2. The A part in my mind is seperate from B (elections office) and it establishes Mary Jane Burkes Authority to separately 'determine' this petition 'sufficient" or "not sufficient" based on a number of factual inputs. Would you agree Mary Jane Burke has this separate authority for her to determine?
> 2. The 11/11 notice of sufficiency uses the 27 signatures that [redacted] has requested verbally and in writing to be removed on 11/7, due to 'false statements'. I believe there is legal precedent that pertains specifically to this, and would allow for

these signature removals now. Could you explain why these signatures were deemed 'sufficient' by Mary Jane Burke?

3. 68 signatures were gathered on the 'old petition' before 6/10/22 when substantial changes were made to the document by the petitioners, I believe. Could you explain why these 68 signatures were deemed 'sufficient'?
4. Can you share any other documents with me, by chance? Is it only the education code that applies or do broader state petition laws also apply?

There are 7 days left in the 30 day code, though it's a long shot, I still hope for Mary Jane Burke/Terena to amend the 11/11 letter and call this 'not sufficient'. Public hearings seem so unneeded for our community. Thanks kindly in advance for a quick reply and happy early thanksgiving.

[redacted]

On Mon, Nov 14, 2022 at 12:47 PM Robert Henry [redacted] wrote:

Hello [redacted]

Mary Jane Burke forwarded to me your letter of November 12, 2022 and she asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

1.First, as I am sure you are now aware, on November 10, 2022 the Marin County Registrar of Voters did verify that the petition in question contained sufficient signatures and she issued her Certificate of Petition Verification (copy attached).

On November 11, 2022 Mary Jane Burke, in her capacity as Marin County Superintendent of Schools, and under the authority of Education Code section 35704, advised both the Marin County Committee on School District Organization and the State Board of Education of the signature verification and her determination that the petition was "sufficient" (copy attached). In light of this action, which took place a day before your request, this matter now rests with the Marin County Committee on School District Organization.

2. In your letter you request the Marin County Board of Education to "immediately invalidate the 10/27 petition." Please be advised that, unlike K-12 school districts, where the code makes it clear that school district superintendents report to and are supervised by the district school board, the Marin County Superintendent of Schools is separately elected and constitutes a separate legal entity from the Marin County Board of Education. While the code sections dealing with transfers of territory between school districts define a narrow role for the county superintendent of schools, as noted in Education Code section 35704, it defines no role for the county board of education. In this regard the county superintendent of schools serves as secretary to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization, but the Committee is a separate entity from the County Office of Education and will make its own determinations

regarding the petition.(see, by way of example Education Code section 35710.)

3. Ms. Burke is not unmindful of the issues you have raised but after reviewing the law and consulting with the County of Marin she concluded that there was no process for removing names from a petition once the petition was submitted to her office.

If you have any questions both Terena Mares and I will be available to respond to you.

Robert J Henry
Counsel for the Marin County Office of Education
[redacted]

.



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East CM Redistricting Please remove my name from petition

[redacted]

Sun 10/30/2022 12:15 PM

To: [redacted]

Hi,

I misunderstood the petition based on neighbor s facts. Please remove the following names from the petition.

[redacted]

East Corte Madera / Petition signature

[redacted]

Fri 10/28/2022 6:01 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Dear Mary Jane Burke,

I believe I may have mistakenly signed the petition. This happened when someone rang our door when we had just moved to Corte Madera in April. This was before our [redacted] had even started at Reed. [redacted] started this September in [redacted] grade and without doubt we are e tremely thankful for the opportunity to have [redacted] in Reed school district. We wish this to continue.

Have a nice weekend and thank you for everything you do!

Best,

[redacted]

FW: East Corte Madera petition

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 8:13 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: East Corte Madera petition

Mary Jane and Terena,

Last night I received an email from [redacted], an RUSD parent and neighbor of mine in East Corte Madera, accusing me of misrepresenting the petition in East Corte Madera as "choice." I have never spoken to [redacted] about the petition or any other school related topics and he is emailing large groups of people in my neighborhood with this accusation. This is from his email, where he is urging neighbors to go to the CCSDO meeting tonight and publicly accuse individuals of misleading them:

"I also urge people to focus on the whole group…I.e. "the petitioners" and not just [redacted]. Together they can expect to face allegations of misrepresenting the petition as "choice."

They are as signed at the bottom of signature pages:
[redacted] *& new Chief Petitioner* [redacted]*."*

When I first wanted to learn more from my neighbors about their school district preference in the spring of 2022, I invited people who might be interested to a Zoom meeting. Some of the people who joined were from RUSD and did not support the petition effort - they know information was presented in this way. I clearly shared talking points for the redistricting petition and the text from the petition itself. Following is the script I asked people to use when asking for signatures:

"...It's really important to be informed and share known facts with our neighbors as we seek support on this petition...

Hi, my name is _____. I am a parent in the neighborhood and wish for my child to attend The Cove School and Hall Middle School. I am talking to our neighbors about changing the attendance boundaries to include our neighborhood as part of Larkspur Corte Madera School District. This would fix the mistake that our neighborhood should have been in The Cove School attendance boundary when it opened in 2014, just blocks from us. In fact, the flat streets of Marin Estates and other close-by neighbors are already a part of this district.

Having our kids be able to attend the school down the street is incredibly important to the families that live here and will live here in the future. We support community schools because we want to walk and bike to school, invest in our own neighborhood, and contribute to our local community alongside our neighbors. As it stands, 48 kids in our neighborhood attend LCM

schools on interdistrict transfers, 16 or so have requested new interdistrict transfers for the '22-23 school year, and families with future elementary students wish to. We currently are in the attendance boundaries for Reed Union School District in Tiburon, which is outside of our community.

Would you be willing to sign this petition, showing your support to change the attendance boundaries of Larkspur Corte Madera School District to include our neighborhood?"

When I spoke to people about signing the petition, with a copy of the actual petition in hand, I was clear about the redistricting message. Many neighbors were quick to sign and told stories about long ago struggling with transfers to LCSMD. Others said they go to private schools to avoid the RUSD vs LCMSD conundrum. Some neighbors chose not to sign as they didn't want to change attendance boundaries or didn't understand the petition.

Just yesterday, [redacted] told me she understood the petition to give school of choice. This was not my understanding.

We heard LCMSD board member and superintendent support for students in our neighborhood choosing their school at a May 18th board meeting. At that time, we did not know that Reed students could not/would not be guaranteed an IDT back to Reed. We did not yet have enough information to understand that.

Since late summer, I abandoned all efforts on the petition as I continued to talk to my neighbors about redistricting. In the meeting Terena held in late June regarding the redistricting process, I learned there is no way to guarantee students not get pulled out of their district. I find redistricting to be a flawed process in that all students must move to the new district immediately - I believe this is unfair, especially in between two amazing districts like RUSD and LCMSD where community seems to be the value most discussed amongst all families. While I still believe our neighborhood should be able to attend LCM schools K-8, I would never want to contribute to forcing students to join a new district when they are thriving where they are. I wholeheartedly value the relationships I have with my neighbors and realized the petition was no longer a path forward I could support.

It seems [redacted] has information that is not widely available to our neighborhood, like a copy of the petition and signatures. I also found information on the RUSD website that has not been sent out to the LCMSD community about the redistricting process, including that there is a CCSDO meeting tonight. I hope as this process continues, there is a way to share information with both districts and with our neighborhood so we all know what's happening and can participate as we choose.

Thank you for your guidance.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 1:22 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition

Dear RUSD Superintendent & Board Members

My name is [redacted] and I am a parent of a [redacted] at Bel Aire and a [redacted] at Reed. We live in the East Corte Madera neighborhood, and I'm writing to express my very strong opposition to the territory transfer of our neighborhood out of the RUSD.

First let me say, when we moved to East Corte Madera in 2010, we knew our neighborhood was part of RUSD, and we were thrilled. We felt so fortunate that our kids would get to be part of one of the best school districts in the state/country. Our kids love RUSD and have thrived there. They've made close friends, they've established relationships with teachers that they love, and they've become valuable members of the RUSD community. Over the years we've contributed our time as parent volunteers in school activities, in positions on the PTA, and made significant financial contributions to the schools. We cherish our inclusion in the Tiburon peninsula community that our neighborhood being part of RUSD makes possible. Redistricting the neighborhood out of RUSD would be devastating to our family and to the broader East Corte Madera neighborhood, which I believe benefits from being part of RUSD, while also having neighbors that attend other schools (whether private or at LCMSD through IDTs). It makes our neighborhood special.

Over the last three years our kids have endured unprecedented uncertainty and inconsistency in their lives, which has led to heightened stress and anxiety. Our kids have dealt with things like: [redacted] being shut-down mid-year, [redacted], changes in school schedules and masking & distancing rules, fears of bringing Covid home from school and infecting members of their families, classes being sent home due to Covid exposures, news of school shootings at elementary schools, and the list goes on. Needless to say, it has been challenging for the kids, especially younger ones, to navigate such a scary period.

And now we're going to consider pulling these same kids out of their schools… these kids that have endured these last 3 year… these kids that are finally getting back to some form of normalcy. What are we thinking? Are we intentionally trying to harm these children? How can this even be up for consideration?

The case for a territory transfer makes no sense and is not, in any way, in the best interest of the children. It's important to remember that everyone who lives in this community, particularly anyone who supports this territory transfer, knew that this neighborhood was part of RUSD when they moved here. And while I respect the decisions of the parents that applied for inter-district transfers for their children to LCMSD, it's also important to note that they knew the risks of their decisions. They knew they were transferring their children out of the district they belonged to. They knew that their children were not guaranteed to remain in LCMSD for their entire K-8 education. They knew that the IDT agreement between the districts could expire. So, when those risks became a reality because of LCMSD's refusal to accept the proposed IDT agreement, the solution cannot be to undo the system by redrawing district lines.

The territory transfer petition should be rejected. The LCMSD should accept the IDT agreement proposed. The children that are currently under IDTs should be allowed to remain in the LCMSD under the new IDT agreement, and the kids in RUSD should remain in RUSD.

This is the only solution that is actually in the best interest of all the children in the neighborhood, whether they currently attend RUSD schools or LCMSD schools.

We were all children once. Imagine being 8 years old again. Imagine being told that you are no longer allowed to go to your school because some grown-ups redrew the school boundary lines. Imagine how devastating that would be to you. Imagine how you would feel having your friends, your teachers, your world ripped away. This should not happen; it is morally abhorrent, cruel, and unnecessary.

Please do everything you can to fight this transfer.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 1:34 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: East Corte Madera redistricting

I do not want the area where I live to be redistricted. Please remove my name from the petition and be aware that I am not in support of this action. The preservation of choice is a good thing and needs protection. please stop taking steps to remove our childrens choices going forward.
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

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FW: East Corte Madera School Redistricting Status/Question

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke mjburke@marinschools org
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: East Corte Madera School Redistricting Status/Question

Hi Mary Jane,

[redacted] here our family lives in East Corte Madera ([redacted])

I called your office just now and they suggested I shoot you an email for efficiency sake, which makes total sense as I'm sure you're fielding a lot of calls.

After reading a variety of news articles, I simply wanted to get a better understanding of the status of this whole petition happening in the supposed attempt to redistrict East CM out of the Reed School District (For the record, we are against that and want to stay in the Reed School District....we have a [redacted] and moved here specifically to be part of Reed in the future)

Can I ask what next steps are in this process? It sounds like there are further negotiations sessions left is that between a group of representatives who want to redistrict as well as those who don't want to redistrict? I'm trying to wrap my head around who and how gets final decision here as well as process And what can a "compromise" look like and (again) who decides on that?

Any help here re scenario transparency would be greatly appreciated. As well as anything our family can do to put weight behind our own vote

Hope you're well

Best,
[redacted]

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East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition

[redacted]

Sun 10/30/2022 6:17 PM

[redacted]

Mary Jane Burke and Terena Mares,
After further consideration I request to have my name removed from the petition in question that I signed.
Please confirm back to me.
Regards

[redacted]

East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition

[redacted]

Sun 10/30/2022 6:24 PM

[redacted]

Mary Jane Burke and Terena Mares,

After further consideration I request to have my name removed from the petition in question that I signed.

Please confirm back to me.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:50 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Mary Jane Burke; Jon Lenz; Alexis Oberlander
Subject: East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition
Attachments: Petition signers - Will you please consider removing your signature.pdf

Dear [redacted]

We have enclosed a copy of your letter, in which you ask residents of East Corte Madera to consider deleting their names on the petition regarding territory transfer to Larkspur Corte Madera. As you may know, the petition with the signatures and addresses should never have been made public. Because of this, we are asking you to delete or destroy any copy of the petition that contains the names and addresses of those who signed the petition. In addition, once the petition was received by the Marin County Office of Education on October 27, 2022, it was no longer possible for petitioners to have their names removed from the petition.

The Marin County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) has schedule two public hearings on the substance of the petition, and you may present your concerns regarding the signature-gathering process at that time.

Terena Mares
Senior Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee
County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835

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[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 10, 2022 at 11:12:30 AM PST
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Petition signers Will you please consider removing your signature?

Dear [redacted],

I noticed that you signed the redistricting petition. Will you please reconsider? Many neighbors felt misled and assumed that the petition was for choice

If you are in favor of having our neighborhood be part of the LCM school district and not RUSD, then no action

[redacted] (CC'd) presented the petition to you in early June

On Monday, I spoke with [redacted] and he seemed to agree that if people didn't fully understand that the redistricting petition does not guarantee choice, and if they request to have their signature removed, it should be removed.

I verbally asked [redacted] to send a formal communication to Mary Jane Burke at mjburke@marinschools.org and Terena Mares at tmares@marinschools org with his recommendation to honor signature removal requests I hope he has done this.

BUT, if you want your house to remain part of RUSD school district, please send an email to Mary Jane Burke at mjburke@marinschools org and Terena Mares at tmares@marinschools org and ask to have your signature removed.

Here's more information. I've attached the petition and the signature page with your name on it. Happy to discuss if you have questions

Here's instructions and website for more information https //www reedschools org/Page/2217

DR MCGRATH'S COMMUNICATION TO THE STAFF AND COMMUNITY ON OCTOBER 28, 2022

On Thursday, October 27th some East Corte Madera residents submitted a territory transfer petition to the County Superintendent. This petition would redraw the boundary lines for a large section of East Corte Madera. This would redistrict these neighborhoods from Reed Union School District to Larkspur Corte Madera School District Mary Jane Burke with the Marin County Office of Education will forward the territory transfer petition to the elections office Signatures need to be validated in 30 days If you signed the petition understanding that this redraws the line for all families, then we respect your opinion as a citizen of East Corte Madera. I have heard from a number of residents that they signed the petition based on misunderstanding If that is the case for you, you should contact Mary Jane Burke at mjburke@marinschools.org and Terena Mares at tmares@marinschools.org if you are interested in removing your name from the petition If 25% of the signatures from the impacted territory are valid, the redistricting process will continue. One of the first steps will be public hearings that will take place in both school districts.

Thanks for your help. [redacted]



Inside: » 5 juveniles, 1 adult arrested in Novato school stabbing »

Cool, and more rain likely this weekend

Say hello to Bob's Donuts in Mill Valley

Exec was key to 49ers' dynasty

WAKE UP WITH IJ

Marin Independent Journal

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

marinij.com

LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA

It's 'tearing our neighborhood apart'

Parents file petition in dispute over school district boundary

AFTERMATH OF DEATH

COURT FILING

[redacted]

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 7:07 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: East Corte Madera

Hello,

I am a parent of [redacted] in the RUSD.
Although we live in Tiburon and don't have to wonder if there is a chance that our neighborhood will be redistricted, I feel for the East Corte Madera (ECM) families that go to RUSD schools and want to stay in the RUSD. There is a very small percentage of ECM Cove families that are trying to rezonw their neighborhood so they can all go to the Cove school instead of RUSD. They are speaking for a minority. I know the ECM families that go to Reed want to stay there - it's a top district with the best academic support and stability . If I were in their shoes I would also be upset if a small group was potentially taking that away from my family/kids.
In a perfect world a compromise would be to let the ECM families zoned for RUSD decide which school they want to go to (Cove or Tiburon). I know that is easier said then done.

Thank you in advance for not agreeing to remove the ECM families from our district.

Best,

[redacted]

Fwd: ECM Resident Strongly Opposing Redistricting

[redacted]

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 23, 2022 at 8:38:30 AM PST
To: [redacted]
Subject: ECM Resident Strongly Opposing Redistricting

Hi Dr. McGrath,

We are an ECM family with a [redacted] at Reed and we want to express our strong opposition to redistricting our neighborhood to LCMSD.

Since starting at Reed Elementary, our [redacted] has thrived and grown in ways that bring us great joy. The community that [redacted] and we have built in the Reed family has been tremendous.

Prior to our [redacted] attending Reed, and solely based on the distance to school, we had requested an IDT. However, our IDT was denied by LCMSD, and this was a true blessing! We have met wonderful families in the community who have introduced us to the bus

system, carpool, after-school care, and activities and have helped make the [redacted] transition a smooth success.

Our [redacted] loves everything about [redacted] Reed experience, and we so very much hope that we can remain in RUSD to best prepare [redacted] for Redwood HS and beyond.

We appreciate your time and support and wish everyone on this email a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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[redacted]:
Subject: FW: ECM Resident Strongly Opposing Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 8:58:37 AM
Attachments: image001.png

[redacted]
Marin County Office of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 499-5850

From: Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 8:45 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: ECM Resident Strongly Opposing Redistricting

Terena Mares
Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education
tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835
C | 530.409.7604

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 23, 2022 at 8:38:30 AM PST
To: rusdsuperintendent@reedschools.org, Kimberly McGrath <kmcgrath@reedschools.org>
Cc: [redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: ECM Resident Strongly Opposing Redistricting

Hi Dr. McGrath,

We are an ECM family with a [redacted] at Reed and we want to express our strong opposition to redistricting our neighborhood to LCMSD.

Since starting at Reed [redacted] our [redacted] has thrived and grown in ways that bring us great joy. The community that [redacted] and we have built in the Reed family has been tremendous.

Prior to our [redacted] attending Reed, and solely based on the distance to school, we had requested an IDT. However, our IDT was denied by LCMSD, and this was a true blessing! We have met wonderful families in the community who have introduced us to the bus system, carpool, after-school care, and activities and have helped make the [redacted] transition a smooth success.

Our [redacted] loves everything about her Reed experience, and we so very much hope that we can remain in RUSD to best prepare [redacted] for Redwood HS and beyond.

We appreciate your time and support and wish everyone on this email a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 4:45 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Do Not Validate the East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition - Facts

Hi Mary,

Were you able to discuss new information (see below) with Robert Henry or other council last week before the holiday, to reconsider the petition "not sufficient"? I believe you still have the authority, time, and legal pathway with new info to amend your 11/11 letter now to Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond at the State Board. Specifically your and Terena's help/direction to the petitioners on 6/10 to substantially change the petition, you may not have known they already collected 68 signatures at that time and they then swapped petitions, if this is new info to you please consider a "not sufficient" update. This detail is in direct conflict with CCSDO website Q&A (copy pasted below). Plenty of additional options below as well (also many signature collection laws apply). Only 20 signatures need removal to be under 25%. There are a huge amount of resources being spent against this petion across my 900 ECM neighbors and RUSD, CCSSO can still do the right thing now and help the community and to avoid public hearings. Thank you kindly for considering,

Is it permitted to change the territory description and attach it to sign were signed based on a previous version of the petition?

No.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hi Bob, Thank you for letting me know. There do seem to be *new* details you should talk to Mary and CCSDO about today. We are within the 30days of the education code, Mary still has the authority to amend now. Specifically consider these reasons:

For item 3 below, the 68 signatures, CCSDO knows significant changes were made to the petition on 6/10/22, Terena and Mary Jane Burke recommended them. They likely didn't know on 6/10 there were already 68 signatures collected, but they know as of monday or today. This in direct conflict with CCSDO Q&A posted 11/22/22: ***"Is it permitted to change the territory description and attach it to signatures that were signed based on a previous version of the petition? Response: "No."***

For Item 2 below, the 'false statement' precedent seems abundant enough for you to use, so there is a basis in the law, and the 27 signatures [redacted] collected should be removed. Also the +/- 100 emails Mary and Terena received requesting removal should be considered if they noted "false statements' in their email request.

You had offered to respond to questions, apologies there were all very specific. Only 20 signatures need removal to be under 25%, plenty of reasons available. There are a huge amount of resources being spent against this petion across my 900 ECM neighbors and also all of Tiburon, CCSSO can still do the right thing on this matter now, the vast-vast majority of this community would like to NOT fiercely prepare and go to public hearings when this petition is so obviously 'not sufficient' petition. Can you confirm you will share this new info with the CCSDO committee large group?

Hope you have and your family have a great Thanksgiving.

[redacted]

On Wed, Nov 23, 2022 at 8:42 AM Bob Henry [redacted] wrote:

Hello [redacted]

You may not be a lawyer but you have a good eye for the issues. I am not going to respond to each of your questions but I will represent to you that the issues presented by you were all evaluated before the petition was found to be “sufficient”.

At this point the county superintendent of schools has transmitted the petition to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization and her office no longer has jurisdiction over the “sufficiency” of the petition.

Going forward the County Committee will hold public hearings and then make a final determination, as provided by Education Code sections 36710 and 35753.

Bob Henry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 21, 2022, at 10:51 AM, [redacted] > wrote:
>
> Hi Mr. Henry, I suppose I do have a few quick questions. And apologies in advance, I'm not a lawyer.
>
> 1. EC35704 has an A,B,C part to item 2. The A part in my mind is seperate from B (elections office) and it establishes Mary Jane Burkes Authority to

separately 'determine' this petition 'sufficient" or "not sufficient" based on a number of factual inputs. Would you agree Mary Jane Burke has this separate authority for her to determine?

2. The 11/11 notice of sufficiency uses the 27 signatures that [redacted] has requested verbally and in writing to be removed on 11/7, due to 'false statements'. I believe there is legal precedent that pertains specifically to this, and would allow for these signature removals now. Could you explain why these signatures were deemed 'sufficient' by Mary Jane Burke?
3. 68 signatures were gathered on the 'old petition' before 6/10/22 when substantial changes were made to the document by the petitioners, I believe. Could you explain why these 68 signatures were deemed 'sufficient'?
4. Can you share any other documents with me, by chance? Is it only the education code that applies or do broader state petition laws also apply?

There are 7 days left in the 30 day code, though it's a long shot, I still hope for Mary Jane Burke/Terena to amend the 11/11 letter and call this 'not sufficient'. Public hearings seem so unneeded for our community. Thanks kindly in advance for a quick reply and happy early thanksgiving.

[redacted]

On Mon, Nov 14, 2022 at 12:47 PM Robert Henry [redacted] wrote:

Hello [redacted] --

Mary Jane Burke forwarded to me your letter of November 12, 2022 and she asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

1.First, as I am sure you are now aware, on November 10, 2022 the Marin County Registrar of Voters did verify that the petition in question contained sufficient signatures and she issued her Certificate of Petition Verification (copy attached).

On November 11, 2022 Mary Jane Burke, in her capacity as Marin County Superintendent of Schools, and under the authority of Education Code section 35704, advised both the Marin County Committee on School District Organization and the State Board of Education of the signature verification and her determination that the petition was "sufficient" (copy attached). In light of this action, which took place a day before your request, this matter now rests with the Marin County Committee on School District Organization.

2. In your letter you request the Marin County Board of Education to "immediately invalidate the 10/27 petition." Please be advised that, unlike K-12 school districts, where the code makes it clear that school district superintendents report to and are supervised by the district school board, the Marin County Superintendent of Schools is separately elected and constitutes a separate legal entity from the Marin County Board of Education. While the code sections dealing with transfers of territory between school districts define a narrow role for the county superintendent of schools, as noted in Education Code section 35704, it defines no role for the county board of education. In this regard the county superintendent of schools serves as secretary to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization, but the Committee is a separate entity from the County Office of Education and will make its own

determinations regarding the petition.(see, by way of example Education Code section 35710.)

3. Ms. Burke is not unmindful of the issues you have raised but after reviewing the law and consulting with the County of Marin she concluded that there was no process for removing names from a petition once the petition was submitted to her office.

If you have any questions both Terena Mares and I will be available to respond to you.

Robert J Henry
Counsel for the Marin County Office of Education
[redacted]

.

[redacted]

On Sat, Nov 12, 2022 at 9:12 PM [redacted] wrote:

Hi Mary and Marin Board,

The attached letter requests an immediate stop to the petition submitted on 10.27. Please consider invalidation before a choice you make for public hearings. Doing the right thing (now) is well within your right. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

[redacted]

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Do Not Validate the East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition - Facts

[redacted]

Sat 11/12/2022 9:12 PM

To: Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>

Cc: [redacted]

1 attachments (785 KB)

20221110 [redacted] Letter to Marin School Board.pdf;

Hi Mary and Marin Board,

The attached letter requests an immediate stop to the petition submitted on 10.27. Please consider invalidation before a choice you make for public hearings. Doing the right thing (now) is well within your right. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

[redacted]

November 12th, 2022

Attn: Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Office of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Ave,
San Rafael, CA 94903
Sent Via email
Sent Via Certified USPS Mail

Re: Do Not Validate the East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition - Facts

Dear Mary,

I request your board immediately invalidate the 10/27 petition. Do Not validate this based on the below and attached facts. Validation is obviously not simply an exercise in voter status. You have the authority to do what is right now. Using one or all the below facts, please invalidate the petition, do not move forward with public hearings:

1) Signature gatherer [redacted] requested you, the board, remove all 27 signatures on 5 pages which she gathered. [redacted] request was made to the board in writing and also verbally in public hearing on 11/07/22 in San Rafael. Please remove BEFORE validation on 11/28.
    a. [redacted] requested based on the false information she gave to signers about choice, and that they were not shown the real petition, they were presented only with information this was for "choice". Please remove all pages of signatures [redacted] collected now, do not validate this petition using these five pages of 27 signatures.
2) Petition gathers have swapped the real petition after it was signed. What was shown to (very few of) the signer's is attachment 1A. Without the signer's permission, in October, the chief petitioners swapped the petition with major fundamental changes, petitioners did not get the permission of the signers for these changes. Please invalidate.
3) 11/7/22 [redacted] statement, as I said to you all, I personally spoke to 20 neighbors on Granada, Endeavor, and endeavor cove, only. I went to every door, on 11/4 and 11/5 dates to discuss (prior to the petition upload, so anonymously). This is only 20 % or less of our area. Not a single person I spoke to in this area knew the petition was for full redistricting, everyone that signed thought it was for "choice". Many didn't sign because the facts didn't line up. The signers all felt betrayed, and have since emailed you the board, for signature removal. You have received removal requests from the signers, please comply before validating.
4) 11/7/22 neighbor statements said to the board, you, by 12+ ECM neighbors stating they have requested their signatures removed, based on a clearly misleading petition. Many were not shown the actual petition. All these email requests are in addition to those [redacted] spoke with, and combined are still only the tip of the iceberg for this neighborhood.

Please do not validate this petition, it is clearly invalid. You DO have the authority to do what is right now, before your 11/28 deadline. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the contents of this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me, my [redacted] Please keep this letter confidential.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[redacted]

CC: Marin Board & Committee Members:

[redacted]

Attachments: 1A) June /.July Petition, presented to signers. 1B) October Petition, submitted

Attachment 1A

PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

To the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County:

Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 35700, subdivision (a), the undersigned, constituting at least 25 percent of the registered electors residing in the territory proposed to be transferred, now within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, Marin County, petition that the boundaries of the Reed Union School District be changed to eliminate from it the territory hereinafter described. The undersigned persons petition that the territory be transferred to and included within the Larkspur Corte Madera School District of Marin County.

The property to be transferred is described as follows:
The territory is in east Corte Madera, California. It is south of Paradise Drive, between El Camino Drive and Westward Drive, an area that includes the following streets:



- Granada Drive
- Sonora Way
- El Camino Dr
- Vista Court
- Prince Royal Drive
- Windward Drive
- Paradise Drive
- Verona Place
- Endeavor Drive
- Endeavor Cove
- Granada Park
- Constitution Drive
- Windward Drive
- Buccaneer Ct
- Enterprise Drive
- Mariner Green Drive
- Mariner Green Court
- Westward Drive
- Balclutha Drive
- Privateer Drive

The undersigned request the changes in the respective boundaries of the school districts for the following reasons:

1. The territory is geographically part of the Town of Corte Madera and therefore should be included in the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. This neighborhood should attend their community schools. The distance from this territory to the Reed Union School District requires us to leave our community for school. Ring Mountain is a natural barrier between our neighborhood and Tiburon, separating this neighborhood from a true community experience with the Reed Union School District.
2. The Cove School (of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District) opened in 2014 and has close proximity to this territory. It is on average less than 1 mile (a range of 0.2 - 1.1 miles) from our territory to The Cove School, whereas it is on average over 5 miles (a range of 4.9-5.9 miles) to Reed Elementary of the Reed Union School District. It is in the best interest of kids to attend their community school and to then continue in the district through 8th grade for social/emotional growth and educational consistency. Additionally, Hall Middle School of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District is on average a half a mile closer (a range of .2 - 1 miles closer) than Del Mar of Reed Union School District.
3. Some streets in this neighborhood are already in the attendance boundaries for the Larkspur Corte

Madera School District. Incorporating these streets into the district is a continuation of the attendance boundaries that would bring our neighborhood back together so everyone in the Marin Estates, Mariner Green, and East Corte Madera Hillside subdivisions would attend the same school district as other neighborhoods in Corte Madera.

The Chief Petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are: [redacted], [redacted]

Name Residence address *For office use only*

1 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

2 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

3 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

4 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

5 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

6 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

7 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

I, _____, state as follows:

(1) That my residence address is: _____ (2) That I circulated the foregoing petition and saw the appended signatures being written. (3) That according to my best information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the

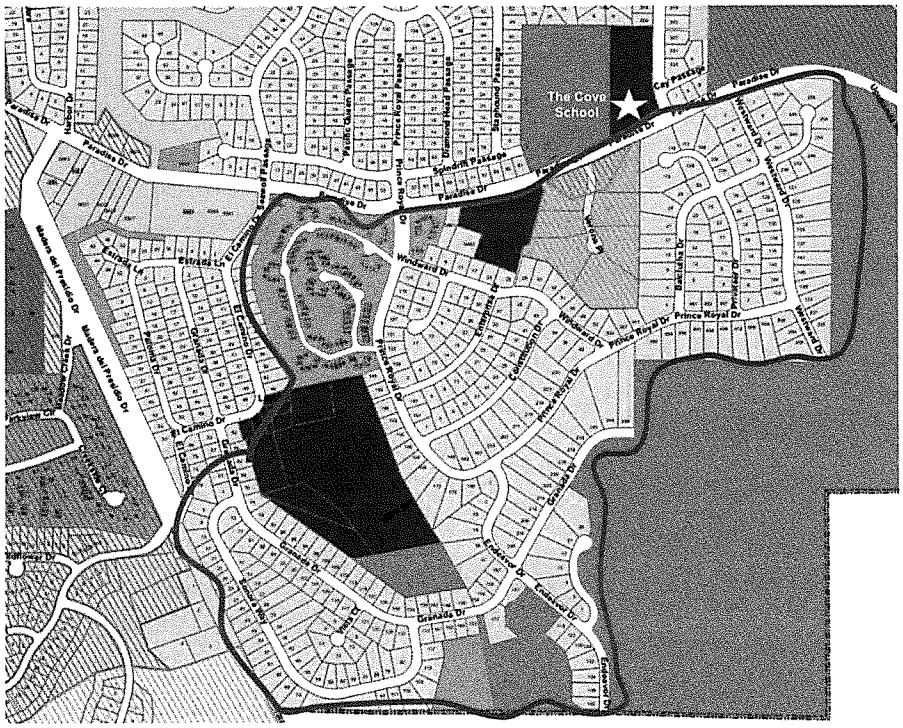
Attachment 1B

PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

To the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County:

Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 35700, subdivision (a), the undersigned, constituting at least 25 percent of the registered electors residing in the territory proposed to be transferred, now within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, Marin County, petition that the boundaries of the Reed Union School District be changed to eliminate from it the territory hereinafter described. The undersigned persons petition that the territory be transferred to and included within the Larkspur Corte Madera School District of Marin County.

The property to be transferred is described as follows:
The territory is in east Corte Madera, California. It is south of Paradise Drive, between El Camino Drive and Westward Drive, an area that includes the following addresses:



- Granada Drive #58-248
- Sonora Way (all) #1-117
- El Camino Dr #50-61, 76-78
- Vista Court (all) #1-14
- Prince Royal Dr. #51-508
- Verona Place (all) #1-7
- Endeavor Drive (all) #1-142
- Endeavor Cove (all) #1-25
- Constitution Drive (all) #1-45
- Windward Drive (all) #1-53
- Buccaneer Ct (all) #1-17
- Enterprise Drive (all) #1-37
- Mariner Green Drive (all) #1-116
- Mariner Green Court (all) #118-162
- Westward Drive (all) #1-208
- Balclutha Drive (all) #1-258
- Privateer Drive (all)#1-116

The undersigned request the changes in the respective boundaries of the school districts for the following reasons:

1. The territory is geographically part of the Town of Corte Madera and therefore should be included in the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. This neighborhood should attend their community schools. The distance from this territory to the Reed Union School District requires us to leave our community for school. Ring Mountain is a natural barrier between our neighborhood and Tiburon, separating this neighborhood from a true community experience with the Reed Union School District.
2. The Cove School (of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District) opened in 2014 and has close proximity to this territory. It is on average less than 1 mile (a range of 0.2 - 1.1 miles) from our territory to The Cove School, whereas it is on average over 5 miles (a range of 4.9-5.9 miles) to Reed Elementary of the Reed Union School District. It is in the best interest of kids to attend their community school and to then continue in the district through 8th grade for social/emotional growth and educational consistency. Additionally, Hall Middle School of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District is on average a half a mile closer (a range of .2 - 1 miles closer) than Del Mar of Reed Union School District.
3. Some streets in this neighborhood are already in the attendance boundaries for the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. Incorporating these streets into the district is a continuation of the attendance

boundaries that would bring our neighborhood back together so everyone in the Marin Estates, Mariner Green, and East Corte Madera Hillside subdivisions would attend the same school district as other neighborhoods in Corte Madera.

The Chief Petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are:

1. Craig Blok
2. Heather Armstrong Choate [redacted]
3. Paul Burton

[redacted]

Fwd: Petition to Redistrict Corte Madera out of Reed School District

[redacted]
Fri 10/28/2022 4:32 PM
To: [redacted]

Hi Terena,

Pleasure to connect. I am a parent based in Corte Madera with [redacted] attending REED schools and currently am [redacted].

We just heard the news that the petition was submitted to redistrict the REED schools. As a household who was solicited to sign the petition, I am writing to call to your attention the fact that the petition itself was mis marketed as representing a choice to transfer vs a full redistricting. As the below note to Dr. McGrath states, we did not sign the petition. However, many of our neighbors did so under false pretenses. They did so because they believed they were supporting their neighbors' right to choose (as was communicated by those soliciting the signatures). I can attest that when the petition was brought around, it was done so with the statement "please sign the petition so we can have a choice" when in fact it was a petition asking for redistricting.

Since signing, many have asked for their signatures to be redacted, but those in charge of the petition have not honored their requests. Based on how the petition was organized, communicated and e ecuted, we consider it to be deceptive and fraudulent.

As you can imagine, redistricting would have a severe impact on many families in the Corte Madera area. Personally, we purchased our property specifically because it was in the REED school district.

We ask that you take into consideration the nature of how this petition came to be and take a close look at its validity. We appreciate you reviewing the issue.

Happy to have further conversation.

Best
[redacted]

Forwarded message
From: [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jun 17, 2022 at 12:17 PM
Subject: Petition to Redistrict Corte Madera out of Reed School District
[redacted]

Hi Dr. McGrath,

My wife, [redacted] and I are parents of [redacted] and reside in the area potentially impacted by the Reed School redistricting. We were unable to attend the recent meeting unfortunately, but are looking forward to watching once the recording is released.

I was just [redacted] and want to forward you the note I sent today regarding our personal experience with the proposal and process. We would be significantly impacted should the proposal pass. In addition, we are extremely concerned by the manner in which the proposal is being presented and parents are being misled.

We welcome your thoughts on actions we can take to prevent this from happening.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Hi team,

Hope everyone is off to a great summer

I want to bring an important topic to the [redacted] attention I know this is being discussed at a RUSD board level as a note went out from the superintendent, but also want to ensure that everyone here is aware as well.

A petition is actively being circulated in Corte Madera to redistrict the school district lines and therefore reassign those in Corte Madera who are currently districted for Reed over to Corte Madera schools My family lives in this district and my two daughters, [redacted] would be impacted.

A few notes being one of the families approached to sign the petition:

1. First and foremost, we did not sign the petition. Our family moved here from the city specifically to afford our [redacted] the opportunity to attend the Reed School District. My wife and I are active volunteers, donors and participants in the community. The idea of moving completely defeats the purpose of our being here.
2. The petition was presented to us promoting an **option** for those impacted to **individually choose** which district they want to attend. Our understanding is that **this information is false.** The petition is to approve complete redistricting of the impacted area, with **no option to choose.** There are now angry parents who signed the petition based upon false information and feel they've been duped/misled into signing.
3. The parent who approached us to sign said it was because he wanted his son to be in the same area as his classmates and around his baseball team. He had no awareness of the quality of education that the Reed program offers and his motivation was purely circumstantial and for convenience - belief that your kid should have the opportunity to walk to school.
4. The individual said that the Reed schools were a far commute. My wife and I have two full time jobs – we make the 10-minute commute– it is not significant. In addition he had no awareness of the bus program, which we have utilized as well.
5. The petition was circulated during the summer, which we find very convenient, given the fact that the school is closed and there therefore isn't an opportunity for parents to discuss on a

broader level.

My wife and I grew up attending public schools that ranged from mediocre to very poor (and despite this, found ways out to attend highly ranked academic universities). We significantly value the importance of access to resources and know how much it matters. Bottom line is that we highly value education and the experience the Reed program has given us. We are very concerned that this petition is being circulated, and even more concerned by the manner in which the proposal is being falsely presented and parents are being misled.

I appreciate your attention and welcome any thoughts/feedback.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 2:45 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: IDT redistricting Petition- name removal

Mary Jane,
Happy Friday, I hope you are well.
I saw your name listed as the contact if we signed the re-districting petition and wanted our name removed.
I signed it a few months ago without understanding the details of what the petition was about and recommending.

Can you help me remove my name from the petition?

Thank you.

[redacted]

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Alexis Oberlander

From: Mary Jane Burke
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Terena Mares
Cc: Alexis Oberlander
Subject: FW: K-8 School Redistricting Petition

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>; Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>
Subject: K-8 School Redistricting Petition

Ms. Burke and Ms. Mares,

I am writing to request that my name be removed from the East Corte Madera K-8 School Redistricting Petition. I was not aware of the full ramifications of the petition when I signed it. Thank you.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:55 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: K-8 School Redistricting Petition Removal

Hi - I think I signed this petition and would like my name removed.

My contact information is below:
[redacted]

Best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:31 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: k-8 school redistricting petition

Dear Mary Jane & Terena
I would like to withdraw my signature from the petition regardin k-8 school redistricting circulated in June 2022. I was misinformed about the true intent of the petition.
Thank you,

[redacted]


Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 3:18 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: K-8 School Redistricting Petition

Ms. Burke and Ms. Mares,

I am writing to request that my name be removed from the East Corte Madera K-8 School Redistricting Petition. I was not aware of the full ramifications of the petition when I signed it. Thank you.

[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke
Subject: K-8 school redistricting

Mary Jane,

I would like to be removed from the K-8 School Redistricting petition:

[redacted]

Please confirm that my name is removed. Thanks,

[redacted]

Mary Jane Burke

To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: East CM Redistricting Plea
Attachments: Territory Transfer Flowchart A.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Thank you so much for your outreach. I appreciate you taking the time share your thoughts about redistricting a portion of Corte Madera. Please be assured the education code provides the process for these types of requests. I have attached a PDF of the flow chart that outlines the process.

Again, thanks for your email.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane

Mary Jane Burke (she/her/hers)
Marin County Superintendent of Schools
415-499-5801
@burkemaryjane
-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 9:39 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>
Subject: East CM Redistricting Plea

Dear Mary Jane,

My name is [redacted] I have a [redacted] who is in [redacted] grade at the Cove and a [redacted] that will be entering [redacted] in the fall. We live in east Corte Madera on the hill behind Nugget on [redacted] (which is of course districted for Reed).

I wanted to express my immense support for the redistricting plan which aims to place our Corte Madera neighborhood into the Corte Madera school district.

I understand the history behind the current zoning, however in today's environment I cannot think of any logical reason for children to be required to go to a school that is not in their town and not with their community. And, even more so when you take into account they are unable to attend a school which is currently a 3 minute drive (or a safe and easy bike ride for our [redacted]), but rather are required to endure an hour long commute (whether it would be the bus that leaves at 7am or sitting in traffic on Tiburon Blvd). I realize that there are issues at hand such as taxes and funds that Tiburon expects from us, however this is coming at the expense of children. {Of my [redacted] for just one example, who currently leaves our house at 7:45 on [redacted] bike after a good sleep and breakfast and meets up with friends from our neighborhood and Madera del presidio and then swings by to get their friends from Mariner Cove and heads to school, then after school has sports and activities with those same friends and classmates all over Corte Madera and Larkspur.} As has come into stark light over these past two years, the social and emotional well being of our children is so crucial to a healthy and safe childhood. Community is so integral to all of that.

Furthermore, I am a working [redacted] and I try to be as present for my children as possible. The added stress of a commute and not being a part of the community where I can rely on friendships, carpooling, and support like I do now, is a huge burden for all working [redacted].

My [redacted] has attended the cove for the last three years [redacted] and I cannot imagine ripping [redacted] from [redacted] friends, teachers, community and our village next year or when [redacted] gets to Hall, or any point. And similarly for my [redacted], for [redacted] to not get a sense of the community and experience that [redacted] has had is heartbreaking.

I truly hope you will consider using your position to advocate for our children, for the whole child and their childhood experience.

Thank you so much for reading this.

My best,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Mary Jane Burke

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 12:06 PM
To: Caroline Glassell
Cc: Alexis Oberlander
Subject: RE: LCM School - East Corte Madera

Hello [redacted]

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. The County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) has not yet received a petition to change the boundaries between the Reed and Larkspur-Corte Madera School Districts. If a valid petition is received and is forwarded to the County Committee, I will include your email as information for the County Committee to consider in making their decision. To provide you with information related to the process for changing school boundaries, I am providing a link to a Territory Transfer Webinar and Territory Transfer Presentation, held this past Wednesday, on June 15, 2022. I hope this information and recording helps to respond to your concerns and provides you with information for how you can make your voice heard during the public hearing process, should a petition come forth.

Best,
Terena

Terena Mares
Senior Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee
County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835
C | 530.409.7604

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 11:10 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: LCM School - East Corte Madera

Hi Terena,

I have [redacted] who have and still are attending Reed School & Bel Aire school (RUSD) in Tiburon, we live at [redacted]

That house was purchased because of its location and that it belongs to Reed School district which my [redacted] have been attending for 6 years to date. We want to ensure the [redacted] can continue attending Reed School district (RUSD) and we are committed to doing so for at least another 6 years.

We do NOT want to be in the LCM school district. We ask that the county rejects this petition when/if it gets to them because we feel the presentation of it while signatures were collected was misleading.
Instead we encourage you to speak to families who actually live in East Corte Madera who have kids in Tiburon School district. It would not be fair to switch their school whilst we committed to living in East CM because of the fact it belongs to Tiburon School district (RUSD), it would not be a kind decision to have these children move out of their school district at this age group where friendships, routines and stability is essential for their development.
Moreso, you would be ripping the neighborhood apart by supporting this territory transfer.

Please let me know how I can help to keep East Corte Madera in the Reed school district.

Best,

[redacted]


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(No subject)

[redacted]

Sun 10/30/2022 3:34 PM

To: Terena Mares tmares@marinschools.org ;Superintendents Office <superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org>

Cc: [redacted]

Dear Mary Jane and Terena,

We live in one of the East Corte Madera neighborhoods that is part of the redistricting petition. I was approached about the petition and did not sign it, and would like to let you know how it was positioned to me. I do not know the [redacted] name who talked with me, [redacted] positioned it as a request to give families in our neighborhood the choice of either going to the Reed schools or the Larkspur/Corte Madera schools, basically a “school choice”. [redacted] did not tell me that this was a petition to re-district our neighborhood. We are NOT in agreement with the information in this petition and are very concerned about this misinformation. Our [redacted] currently attends [redacted] and we love being part of the Reed Union School district.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

Fwd: Opposition to East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition

[redacted]

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 22, 2022 at 11:14:37 AM PST
To: [redacted]
Subject: Opposition to East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition

To the Board Members,
I understand the Marin County Committee Board on School District Organization will be holding two hearings on the petition to redistrict a portion of East Corte Madera from the RUSD into the LCMSD. I strongly oppose the petition and am forwarding to you, for your consideration, a letter I submitted to the RUSD Superintendent and Board regarding my position. This issue is about more than just what school children will attend, it will affect the home values and property taxes for every homeowner in our neighborhood.
Please do not approve the petition. Thank you.

[redacted]

Dear Dr. McGrath,

I live in East Corte Madera and I oppose this petition. We purchased our home in 1997, and were exclusively looking for homes within the RUSD because of its excellent reputation. Once we discovered that our hillside neighborhood was within the RUSD boundaries, we decided on East Corte Madera because we could afford more home here than we could in Tiburon. During escrow, I even called the RUSD offices to confirm that we were located within school boundaries, and that they had no foreseeable plans to change that. All [redacted] attended and thrived at the three RUSD schools, from kindergarten through eighth grade. RUSD has maintained and even improved its reputation over the years. It has lowered class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios, raised resources per child, kept smaller, friendlier campuses, and created a huge selection of after-school activities and sports, not to mention an additional year of public school for four-year olds.

While I and many of my neighbors no longer have school-aged children, the redistricting affects all of our neighborhood. Our home is our largest asset, and I believe that the proposed redistricting will increase our property taxes and reduce our home's values, because many buyers specifically look for properties in RUSD due to its outstanding state-wide reputation.

According to the figures listed in Marin County Tax statements sent out for the time period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, my property taxes — locked in since 1997 per Prop. 13 -- would be raised by approximately $473.04 if this petition is successful. RUSD parcel taxes are currently $624.58 and the bond rate is .0766 of the basic tax. LCMSD parcel taxes are currently $910.00 and the bond rate is .1018 of the basic tax. In other words, we're getting significantly more bang for our buck with RUSD.

There are 475 homes in the petitioned area. Of those homes, only 27 have children who currently attend LCMSD. The parents in the 27 homes were all aware that their homes were within RUSD boundaries when they purchased or moved in. There are approximately 90 children that attend RUSD out-numbering the 39 who attend LCMSD in our neighborhood. The petition would allow 39 children who currently attend LCMSD to continue there, but would put 90 children who currently attend RUSD at risk of being yanked from their schools. There is no guarantee that the 90 children would be able to continue their education in their RUSD schools. California Education Code does not allow for any school district to extend an inter-district transfer (IDT) beyond 5 years, including under LCMSD BP 5117. During the IDT negotiations, LCMSD made a proposal to RUSD to allow the current students to continue their education. But, when RUSD agreed to the proposal, it was rejected by LCMSD. I believe that once the petition was filed, LCMSD saw the potential to capture all of the property taxes from our neighborhood, not just those from the 27 homes with children attending LCMSD schools.

Please do not approve this petition or allow it to go forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

[redacted]
t



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Alexis Oberlander

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Alexis Oberlander
Subject: FW: Opposition to Proposed Territory Transfer

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 1:34 PM
To: rusdsuperintendent@reedschools.org; Kimberly McGrath <kmcgrath@reedschools.org>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Territory Transfer

Dr. McGrath,

I'm a parent of [redacted] who attend [redacted] at Bel Aire Elementary. I'm reaching out to voice my strong opposition to the potential territory transfer of the East Corte Madera neighborhood out of RUSD.

[redacted] we moved from San Francisco specifically to East Corte Madera to attend school in the RUSD district. My [redacted] are thriving! They've made close friends, play [redacted] on community teams, participate in the [redacted] and socialize with their peers outside of school. They each have different academic needs, and RUSD provides the perfect amount of support and challenge for both of them. They're enmeshed in the community and feel a sense of security and inclusion within their social, sports and academic circles.

On the cusp of [redacted], being pulled from the district would be destabilizing to their mental health and happiness, truly catastrophic for them. As their parent, I'm vehemently opposed to this happening. They're looking forward with excitement to attending Del Mar and continuing their education and social life with their friends.

The East Corte Madera neighborhood has been a part of RUSD for decades. Generations of children from our neighborhood have attended RUSD schools. There is absolutely no need to change it now.

I'm happy to discuss my perspective, if it's helpful, and will make myself available at any convenient time.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

P Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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petition - please remove our name ([redacted]

[redacted]

Mon 10/31/2022 6:46 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Dear Mary-Jane Burke and Terena,
We are residents of East Corte Madera and have [redacted] in the RUSD and [redacted] at Redwood this year.

Our children enjoy attending Reed schools and have over the all their years of education (since K!) We could not be more proud of the quality education they receive!

I'm writing to ask if you would please remove our names from the petition (for ECM families to leave RUSD.) I'm not 100% sure if we signed it or not. Though if we did, it was certainly by accident. We love RUSD and very much want to stay there!!

Thank you.
Kindest regards,
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 6:39 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Re: Petition adjustment

Thank you!

> On Jun 15, 2022, at 6:13 PM, [redacted] wrote:
>
> [redacted]
>
> No problem. Your signature will be removed from the petition before it is submitted. I am sorry your understanding was not what we described in the petition. Appreciate you reaching out to clarify your position.
>
> Best,
>
> [redacted]
>
>
>
>> On Jun 15, 2022, at 3:47 AM, [redacted] wrote:
>>
>> Hi, [redacted]
>>
>> It has recently been brought to my attention that the petition I signed on your request earlier this month proposes redistributing our East Corte Madera neighborhood. I signed the petition with the understanding that it proposed offering neighborhood families a choice between Reed and CM/Larkspur schools rather than a wholesale shift from one district to the other. Given my updated understanding, I would like to withdraw my support of the petition and request that my signature be removed.
>>
>> Thanks so much,
>> [redacted]

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 6:48 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Petition adjustment

Hi, [redacted]

It has recently been brought to my attention that the petition I signed on your request earlier this month proposes redistributing our East Corte Madera neighborhood. I signed the petition with the understanding that it proposed offering neighborhood families a choice between Reed and CM/Larkspur schools rather than a wholesale shift from one district to the other. Given my updated understanding, I would like to withdraw my support of the petition and request that my signature be removed.

Thanks so much,
[redacted]

PETITION CORRECTION

[redacted]
Sat 10/29/2022 12:24 PM

To: [redacted]

Dear Ms. Burke and Ms. Mares-

I live at [redacted] in East Corte Madera. A few months ago, I signed a petition that was circulated based on an intention for all of my neighbors to choose between two wonderful school districts. However, I was not intending to agree to redistrict our neighborhood such that current RUSD families would be forced to ask for IDTs or to leave RUSD

If that is the intention of the petition please remove my name and our house from the list of supporters.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best

[redacted]

Reed / LCM

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Mary Jane Burke
Subject: Re: Petition signature ethical issue

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

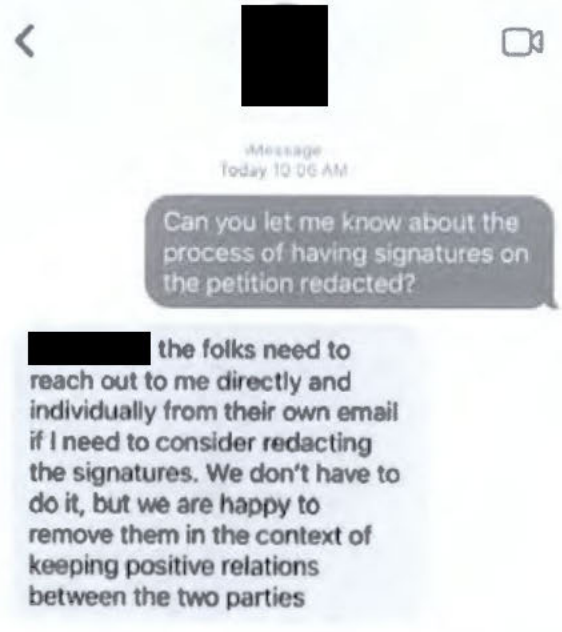
From: [redacted]
Date: June 22, 2022 at 5:45:34 PM PDT
To: Mary Jane Burke <mjburke@marinschools.org>, Kimberly McGrath <kmcgrath@reedschools.org>
Subject: Petition signature ethical issue

Good evening,

I am working with a team to organize an effort to NOT redistrict East Corte Madera Hills.

I met this morning with Dr. McGrath and she let me know the process for anyone wanting to retract their signature would be to email [redacted] and I believe this was also information given on the webinar.

Please see screen shot



I got a less than favorable response from [redacted] and [redacted] is hinting at [redacted] lack of ethical decision making and [redacted] is making this feel like a less than democratic process and more like [redacted] personal scam to get what [redacted] personally desires without regard for others.

It is concerning.

Warmly,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone



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Fw: Petition signature removal

[redacted]

Fri 11/4/2022 6:16 PM

To: [redacted]

Please let me know what information that you need in order to remove my name from the petition mentioned below. If just name and address it is:

[redacted]

Thank you.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 07:37:35 PM PDT

Subject: Fwd: Petition signature removal

Dear neighbors,

This came from my [redacted] who lives with her family on Sonora Drive. They want to have their children stay in the Reed Union School District. This gives you the information on how to take your name off the petition that went around a month or two ago. I was not aware of all the facts when I signed the petition so I am passing this along in case you are interested in remaining in the RUSD as Darrel and I want to do.

[redacted]

Hi [redacted],

I heard you might want to email to have your name removed from the petition. Please see info below.feel free to pass to any neighbors you think might be interested.

Thanks,

[redacted]

If you signed a petition about school "choice" in our neighborhood, we ask you to consider the following.

Many neighbors signed the petition under the belief that it would give our neighborhood families a *choice* between Reed Union School District (RUSD) and Larkspur Corte Madera School District (LCMSD). Unfortunately, this is impossible under California Education Code. **The Transfer of Territory petition would formally move our neighborhood from RUSD to LCMSD – and there is no guarantee or "clear pathway" for the 90 neighborhood children who attend RUSD to remain at their schools.**

The petition was filed for signature verification last week, but many neighbors are still removing their signatures

upon learning the true intent of the petition. **You can request to have your name removed before November 18 by emailing Mary Jane Burke at superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org and Terena Mares at tmares@marinschools.org**.

We ask that you consider the following facts regarding this effort:

- The petition would allow 39 children who currently attend LCMSD to continue there, but would put 90 children who currently attend RUSD at risk of being pulled from their schools.
- There is no guarantee that these 90 ECM-RUSD children will be "grandfathered" into RUSD. California Education Code does not allow for any school district to extend an inter-district transfer (IDT) beyond 5 years, including under LCMSD BP 5117. School enrollment can change drastically in 5 years - this is the very reason our LCMSD neighbors are in this unfortunate situation.
- Many neighbors, including young families, moved here specifically to attend RUSD with its
    - ower class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios
    - higher resources per child,
    - smaller campuses,
    - huge selection of after school activities and sports
    - and additional year of public school for 4 year olds
- All of us, including the petitioners, moved to this neighborhood knowing it is part of RUSD. Some families chose to take a risk in applying for an IDT to LCMSD. Those families could have bought homes in LCMSD and are still able to do so.
- Redistricting will increase our property taxes and potentially reduce our home values, as many buyers specifically look for properties in RUSD due to its outstanding statewide reputation

Sent from my iPhone



Re: Petition to redistrict

[redacted]
Mon 11/7/2022 6:37 AM
To: [redacted]

Good morning all,

After reviewing the East Corte Madera transfer of territory petition in the agenda for tonight's meeting, I wanted to make sure that you are aware of a few things:
- Neighbors who asked the petitioners to be removed before filing were not removed. Several will speak tonight.
- The petition filed is different from the one circulated in our neighborhood (see attached).
- [redacted], who has notified you that she collected her signatures using misinformation (see below), certified 27 of the signatures submitted.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. I'm looking forward to the update tonight.

Best Regards,
[redacted]

On Fri, Nov 4, 2022 at 3:11 PM Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

> Hello [redacted]
>
> Thank you for your questions. We are in the process of creating a Q&A to respond to the multiple questions our office has received related to the territory transfer petition process, and specifically to the East Corte Madera petition. We anticipate this will be completed and posted to our website during the week of November 14.
>
> In the meantime, I will be providing a presentation to the County Committee on School District Organization during its annual organizational meeting on Monday, November 7 at 5:30. This is a public meeting, so you are welcome to attend. During the meeting the County Committee will also receive an status update on the East Corte Madera petition and another petition that is in the process. After the meeting we will post a copy of the presentation to the County Committee's website.
>
> Best,
>
> Terena

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:16 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Petition to redistrict

Hi Terena,

I'm a Reed parent and East Corte Madera resident writing in regards to the recently filed petition to redistrict my neighborhood from RUSD to LCMSD. I did not sign the petition and I'm disappointed that there seems to be so little consequence for collecting signatures with misinformation about the basic facts of the petition. I plan to attend the meeting Monday evening. As I don't know the rules of public comment and if there will be a chance for Q&A, I wanted to send ahead some pressing questions, in the hopes that the answers could be included in the update on Monday.

1. We are continuing to provide our neighbors with factual information about the consequences of this petition (a permanent change of the district lines) and providing your email address if they wish to redact their signatures due to misinformation. Despite your reply below, are you still keeping a list/record of these removal requests?

2. Are the signatures public information? Can we see them or know how many there are? How many have requested removal?

3. If you get enough removal requests that the petition would be invalidated if they were received in time, will you share this information with the Chief Petitioners? The public?

4. Chief Petitioner [redacted] is telling neighbors that he plans to withdraw the petition if he and Chief Petitioner [redacted] get what they want for their individual families (from the IDT negotiations). Are they actually able to withdraw the petition after it is filed?

5. As discussed in the email she sent to you below, one of the main signature gatherers ([redacted] has stated that the signatures she obtained were under false pretense. Does this invalidate the signatures that she collected and certified?

6. [redacted]

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my questions.

Best,

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted] >
Date: Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 9:29 AM
Subject: Fwd: Petition to redistrict
To: [redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 2, 2022 at 9:12:30 AM PDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Petition to redistrict

[redacted],

Thank you for your email. We understand your desire to remove your signature from the petition. We have been in the process of working with legal counsel and the Registrar of Voters to determine the legal basis for removing signatures from the petition once a petition has been filed. Unfortunately, there is no basis for removing signatures once the petition has been filed. At this point, however, the verification process is not yet complete, consequently the validity of the petition has not been determined.

The East Corte Madera territory transfer petition was received by the Marin County Office of Education on Thursday, October 27, and forwarded to the Registrar of Voters on Friday, October 28th. The Registrar of Voters is currently verifying signatures. Part of this process includes providing our office with the number of registered voters attributed to the addresses included with the territory transfer petition. The County Superintendent has 30 days from receipt of the petition to complete the signature verification process.

The County Committee on School District (CCSDO) will hold its annual organization meeting on November 7, 2022, 5:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education. During the meeting, the County Committee will receive a status update on territory transfer petitions in process, including the East Corte Madera petition.

You are welcome to provide public comment during the County Committee meeting.

Terena Mares

Senior Deputy Superintendent

Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee

County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org

O | 415.499.5835

C | 530.409.7604

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 7:21 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Petition to redistrict

Also, I'm sorry about the typo- I know your name is Terena, not Teresa!

Best, [redacted]

On Oct 28, 2022, at 1:35 PM, [redacted] > wrote:

Hi Teresa,

I am writing in regards to the recently filed petition to Redistrict portions of East Corte Madera from Reed Union School District to Larkspur- Corte Madera. The petition was presented to me as a way to create a school of choice option for the neighborhood. I was one of the people who collected signatures under this false pretense because I was led to believe this was the reality. I now understand that is not the case and it is instead a transfer of an entire neighborhood into a different district. I have deep concerns about how the signatures were collected based on my first hand experience with the petitioners.

I do not support this petition nor do I support redistricting my neighborhood.

I am happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Thank you.

Best, [redacted]

[redacted]



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Petition to redistrict

[redacted]

Fri 10/28/2022 1:35 PM

To: [redacted]

Hi Teresa,

I am writing in regards to the recently filed petition to Redistrict portions of East Corte Madera from Reed Union School District to Larkspur- Corte Madera. The petition was presented to me as a way to create a school of choice option for the neighborhood. I was one of the people who collected signatures under this false pretense because I was led to believe this was the reality. I now understand that is not the case and it is instead a transfer of an entire neighborhood into a different district. I have deep concerns about how the signatures were collected based on my first hand experience with the petitioners.

I do not support this petition nor do I support redistricting my neighborhood.

I am happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Thank you.
Best, [redacted]

[redacted]

FW: Petition To Transfer Territory - Follow-up

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 10:14 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Petition To Transfer Territory - Follow-up

Good Morning Mary Jane and Terena,

Hope you are having a great Halloween weekend!

We understand that Dr. McGrath has sent a message to the RUSD residents (not us) with a call to action to contact you if anyone thinks the petition language or discussion was misleading.

This issue came up before we turned in the petition, and we all confirmed that everyone was clear when we gathered the signatures. There are Reed families that originally tried to get into the Cove, for the same reasons our residents signed the petition:

- Since the cove opened in 2014, LCM is our local school district that we identify with
- 1/2 mile away
- Walk, ride, scoot to school with friends
- No one hour commute
- Safer in an emergency. No trudging into Tiburon to unite and egress with our families
- No carbon footprint
- No adding to traffic congestion
- Our supporters realize that the neighborhood has not gotten a chance to vote on which school they'd like to attend since cove opened in 2014. Most feel like not being able to go to a school across the street is not the district's goal.

Brett Geithman and LCMSD had always proposed a choice option for the next MOU IDT agreement. While this did come up during petition discussions, we were clear that the petition represents a change in school boundaries, and is separate from the MOU.

Since we completed the gathering of signatures in June, there was a period of 4 months that residents had the option to be taken off. We graciously took all residents off who requested so.

We are still dedicated to helping to keep RUSD kids at RUSD. School district continuity for both LCMSD and RUSD families are of the utmost importance.

We appreciate the fair governing of this petition, and have comfort knowing it is in great hands!

Happy Halloween!

[redacted]

On Oct 27, 2022, at 2:59 PM, [redacted] > wrote:

Hi Mary Jane,

It was great to meet you today. I'd like to include a quick summary of what the petition is for, and our goals.

Petition

- This is a petition that supports changing the school district boundaries for areas of East Corte Madera (ECM) from Reed Union School District (RUSD) to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (LCMSD).

Reasons for the Petition

- No long term IDT agreement has been reached, after more than a year
- The three neighborhoods affected identify with the local, Corte Madera community
- Align the local community with the local school district, extracurricular activities and sports teams
- The Cove elementary is on average 1/2 mile away, versus over 5 miles from Reed elementary
- Kids commute time saves more than one hour to Cove elementary (versus Reed).
- It's safer in an emergency, it's easier for kids to unite and egress with families
- We attend Holiday parties in Corte Madera, including Halloween, town park summer festivals, 4th of July, and others.
- After more than a year, the IDT agreement is not finalized, and there is no reason to believe that RUSD will appropriately fund our kids to continue through LCMSD though Hall middle school, considering they stopped funding Hall students over a year ago.

Petition — Content

- We originally received over 300 signatures. The vast majority of residents we talked with were willing to sign
- After scrubbing the petition, we removed some signatures because they were incomplete, or we knew that they were not residents (they told us)
- We also fairly removed the names of all residents that requested so. These mostly consisted of families of kids who were denied this school year to transfer to LCMSD.
- **We now have 285 signatures that are valid and verifiable, representing ~30% of the neighborhood.**

The petition committee and supporters are dedicated to continuing to provide a clear pathway for RUSD kids to remain at RUSD. LCMSD is too and instituted BP 5117 in August. The main thing we have in common with RUSD families, is school district continuity throughout.

We are still hopeful that a long-term IDT agreement between RUSD and LCMSD will be reached. Over the past year, we've continually expressed to both boards that we want school continuity,

which means:

- Current IDTs and siblings are able to continue with appropriate funding through LCMDS's Hall Middle School
- We also want new up-and-coming families to understand the options to go to their local LCMSD schools.

Thank you for receiving our petition!

Although I know your golden years are just around the corner, we really appreciate you being able to help set this petition up for a fair discussion between the community, and the boards.

Also, we are all so lucky that you dedicated over 50 years of your time to Marin and our children during the course of your exemplary career. We sincerely appreciate the care and thought that you put into every aspect of your role. Marin county is certainly better off because of your care. We wish you the best of endeavors during the next phase of your life!

All the best,
[redacted]

"Over the weekend, we received emails from people who would like to withdraw their signatures from the petition," Burke said.

"We also received an email over the weekend from the petitioners stating that they have removed the names of anyone who has made that request over the past months," Burke said.

"We will work with elections and legal counsel regarding next steps, if any," she said.

The issue will be discussed at a meeting of the county committee on school district organization set for 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Marin County Office of Education.

RELATED ARTICLES

Larkspur-Corte Madera school board race draws 2 prospects

Editorial: IJ endorsements for Larkspur Measure G, Larkspur-Corte Madera schools

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: August 4, 2022 at 10:40:22 AM PDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Petition

[redacted]

Will do.

Thanks,
[redacted]

On Aug 4, 2022, at 9:37 AM, [redacted]

[redacted] please take my name off the Petition. I do not want our school district to change!!! [redacted]

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone



218

219

220

221

222

223

224

I, _____

(125) That my residence address is: _____

(126) That I circulated the foregoing petition and saw the appended signatures being written.

(127) That according to my best information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

(128) That the dates between which all signatures to the petition were obtained are: _____ to _____

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that this declaration is true and corr

_____(signature of circulator) executed on _____

nclude first name and middle initial or first initial and middle name

NEWS > EDUCATION

Southern Marin parents file school district transfer petition

By KERI BRENNER | kbrenner@marinij.com | Marin Independent Journal
PUBLISHED: November 1, 2022 at 5:17 p.m. | UPDATED: November 1, 2022 at 8:56 p.m.

Residents in East Corte Madera who live in the Reed Union School District have filed an official petition with the county to redraw the school district boundary lines for their neighborhoods.

Craig Blok, a petition organizer, said he and his group, who want their children to attend Larkspur-Corte Madera district schools, filed the petition Thursday with Mary Jane Burke, Marin superintendent of schools. Organizers said time was running out for the two districts to finalize a new inter-district transfer agreement to allow students to attend their district of choice.

"It's very important for each respective family to be able to continue in their district in its entirety," Blok said.

Blok and other families want to continue with the Larkspur-Corte Madera schools because Cove School is less than a mile from their homes, and Hall Middle School is closer than Reed Union's Del Mar Middle School, they said.

"Cove is within walking or biking distance," he said. "It's at least an hour commute to go back and forth to the Reed schools."

The prior five-year interdistrict transfer agreement expired June 30 and was later extended for one year through the end of the 2022-23 school year. Blok said if the two districts are unable to come to an agreement by December, his group will miss the deadline to put the territorial transfer petition on a ballot in May or August.

"We tried to unite both sides around this common theme before we turned the petition to Mary Jane Burke, to no avail," Blok said. "We still are fiercely supporting the ability for RUSD families to remain at RUSD. "

Brett Geithman, the Larkspur-Corte Madera superintendent, said the districts have two more negotiation sessions planned during November. He was hopeful they could reach a reciprocal agreement on a plan where each family could declare which district their children will attend and that request would be honored.

"We want to support all families in the area," Geithman said. He said the petition drive was separate from the district and its negotiations and that the Larkspur-Corte Madera district was not involved in the petition one way or the other.

Kimberly McGrath, superintendent of the Reed Union School District, said while the district supports the right of residents to have a petition process, she was concerned after hearing complaints from school families about the signature-gathering process.

"Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation about the intent of the petition," McGrath said. "It seems that many citizens have the misunderstanding that the petition is similar to a voucher system with choice for those that live in the RUSD boundaries. This is not accurate."

"I do think it's important to keep in mind that close to two-thirds of the families that live in the East Corte Madera area attend schools in Reed," McGrath said. She said there were 39 students from 27 families in the affected neighborhoods who are attending Larkspur-Corte Madera schools — primarily Cove elementary school or Hall Middle School — this year.

That is out of roughly 130 students overall in the affected neighborhoods of East Corte Madera. Those neighborhoods are those south of Paradise Drive, and between El Camino Drive and Westward Drive. Homes on about 20 streets are included.

Not all neighbors want their school district boundary lines redrawn.

"We moved here to be part of the Reed Union School District," said Kalon Gutierrez, a parent of two children at Reed Union schools and an official with the Reed Union parent-teacher association.

"It would be very di[illegible] the petition passed and we had to relocate," said Gutierrez, who lives in East Corte Madera. "We wouldn't [illegible] it was more feasible to be in the Larkspur-Corte Madera Scho[illegible]

He said the petitioners moved to the area knowing it was part of Reed Union. They signed the five-year inter-district transfer agreement that began in 2017 knowing it would eventually expire, he said

"They took the risk," he said. "Now they want to have their cake and eat it too."

Patricia Masino, a retired Reed Union district employee who lives in East Corte Madera, said she signed the petition because she thought it was about "options for school choice."

"They did not say it was to change the boundaries," she said of the signature-gatherers. "I really didn't want to change the boundaries." She said she has requested her name be removed from the petition.

Burke said the petition is now in the hands of the Marin elections department, which has 30 days to verify the signatures. Petitioners need to have 25% of the signatures be valid for it to go forward.

"Over the weekend, we received emails from people who would like to withdraw their signatures from the petition," Burke said.

"We also received an email over the weekend from the petitioners stating that they have removed the names of anyone who has made that request over the past months," Burke said.

"We will work with elections and legal counsel regarding next steps, if any," she said.

The issue will be discussed at a meeting of the county committee on school district organization set for 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Marin County Office of Education.

Blok said he was not aware of any attempt to mislead people into signing the petition. He said he apologized if there were any misunderstandings.

Burke said she hopes the two districts will agree on a plan so the petition would become unnecessary.

"Given that there has been an agreement in place for years between the two districts, my hope is that the Reed and Larkspur-Corte Madera school districts will reach a new agreement in the near future," she said.

Tags: Larkspur-Corte Madera School District, Marin County Office of Education, Marin schools, newsletter, reed union school district



Keri Brenner | Reporter
Keri Brenner is a reporter covering K-12 and higher education.

kbrenner@marinij.com
Follow Keri Brenner @KeriWorks

Join the Conversation

We invite you to use our commenting platform to engage in insightful conversations about issues in our community. We reserve the right at all times to remove any information or materials that are unlawful, threatening, abusive, libelous, defamatory, obscene, vulgar, pornographic, profane, indecent or otherwise objectionable to us, and to disclose any information necessary to satisfy the law, regulation, or government request. We might permanently block any user who abuses these conditions.

Fwd: Please do not redistrict East Corte Madera

[redacted]

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: November 21, 2022 at 8:53:43 PM PST
To: [redacted]
Subject: Please do not redistrict East Corte Madera

Hi CCSDO and RUSD members,

My name is [redacted], and I live at [redacted] in ECM with my wife, our [redacted] and [redacted].

We moved to ECM a little over 1 year ago ([redacted]) for one reason: the school district. We wound up lucky enough to have wonderful neighbors too, but when we were looking for many years to move out of San Francisco, we were only looking for homes that were part of the RUSD.

Last year the stars aligned and we were finally able to make our move and lock in the future of our children's education...And we do not take our luck and opportunity lightly.

We are just a couple years away from our [redacted] entering the K-8 school system, and we politely and empathetically ask you to please not take this away from our children. We moved to ECM specifically because of Reed, and to have the opportunity that Reed provides be ripped away from us, would be crushing.

Please do not let this redistricting proposal go through.

Thank you for listening.

Best,
[redacted]


Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE PETITION

[redacted]

Mon 11/7/2022 9:11 AM

To: [redacted]

I signed a petition regarding the RUSD and LCMSD school student redistribution.

It sounds like I was misinformed, so please take my name off the petition.

Please confirm receipt of this email, and that you've taken my name off.

thank you!

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2022 3:14 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Mary Jane Burke; Jon Lenz
Subject: Re: Question on territory transfer petition
Attachments: [redacted]

Hello [redacted]

Thank you for reaching out and expressing your concerns. The Marin County Committee on School District Organization holds jurisdiction over school boundaries. You can find information about them on their website at the link below:

Marin County Committee on School District Organization / Marin County Committee on School District O
marinschools.org

Specific information about the East Corte Madera territory transfer petition can be found at the link below, including how you the public can submit comments. Nevertheless, a copy of your email will be provided to the committee.

Marin County Committee on School District Organization / East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petiti
marinschools.org

Terena Mares
Secretary Designee
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
tmares@marinschools.org
415.499.5835

On Nov 26, 2022, at 2:15 PM, [redacted] > wrote:

Hello,
I'm a new resident of the apparent disputed area in East Corte Madera that has become the subject of a territory transfer petition. I closed escrow and moved into my home on Enterprise Drive, Corte Madera a few months ago. I reside there as a single parent with my [redacted].

I was appalled and dismayed to hear of this petition. I purposefully purchased this home because it was in the Tiburon school district. I want my [redacted] in Tiburon schools, not LCM schools. Also, such a change would negatively impact my property values. I have not seen a petition - perhaps that was circulated before I moved in. However, I know some of my neighbors signed this petition not understanding the implication. The petition was represented to them as being a free choice of school petition - you would have the option to choose which school your child attended but the territory would remain zoned for the Tiburon schools.

I would like to voice my opposition to this petition at every available option. Can you please let me know how I can do that? I looked at the flow chart on the process - and it was utterly confusing to me. I see there are public hearings at some point. But I am unclear who has ultmate discretion to implement this plan. Is this going on a public ballot at some point?

If you can advise me how I can voice my opposition and what is required/who has discretion to actually implement it, I would appreciate it.

Thank you

[redacted]



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RE: Quick question on redistricting currently under consideration

[redacted]
Thu 11/10/2022 12:50 PM

To: [redacted]

Thanks for the quick response Terena. I will compile some and send over later today or tomorrow.

Best regards,
[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 12:33 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Quick question on redistricting currently under consideration

Hi [redacted]

You may forward your questions directly to me. We anticipate the Q&A to be available by the end of next week.

Terena Mares
Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education
tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835
C | 530.409.7604

> On Nov 10, 2022, at 12:08 PM, [redacted] > wrote:
>
> Hi Terena,
>
> My name is [redacted], and I have [redacted] happily attending in the Reed school district, although my wife and I live in East Corte Madera.
>
> I attended Monday nights meeting which covered the potential redistricting under consideration with Corte Madera given the petition that was submitted earlier this year, and thought I heard there was going to be a Q&A period for the CCSDO related to this matter over the next week. To the extent that I had that timeline right, could you please provide me with the email address to send in my questions.
>
> Many thanks,
> [redacted]
>
> Sent from Mail for Windows



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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: CM Redistricting Petition
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 1:10:16 PM

Terena,
I'm a bit confused. Signatures were obtained under false pretenses. I know, for example, the person who approached me about signing was completely disingenuous about their description of what the petition was for. How could the petition possibly be deemed valid, regardless of the number of signatures on it, if said signatures were obtained under such circumstances? It seems like the entire validity of the petition should be called into question on such basis.

On Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 9:11 AM Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

> [redacted],
>
> Thank you for your email. We have been in the process of working with legal counsel and the Registrar of Voters to determine the legal basis for removing signatures from the petition once a petition has been filed. Unfortunately, there is no basis for removing signatures once the petition has been filed. At this point, however, the verification process is not yet complete, consequently the validity of the petition has not been determined.
>
> The East Corte Madera territory transfer petition was received by the Marin County Office of Education on Thursday, October 27, and forwarded to the Registrar of Voters on Friday, October 28th. The Registrar of Voters is currently verifying signatures. Part of this process includes providing our office with the number of registered voters attributed to the addresses included with the territory transfer petition. The County Superintendent has 30 days from receipt of the petition to complete the signature verification process.
>
> The County Committee on School District (CCSDO) will hold its annual organization meeting on November 7, 2022, 5:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education. During the meeting, the County Committee will receive a status update on territory transfer petitions in process, including the East Corte Madera petition.
>
> You are welcome to provide public comment during the County Committee meeting.
>
> *Terena Mares*
> Senior Deputy Superintendent
> Marin County Office of Education
>
> Secretary Designeee
> County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835
C | 530.409.7604

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 7:52 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: CM Redistricting Petition

Hello,
While I did not sign the petition, I can confirm that it was misrepresented to me when I was asked to support it. As shared previously with K. McGrath:

When they rang my doorbell and explained what they were petitioning for, they claimed they were petitioning to have the choice for which district to send their children to. It wasn't until I asked a number of questions about the details of the petition that it eventually became clear to me that the petition was for redistricting, not choice. Without prompting from me, another neighbor mentioned the same issue when the petition was presented to them. Regardless of whether people request to have their names removed from the petition, since it was sought under false pretenses, it should be rejected. Not everyone who signed it may be aware of the situation.

Thank you for your time/effort re this matter.

[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 12:38 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Re: East Corte Madera Petition

Sure thing.

What is your address to ensure it is removed?

[redacted]

> On Jun 14, 2022, at 9:28 PM, [redacted] wrote:
>
>
> Hello [redacted]
>
> Please kindly remove our names from the East Corte Madera Petition we signed around June 2nd. Unfortunately, we did not read the Petition and were unaware the Petition was a request to "Redistrict" our East Corte Madera neighborhood.
>
> From our discussion, about the petition, we were under the impression it was a request to give the families zoned in the Reed Union School District a "choice" of either going to the Reed Schools or the Larkspur/Corte Madera Schools. We are opposed to "Redistricting" our East Corte Madera neighborhood.
>
> Apologies, and our bad for not reading the petition prior to signing. Please kindly remove our names from your petition:
>
> [redacted]
>
> Thank you and much appreciated.
>
> [redacted]

Re: East Corte Madera: RUSD/LCMSD petition

[redacted]

Fri 10/28/2022 7:13 AM

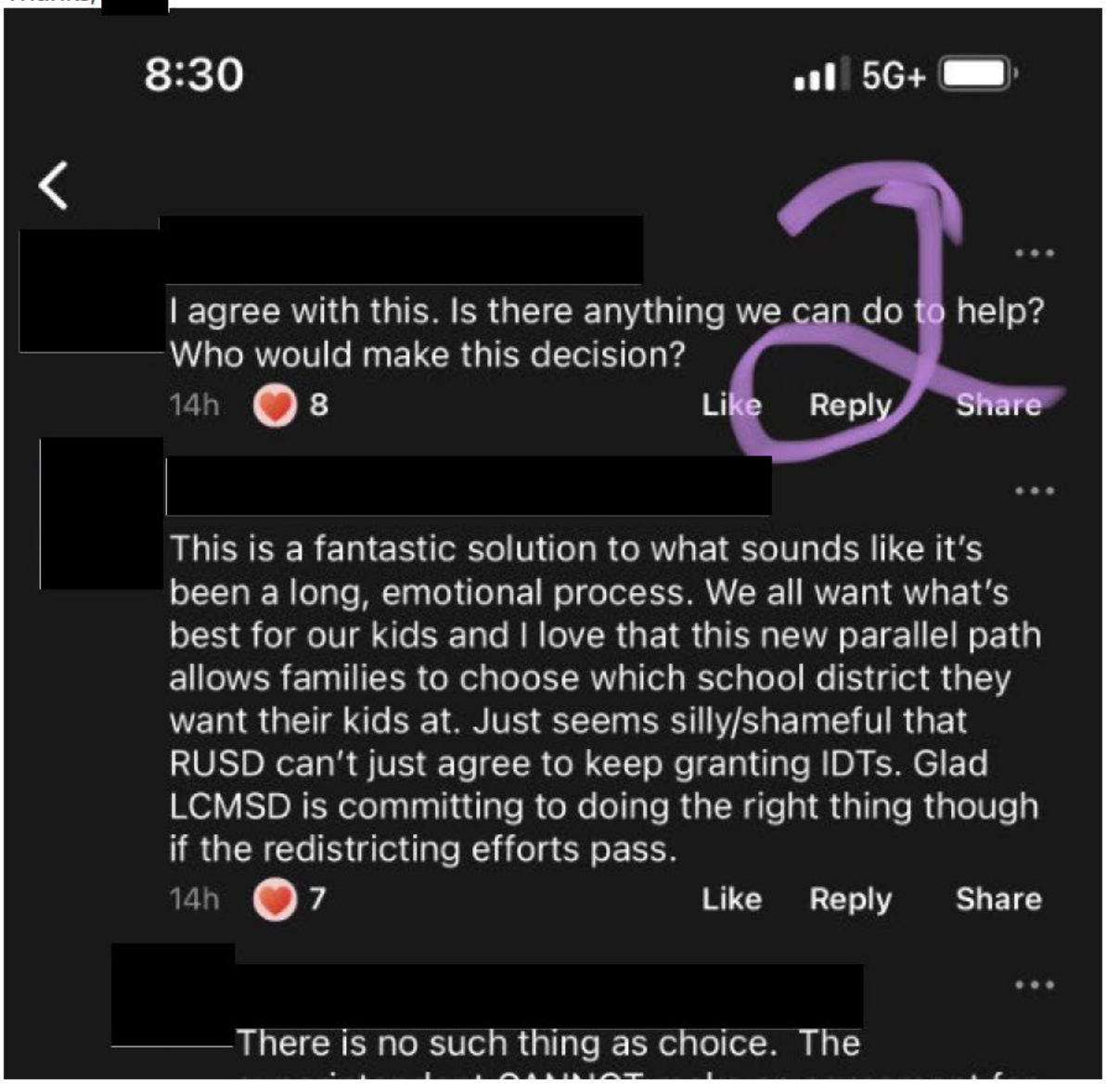
To: Terena Mares tmares@marinschools.org

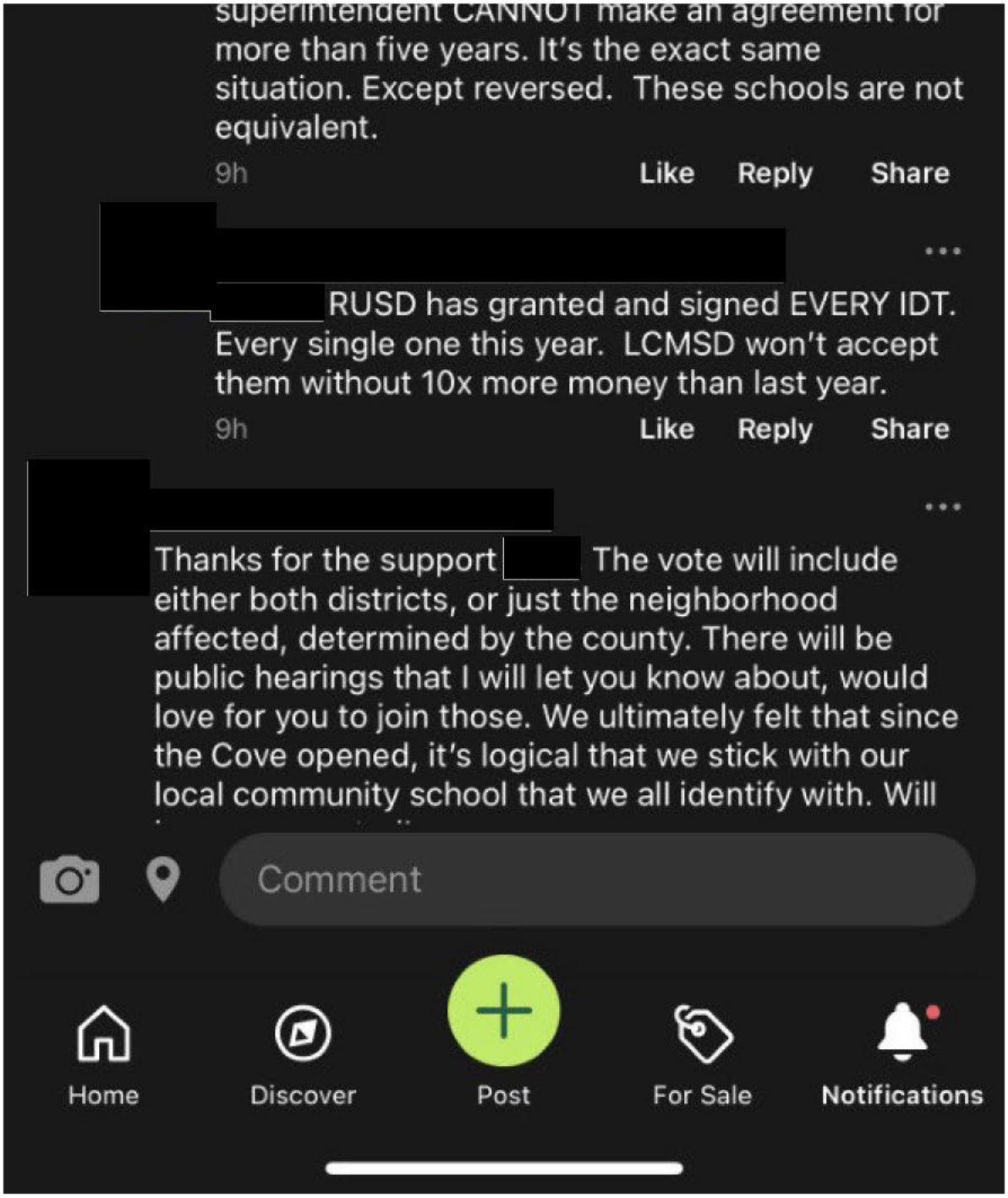
Hi Terena: I am so sorry to have to reach out to you again, but we learned the petition has been officially filed. I know you are likely aware of the complaints that the signatures were received because people were told either it was just for one specific family "please sign so my kids can stay" or to create a "school of choice" option. I am attaching next door posts from yesterday which show the "school of choice" narrative continuing to be used to distort the reality of this massive change.

For the sake of your mental health I am just sending a few selections of the conversation. Please let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss.

Thank you for all you do for the kids and families in this county. I know that after all we have been through over the past two years, we have very little reserves left to deal with this. I am sure you all feel that very acutely. What a wild time to be a human being on planet earth, right?

Thanks, [redacted]




superintendent CANNOT make an agreement for more than five years. It's the exact same situation. Except reversed. These schools are not equivalent.
9h
Like
Reply
Share
[redacted] RUSD has granted and signed EVERY IDT. Every single one this year. LCMSD won't accept them without 10x more money than last year.
9h
Like
Reply
Share
[redacted] Thanks for the support [redacted] The vote will include either both districts, or just the neighborhood affected, determined by the county. There will be public hearings that I will let you know about, would love for you to join those. We ultimately felt that since the Cove opened, it's logical that we stick with our local community school that we all identify with. Will
Comment
Home
Discover
Post
For Sale
Notifications

E


8:29
5G
[redacted]
14h
(ECM) from Reed Union School District (RUSD) to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School

District (LCMSD).

We are still hopeful that RUSD and LCMSD can reach an agreement that allows current IDT students and siblings to continue in LCMSD through Hall middle school.

WHY SUPPORT THE PETITION?

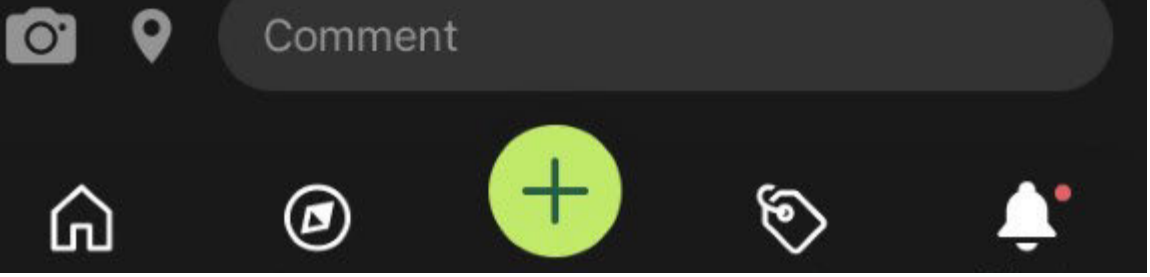
- **COMMUNITY CONTINUITY - DEEPER SENSE OF BELONGING**
  - Align our children's schools with our local community's identity
  - Create consistency and convenience of extracurricular activities and sports teams within our community
- **PROXIMITY OF SCHOOLS TO HOME**
  - The Cove is steps away from our homes - walk, bike, scoot with friends
  - Safer in an emergency. Easier for kids to unite and egress with families
  - Lowers carbon footprint - reduced Tiburon Blvd traffic
  - Commute time saves over one hour per day; 20+ hours per month
- **CLEAR PATHWAY FOR RUSD FAMILIES TO REMAIN AT RUSD**
  - LCMSD BP 5117 provides a path for funding for kids to go to RUSD
  - LCMSD and IDT families have always been committed to school choice

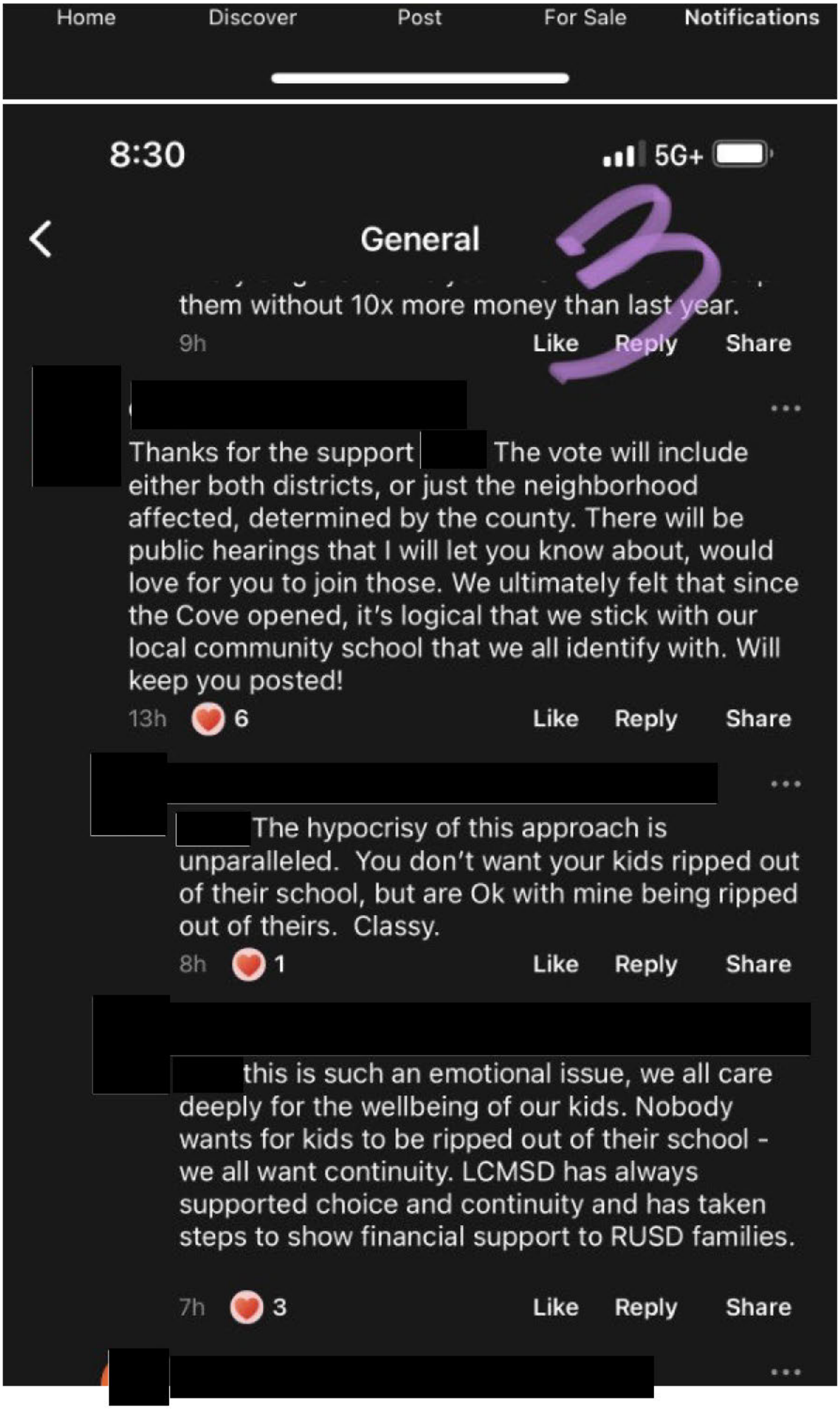
Dear Corte Madera neighbors,

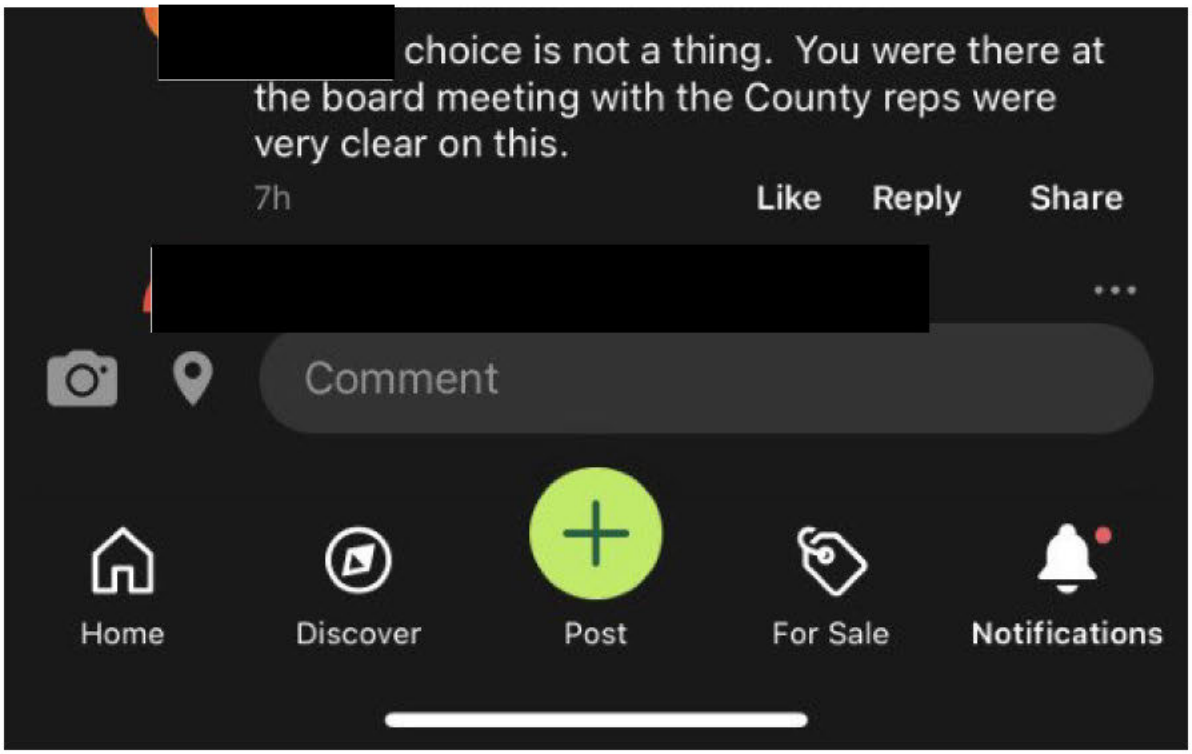
On behalf of our petition committee, we want to inform our community of a petition that is currently being validated with the county elections office. It has more than the required 25% support for a change of the school district boundaries for areas of East Corte Madera (ECM) from Reed Union School District (RUSD) to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (LCMSD).

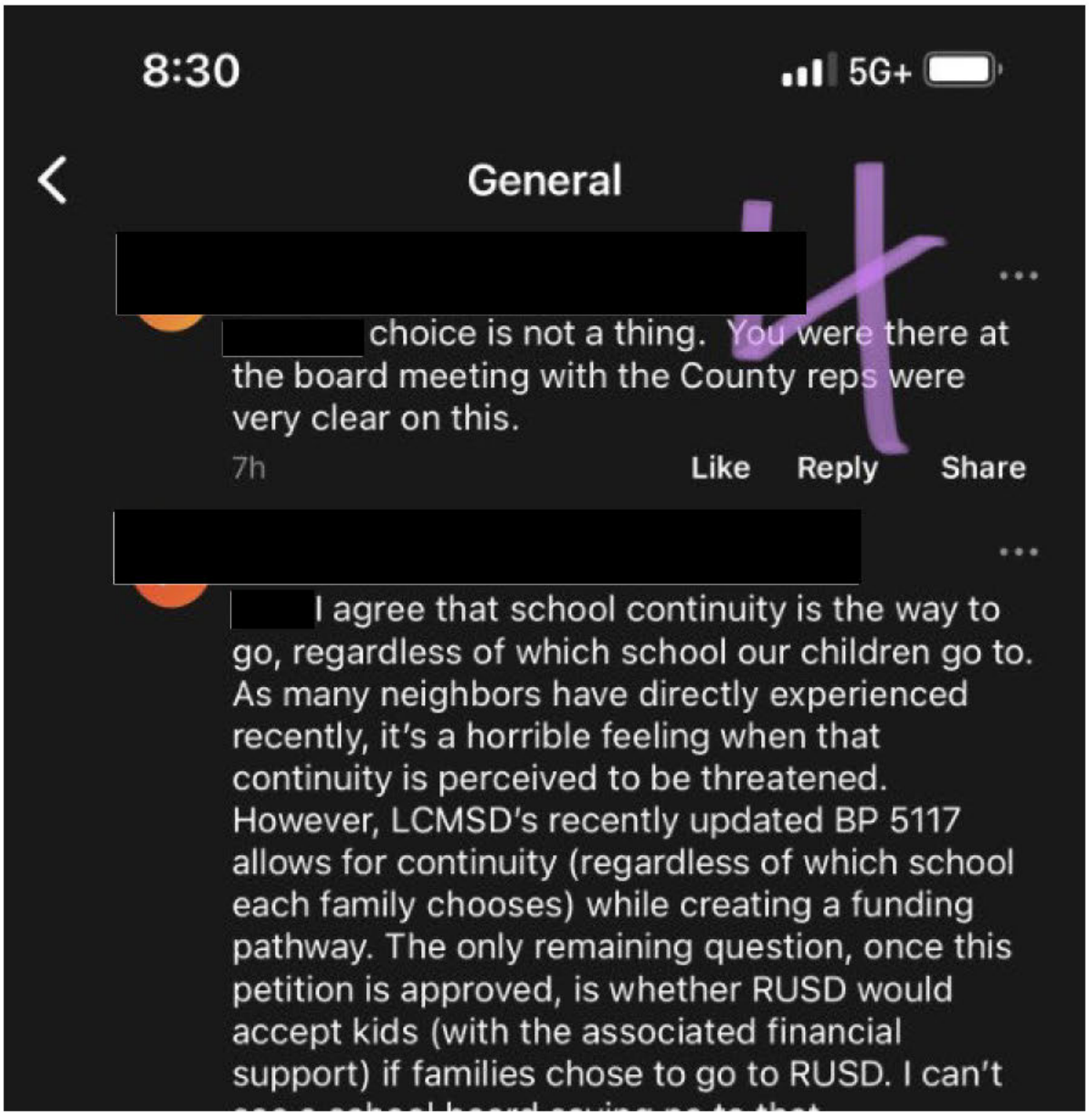
We understand that negotiations between RUSD and LCMSD for a long-term interdistrict transfer (IDT) agreement are still ongoing. We are still hopeful for an IDT agreement that allows current IDTs and siblings to be financially supported through Hall Middle School.

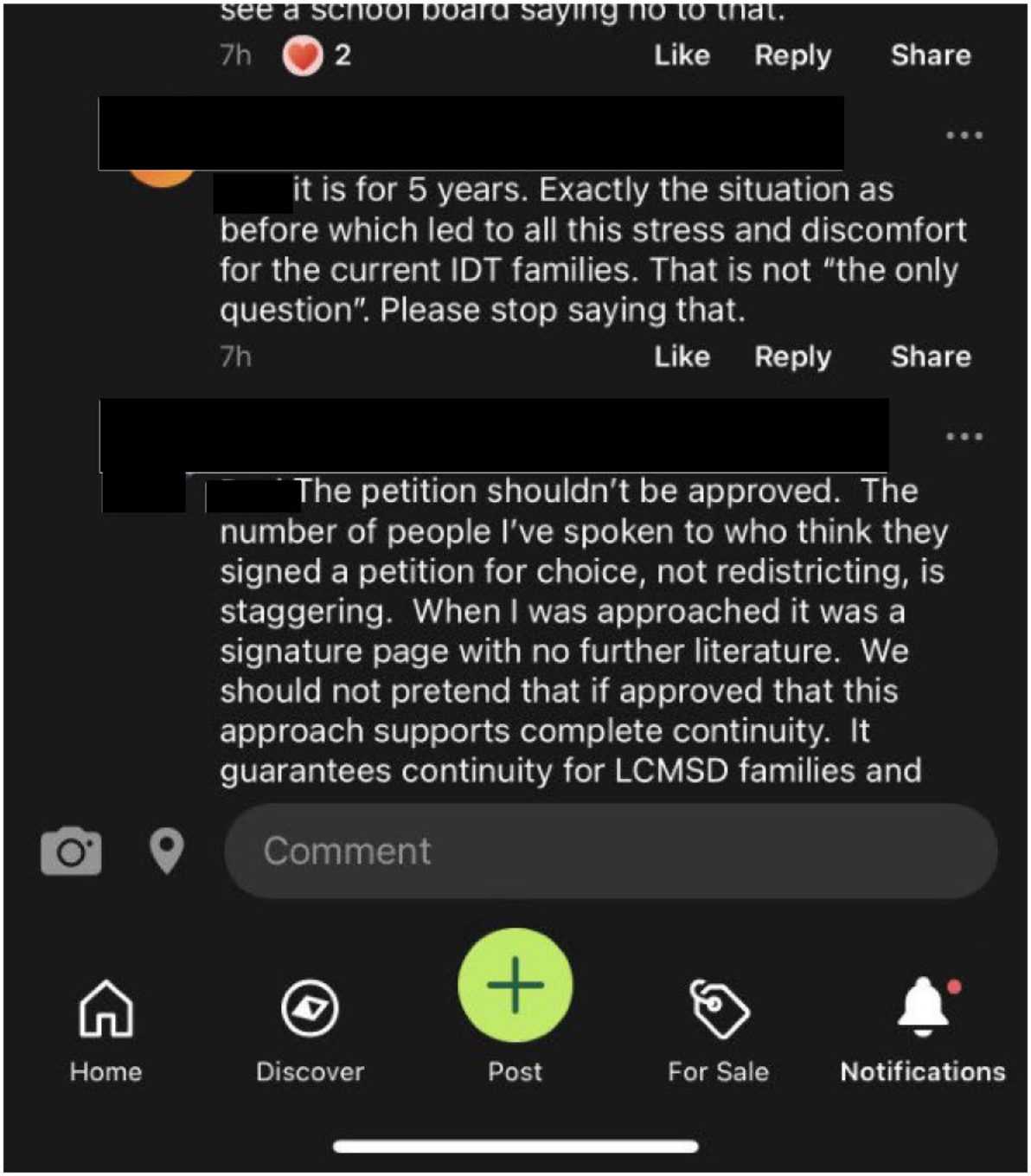
We decided to begin the validation phase because after more




Home
Discover
Post
For Sale
Notifications
8:30
5G+
General
them without 10x more money than last year.
9h
Like
Reply
Share
Thanks for the support [redacted] The vote will include either both districts, or just the neighborhood affected, determined by the county. There will be public hearings that I will let you know about, would love for you to join those. We ultimately felt that since the Cove opened, it's logical that we stick with our local community school that we all identify with. Will keep you posted!
13h
6
Like
Reply
Share
[redacted] The hypocrisy of this approach is unparalleled. You don't want your kids ripped out of their school, but are Ok with mine being ripped out of theirs. Classy.
8h
1
Like
Reply
Share
[redacted] this is such an emotional issue, we all care deeply for the wellbeing of our kids. Nobody wants for kids to be ripped out of their school - we all want continuity. LCMSD has always supported choice and continuity and has taken steps to show financial support to RUSD families.
7h
3
Like
Reply
Share


choice is not a thing. You were there at the board meeting with the County reps were very clear on this.
7h
Like
Reply
Share
Comment
Home
Discover
Post
For Sale
Notifications


8:30
5G+
General
choice is not a thing. You were there at the board meeting with the County reps were very clear on this.
7h
Like
Reply
Share
I agree that school continuity is the way to go, regardless of which school our children go to. As many neighbors have directly experienced recently, it's a horrible feeling when that continuity is perceived to be threatened. However, LCMSD's recently updated BP 5117 allows for continuity (regardless of which school each family chooses) while creating a funding pathway. The only remaining question, once this petition is approved, is whether RUSD would accept kids (with the associated financial support) if families chose to go to RUSD. I can't



On Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 9:50 PM Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

> No worries! It happens all the time ☺
>
> Terena Mares
> Deputy Superintendent
> Marin County Office of Education
> tmares@marinschools.org
> O | 415.499.5835
> C | 530.409.7604

On Jun 15, 2022, at 5:09 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Terena: Please forgive the Auto correct changes your name!

On Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 3:15 PM [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Teresa: I was at the meeting at Reed Union School district last night. I appreciated your clear direction that there is no school of choice option. The petition which is being circulated and signed is very misleading. People have been informed, as an inducement to signing, that they will have school of choice to freely choose between two school districts. This is in fact, not reality. I implore you, if this petition comes to your desk, to reject it outright due to the fraudulent nature of how it s been presented. I cannot understand the thinking of parents being so shortsighted they would actively try to force their neighbors to move from an e cellent school district into one which is less financially stable, has less teacher retention, has no reserves, etc etc.
>
> Please do not allow this to go to a vote. Fighting with my neighbors and going down a list of reasons my school is better than yours is the absolute last thing that this neighborhood needs.
>
> Please don t allow a vocal minority of entitled parents to do this.
> [redacted]
>
> Forwarded message
> From: [redacted]
> Date: Tue, May 31, 2022 at 11:18 AM
> Subject: East Corte Madera: RUSD/LCMSD petition
> To: mjburke@marinschools.org
>
> Ms. Burke: I am writing you as a parent residing in East Corte Madera, within the Reed Union school district, with children who actually attend RUSD schools, very happily. I am very opposed to any attempt to redistrict us into LCMSD. While empathize with the convenience factor, that s not my primary motivation as a parent. The educational e perience at RUSD is second to none. I would consider redistricting to be a constitutional Takings, which would negatively and immediately impact the value of my home.
>
> Fear of the unknown should not be driving policy. Please know that this vocal minority does not speak for the hillside.
>
> Thank you, please let me know if can provide you any conte t. I was a parent who was denied an IDT, and have come 180 degrees and feel very lucky that I was denied.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone--please excuse any brevity.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Fwd: East Corte Madera: RUSD/LCMSD petition

[redacted]
Wed 6/15/2022 3:15 PM

To: Terena Mares tmares@marinschools.org

Hi Teresa: I was at the meeting at Reed Union School district last night. I appreciated your clear direction that there is no "school of choice" option. The petition which is being circulated and signed s very misleading. People have been informed, as an inducement to signing, that they will have school of choice" to freely choose between two school districts. This is in fact, not reality. I implore ou, if this petition comes to your desk, to reject it outright due to the fraudulent nature of how it's been presented. I cannot understand the thinking of parents being so shortsighted they would actively try to force their neighbors to move from an excellent school district into one which is less financially stable, has less teacher retention, has no reserves, etc etc.

Please do not allow this to go to a vote. Fighting with my neighbors and going down a list of reasons my school is better than yours is the absolute last thing that this neighborhood needs.

Please don't allow a vocal minority of entitled parents to do this.

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]
Date: Tue, May 31, 2022 at 11:18 AM
Subject: East Corte Madera: RUSD/LCMSD petition
To: <mjburke@marinschools.org>

Ms. Burke: I am writing you as a parent residing in East Corte Madera, within the Reed Union school district, with children who actually attend RUSD schools, very happily. I am very opposed to any attempt to redistrict us into LCMSD. While empathize with the convenience factor, that's not my primary motivation as a parent. The educational experience at RUSD is second to none. I would consider redistricting to be a constitutional Takings, which would negatively and immediately impact the value of my home.

Fear of the unknown should not be driving policy. Please know that this vocal minority does not speak for the hillside.

Thank you, please let me know if can provide you any context. I was a parent who was denied an IDT, and have come 180 degrees and feel very lucky that I was denied.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone--please excuse any brevity.

Re: Message from the Superintendent - East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition Friday, October 28, 2022

[redacted]
Sun 10/30/2022 12:41 PM
To: [redacted]

Hi Kimberly, Terena,

Thank you for your continued support on this matter - @Terena I look forward to your answers to the questions raised.

In the meantime, I am attaching a flyer that was selectively distributed in our neighborhood last week. You will notice in the area outlined by the red box that it is clear that the petition is being marketed as one of choice and an effort to keep REED families at REED. The mis-representation of choice is the most glaring of the points. But there are other supporting falsities as well. For example the flyer claims that commuting to REED takes an hour each day. That simply isn't true. And Hall certainly isn't that much closer than Del Mar.

In addition to this sort of distribution not being legal based on my understanding, I am unclear regarding how we are supposed to educate our neighbors on what this petition is actually supporting. Are we responsible for going door to door to properly inform them? Imagine an elderly couple wanting to best serve the children in the neighborhood and signing because they are under the impression that this is providing all of their neighbors a "choice" regarding what school to attend. Not to mention current REED families who read this and believe they are supporting staying in the REED district.

The headline here is we, the REED parents, are being asked to re-educate families each time misinformation is spread so that we can remain in the district. In addition to this not being a just ask and process, I am not confident that we can find and reinform those that are being targeted.

I appreciate your thoughts and am here to support and happy to discuss live.

Best,
[redacted]

On Sat, Oct 29, 2022 at 8:46 AM Kimberly McGrath <kmcgrath@reedschools.org> wrote:

> Hi Terena,
> Could you please answer these questions for [redacted]? Please copy me as I'd like to know the answers as well I've had inquiries about people interested in going back to each person that signed to ensure that they understand that this actually redraws the boundary line for everyone
> Thanks for the clarification,
> Dr. Kimberly McGrath
> Superintendent
> Reed Union School District
> "We are even stronger together!"

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]
Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 6:03 PM
Subject: Re: Message from the Superintendent - East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition Friday, October 28, 2022
To: [redacted]

Hi Dr. McGrath,

Thank you for the notice/announcement re: redistricting.

A few questions for you:

1. Are we able to access the list of those who signed the petition?
2. Can you tell me what % total we are at (equal/above 25%)?
3. If enough signatures are removed, am I correct in assuming that the petition is no longer valid?

I appreciate your feedback.

Best,
[redacted]

On Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 5:46 PM Reed Union School District <notifications@actionaly.com> wrote:

East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition

Friday, October 28, 2022

Dear RUSD Community,

On Thursday, October 27th some East Corte Madera residents submitted a territory transfer petition to the County Superintendent. This petition would redraw the boundary lines for a large section of East Corte Madera. This would redistrict these neighborhoods from Reed Union School District to Larkspur Corte Madera School District. Mary Jane Burke with the Marin County Office of Education will forward the territory transfer petition to the elections office. Signatures need to be validated in 30 days. If you signed the petition understanding that this redraws the line for all families, then we respect your opinion as a citizen of East Corte Madera. I have heard from a number of residents that they signed the petition based on misunderstanding. If that is the case for you, you should contact Mary Jane Burke at **superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org** and Terena Mares at **tmares@marinschools.org**

if you are interested in removing your name from the petition. If 25% of the signatures from the impacted territory are valid, the redistricting process will continue. One of the first steps will be public hearings that will take place in both school districts. I will stay in touch on this topic as additional information is provided.

Best regards,

Dr. Kimberly McGrath

Superintendent
Reed Union School District
"We are even stronger together!"

Follow Us on Instagram!



RUSD Mission & Vision: Each student will be challenged and inspired to reach their fullest intellectual, social-emotional and creative potential to positively impact the world.

Dr. Kimberly McGrath, Superintendent

Tel: 415-381-1112

Email

Map

Web

[redacted]

[redacted]

Re: Removal of names from redistricting petition

[redacted]

Sun 10/30/2022 10:15 PM

To: [redacted]

Sorry Mary Jane and Terena, forgot to include our address:

[redacted]

On Oct 30, 2022, at 10:01 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Dear Mary Jane and Terena

Pease remove our names from the petition please. We were misled by the message of the petition and do not agree with the redistricting.

thank you,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Sorry another email about RUSD
Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 9:20:46 AM
Attachments: image_123986672.JPG

Terena, Jon, Alexis: thank you so much. I truly did not expect a response— I can't imagine how much work just arrived on your desk, especially coming out of the last two years of Covid stress. Thanks for your continued service.

This entire process has been stressful, disingenuous, and divisive— a vocal minority throwing a temper tantrum because they did not get their way— even though they signed multiple documents that explicitly stated they accepted the risk of the IDTs ending in 2022. They don't like that the gamble may not work out exactly and so refuse to accept the results. Exactly the opposite behavior that we want to normalize for our kids.

I can't believe that people can't recind their signature when it was provided under fraudulent premises. These are grandparents, elderly residents, or busy professionals who thought that they were doing something good but innocuous for their neighbor— and are now upset but also disenfranchised. They may not engage again with someone who comes to their door with the factual information. Is that fair?

This is not good for either district. It's good for a few families who prioritize their own convenience over their neighbors educational choices.

Please let me know how I can help.
[redacted]

On Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 9:12 AM Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

> [redacted]
>
> Thank you for your email. We have been in the process of working with legal counsel and the Registrar of Voters to determine the legal basis for removing signatures from the petition once a petition has been filed. Unfortunately, there is no basis for removing signatures once the petition has been filed. At this point, however, the verification process is not yet complete, consequently the validity of the petition has not been determined.
>
> The East Corte Madera territory transfer petition was received by the Marin County Office of Education on Thursday, October 27, and forwarded to the Registrar of Voters on Friday, October 28th. The Registrar of Voters is currently verifying signatures. Part of this process includes providing our office with the number of registered voters attributed to the addresses included with the territory transfer petition. The County Superintendent has 30 days from receipt of the petition to complete the signature verification process.
>
> The County Committee on School District (CCSDO) will hold its annual organization meeting

on November 7, 2022, 5:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education. During the meeting, the County Committee will receive a status update on territory transfer petitions in process, including the East Corte Madera petition.

You are welcome to provide public comment during the County Committee meeting.

Terena Mares
Senior Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee
County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835
C | 530.409.7604

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 7:25 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Sorry another email about RUSD

Terena, my apologies if your inbox is crazy. I just wanted to include this. This flyer in support of the petition was left on the stoop of every house in the neighborhood. As you can see, even their talking points in support of the filed petition imply that the transfer will give "choice". "Clear pathway for RUSD families to remain at RUSD" and "path for funding" and "we support choice". It's simply not true.

We are trying to get out the word to email if the reality does not reflect the wishes, but unless we knock on every single door, it's impossible to reach everyone. It can't be our burden to push back on a lie, can it? I hope this shows though, that the "choice" language was, is, and continues to be a key part of the sales pitch, even though it's patently untrue. The entire petition should be invalidated for this reason alone.

[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 5:32 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hello [redacted]

Thank you for your question. All questions will be answered through a Q&A and posted to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization's website within the next week.

Best,

Terena Mares
Senior Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee
County Committee on School District Organization

[redacted]

From [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 8:59 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hello Ms. Mares,

Thank you for the update, it's much appreciated. Would you please share the state's nine(9) criteria for a territory transfer? And must all 9 criteria be met in order to approve the territory transfer?

Thank you again.

Best,
[redacted]

On Wed, Nov 16, 2022 at 8:19 AM Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

> Hello,

The purpose of this email to is notify you that on November 10, our office received the attached certification of signatures for the east Corte Madera Territory Transfer petition from the Registrar of Voters. Thereafter on November 11, 2022, County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke notified the California State Board of Education and the Marin County Committee on School District Organization that the petition has been examined and determined to be sufficient.

Since receiving the petition on October 27, 2022, our office has received numerous requests to remove signatures from the petition. We worked extensively with legal counsel and the Registrar of Voters to determine if there was a legal basis for removing signatures from the petition once a petition has been filed. In reviewing this matter we considered the allegations of signature gathering under false pretenses. After due consideration, the Marin County Office of Education concluded that there is no process in the law for removing signatures once the petition has been filed.

The public will have an opportunity to have their voices heard, either in support of or against the territory transfer during the public hearings. Thereafter the county committee will study whether the proposed territory transfer meets the state's nine criteria. The county committee is required to render its decision within 120 days of the first public hearing, or 120 days from a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination, which means a decision may be issued as soon as March 2023.

The Marin County Committee for School District Organization has scheduled public hearings on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Larkspur Corte Madera School District, Cove School, 330 Golden Hind Passage, Corte Madera
- Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Reed School District, Location TBD

Exact locations will be noticed at least 10-days in advance, including posting on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization's website.

Terena Mares
Secretary Designee
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835

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Alexis Oberlander

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 6:07 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hello [redacted],

Thank you for your question. All questions related to the East Corte Madera Territory Transfer will be answered through a Q&A and posted to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization's website within the next week.

Best,
Terena

Terena Mares
Senior Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee
County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835
C | 530.409.7604

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:07 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hi Terena,

Thank you for this update. We have a group of more than 100 residents who wish to speak *against* the territory transfer. Could you provide some detail on the format of the public hearings so we can prepare the group? Will each side be given an allotted amount of time?

Thank you,
[redacted]
Reed parent & ECM resident

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2022, at 8:19 AM, Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

Hello,

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Secretary Designee
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
tmares@marinschools.org
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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:23 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Thank you Terena. One more question for the FAQ - will you provide to all of the CCSDO committee members copies of all of the emails from petition signees requesting signatures be removed?

On Wed, Nov 16, 2022 at 6:07 PM Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:

> Hello [redacted],
>
> Thank you for your question. All questions related to the East Corte Madera Territory Transfer will be answered through a Q&A and posted to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization's website within the next week.
>
> Best,
>
> Terena
>
> *Terena Mares*
>
> Senior Deputy Superintendent
>
> Marin County Office of Education
>
> Secretary Designeee
>
> County Committee on School District Organization
>
> tmares@marinschools.org
>
> O | 415.499.5835

C | 530.409.7604

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:07 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hi Terena,

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Thank you,

[redacted]

Reed parent & ECM resident

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 16, 2022, at 8:19 AM, Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:
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Terena Mares
Secretary Designee
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835

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[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

Mon 11/7/2022 10:43 AM

To: Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>

Pl ase remove our name from the list thanks [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 10:47 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

Hi I need our name to be removed from the list we were mislead and lie about it !! Please remove our name from the list the [redacted] family thanks

Get Outlook for iOS

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 12:12 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Redistricting Petition - RUSD to LCMSD

Dear Senior Deputy Superintendent Mares, Deputy Superintendent Oberlander, and Assistant Superintendent Lenz,

I am an affected homeowner of a redistricting petition before you. It has come to my attention that you may be interested in a letter I emailed Superintendent Burke last week. Please find my letter below for your consideration.

Best regards,
[redacted]

_ _

Dear Superintendent Burke,

I am writing to express my opposition to a petition which was recently brought to my attention via Nextdoor. I also feel that Nextdoor is not the appropriate venue for delivering such impactful news, and would have appreciated a formal and unbiased survey distributed to all affected homeowners instead. For the record, I am a directly affected homeowner and my opinion was never sought.

From what I understand, despite living in a renowned school district, a small group of neighbors would rather send their students to a school outside of our assigned school district. Rather than move to their school district of choice, which continues to be a sensible and viable option, these neighbors have chosen the most divisive and self-serving means of gaining what they somehow feel entitled to have. By proposing to force their own preferences upon an entire neighborhood, they upend the rest of their neighbor's lives, placing their neighbors in the same unhappy position they currently find themselves in. I am astounded by the selfishness and single-mindedness of these neighbors to take such a divisive action. They were aware of our neighborhood's assigned school district when they moved here; if they no longer wish to reside in a RUSD neighborhood, they are free to move.

My husband and I purchased our home in [redacted] because it is within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District. We actually moved from a house that was in LCMSD so that we could live within the boundaries of RUSD. This was our intent when we purchased our property on [redacted]. We feel so fortunate to be a part of RUSD, and our [redacted] had a great experience as a student at Del Mar. We have no interest in changing the school district boundaries, and would like our home to remain within RUSD. **We are not wealthy; our investment is hard earned and important to us**.

I believe it's critical for RUSD to be inclusive for families of all socio-economic levels. For a grounded and healthy school community, it's vital that Tiburon and Belvedere families mix with Corte Madera families. **Maintaining the middle-class Corte Madera neighborhoods within RUSD is an important step towards socio-economic diversity at Reed, Bel Air, and Del Mar**. Redistricting would come at a great loss of community and socio-economic awareness to RUSD students. Maintaining the Corte Madera neighborhoods within RUSD is also vital for community-building. It was such a great experience for our [redacted] to attend Del Mar. Through [redacted] years at Del Mar and extra curricular activities throughout Marin, our [redacted] arrived at Redwood High School with close friends who reside in Tiburon, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Mill Valley and Kentfield. Creating connections between families from Corte Madera, Tiburon and Belvedere in the elementary and middle school years builds trust amongst students as they embark on their high school journeys and beyond.

The three arguments for redistricting, per the petition flyer posted on Nextdoor (see below), are biased and disingenuous. In addition, the flyer is anonymously written, and provides no names or contact information.

The first point, "create consistency and convenience of extra curricular activities and sports teams within our community", is something that already exists within our community, and is absolutely not a reason to disrupt the school boundaries of our neighborhood. When it comes to sports and activities, Southern Marin is the community. Our children swam with Tidalwaves in Larkspur and Northbay Aquatics in Tiburon and Larkspur; they played basketball with CYO in Larkspur and NBBA in San Rafael; flag football in Mill Valley; tennis at Tiburon and Corte Madera courts; and LaCross in Mill Valley and Tiburon. I could name more, but the point is the same. The beauty of all of these activities and sports is that they bring our small communities together - already!

The second point, "the proximity of schools to home", is only accurate for the Cove School. Del Mar is far closer to our neighborhood than Hall Middle School. Our route to Del Mar, a beautiful 12 minute drive along Paradise Drive, was such a lovely way for our [redacted] to begin every day. In contrast, the trip to and from Hall, which we made with our [redacted], was congested and long, as we were often caught up in commuter traffic to access highway 101 and Redwood High School. Our neighbors regularly walk to Bel Air or bike to Del Mar over Ring Mountain. I can't imagine a more peaceful and healthy way to begin each day.

The third point, a "clear pathway for RUSD families to remain at RUSD" claims that there is a commitment to school choice and a funding path for kids to go to RUSD (after redistricting). I have not found any documentation backing up these declarations. Claiming that LCMSD provides a path for funding for kids to attend RUSD is disingenuous, as this claim leaves out the fact that the funding path consists of LCMSD demanding a $500,000 payment in order to approve the IDTs. A half of a million dollars! It's no wonder RUSD has not approved LCMSD's proposal. As reported in the Ark, "Under those terms, the Reed district's payment would have been $500,000 in the current school year, up significantly from the $40,000 it paid last year". [redacted]. "Reed Union School District: Newcomer joins two incumbents on slate in four-way race". The Ark, October 12, 2022.

In closing, I oppose the proposal to redistrict my property from RUSD to LCMSD. The points argued in favor of redistricting are not persuasive enough to disrupt and upend the lives and investments of the majority of homeowners and renters alike who, like me, are content with their decision to reside within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, in Corte Madera. Instead, LCMSD should remove their high bar for IDT's and return to the negotiation with reasonable terms. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

[redacted]

Attachment: Redistricting Fyler posted on Nextdoor

Corte Madera Schools *for* Corte Madera Kids

Aligning Schools With Our Local Community

A petition with more than 25% registered-voter support is currently being validated. It supports **changing the school district boundaries** for areas of East Corte Madera (ECM) **from Reed Union School District (RUSD) to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (LCMSD).**

We are still hopeful that RUSD and LCMSD can reach an agreement that allows current IDT students and siblings to continue in LCMSD through Hall middle school.

WHY SUPPORT THE PETITION?

- **COMMUNITY CONTINUITY – DEEPER SENSE OF BELONGING**
  - Align our children's schools with our local community's identity
  - Create consistency and convenience of extracurricular activities and sports teams within our community
- **PROXIMITY OF SCHOOLS TO HOME**
  - The Cove is steps away from our homes - walk, bike, scoot with friends
  - Safer in an emergency. Easier for kids to unite and egress with families
  - Lowers carbon footprint - reduced Tiburon Blvd traffic
  - Commute time saves over one hour per day; 20+ hours per month
- **CLEAR PATHWAY FOR RUSD FAMILIES TO REMAIN AT RUSD**
  - LCMSD BP 5117 provides a path for funding for kids to go to RUSD
  - LCMSD and IDT families have always been committed to school choice

The updating of ECM district boundaries is overdue. RUSD's Granada School (in ECM) closed in 1980s. LCMSD's Cove School opened in 2014. Our neighborhood school has changed, yet district boundaries remain unchanged. Let's make the change so our kids can attend the schools in their community.

Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke; Terena Mares
Subject: Redistricting Petition

[redacted] at [redacted] are hereby requesting that our names be removed from the petition we signed on June 6th. We were not aware of the true intent of the petition. We feel that our neighborhood should remain in the Reed Union School District.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request.

Thank you
[redacted]

Redistricting petition for East Corte Madera

[redacted]

Tue 11/8/2022 6:32 PM

To: [redacted]

Dear Mary Jane and Terena,

Please remove our names from the petition that we signed from a neighbor regarding redistricting East Corte Madera.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Regards

[redacted]

FW: Redistricting petition for East Corte Madera

[redacted]
Wed 11/9/2022 7:18 AM
To: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 6:32 PM
To [redacted]
Subject Redistricting petition for East Corte Madera

Dear Mary Jane and Terena,

Please remove our names from the petition that we signed from a neighbor regarding redistricting East Corte Madera.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Regards
[redacted]

P Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Redistricting petition

[redacted]

Fri 11/4/2022 5:02 PM

To: [redacted]

Please remove my name from the K-8 redistricting petition. I was completely mislead by the woman presenting the petition.

My name is [redacted]

Thank you,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Redistricting signatures by misinformed

[redacted]
Mon 10/31/2022 2:52 PM

To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Requested removal of names from the petition.

Cheers and take care, [redacted]
==========

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]
Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 8:05 PM
Subject: Redistricting signatures by misinformed
To: [redacted]

My husband and I were misinformed about the redistricting petition. We live in east Corte madera and are very happy in the Reed school district. We both signed the petition thinking it allowed other parents a choice in schools. It was never our intention to petition for a new school district. Please remove our names and signatures from the list.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you! Please confirm

Redrawing district lines

[redacted]

Fri 10/28/2022 7:54 PM

To: [redacted]

I signed the petition to allow kids in East Corte Madera to choose which school they wanted to go to, not to force kids in East Corte Madera to go to Corte Madera schools. Not sure what the policy will be if the lines change. We are happy at Del Mar MS and want to continue to go there.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Re: Reed School District territory transfer petition

[redacted]
Mon 11/14/2022 7:55 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Dear Ms Burke and Ms. Mares,
I concur with my wife's email ([redacted]) below.

Best,

[redacted]

On Nov 14, 2022, at 7:50 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Dear Ms Burke and Ms. Mares,

I live in East Corte Madera at [redacted] Several months ago I was approached by a neighbor going door to door to sign a petition for the residents of East Corte Madera regarding a choice of which school district to send their children to (Reed or Larkspur/CM). I was led to believe that the petition was about giving parents a choice, not about changing from the current designation of RUSD for everyone to L/CM. My husband, [redacted] and I both signed the petition. Now I've been informed that the territory transfer would redraw the district lines for everyone in E.CM with no option to remain in RUSD.

Because we signed the petition under false pretenses, we respectfully request both of our names to be removed. I suspect that many of my neighbors in E.CM who signed the petition also were under the mistaken impression that they would retain the choice to be in RUSD, and in my opinion the whole petition should be voided. My two children attended the Reed Schools [redacted], and in fact this was one of the main reasons we wanted to buy a home in E.CM. I understand that some families would prefer to be in the L/CM district, and I would be in favor of giving each family the choice if that is a viable option.

I would be willing to speak at a school board or town council meeting about this if the issue comes up. The territory transfer process should not go forward under the false assumption that a majority of E.CM families are in favor of changing to the LCM school district, based on the misrepresentation of the petition.

Sincerely yours,
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 12:08 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Reed Union School District redistricting petition

Dear Mary Jane Burke,
Please remove my name from the aforementioned petition as I feel I was not given the correct information when the person came around to ask me to sign.
Thank you.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Alexis Oberlander

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Alexis Oberlander
Subject: FW: Reject the Petition to Change the Reed Union School District Boundaries

---

From: [redacted]

Subject: Reject the Petition to Change the Reed Union School District Boundaries

Dear CCSDO,

My family moved to East Corte Madera in order to attend Reed Union Schools. Changing the school boundaries would be devastating for us. We would have to uproot our lives once again to pursue a better education for our children.

We are astounded that the petitioners systematically lied to the signers, and even admitted to doing this at the meeting of the County Committee. Furthermore, the petitioner admitted to this deception in an email. As the committee was made aware publicly of this fraud, they have a duty to reject the petition. Otherwise they are complicit in this serious violation of public integrity.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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Remove my name from the petition

[redacted]

Mon 11/7/2022 9:35 AM

To: [redacted]

Hi,

I just saw my name is still on the petition regarding redistricting East Corte Madera. I was completely deceived regarding the true meaning of the petition. Please remove my name:

[redacted]

Thank you,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

[redacted]

fyi

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:19 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Remove Name from Petition

Greetings,

Please remove my name from the petition to redistrict the school for Corte Madera families. I signed having been told it was a petition to give families the choice of whether to attend the Cove School or RUSD. I have since learned this is not the case.

Best,

[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Remove name from petition

[redacted]

Tue 11/15/2022 1:12 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Dear Mary Jane & Terena-

I believe my name might have been used on the redistricting petition which was not approved by me. Please remove - [redacted]). Thank you.

Remove Names from RUSD/ECM Redistricting Petition

[redacted]
Fri 10/28/2022 9:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Hello,

We're not sure if our names were included in the petition that was submitted yesterday to redistrict East Corte Madera Hillside to move to LCMSD from RUSD. If so, please remove them as the arguments that were presented to us at the time were done in bad faith. We were under the impression it was to give our community the choice to choose either school district. Redistricting is not something we seek now that our family has started at Reed.

Many thanks in advance,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 12:42 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Remove our Names from Petition

Hello Mary Jane and Terena,

We respectfully request that our names be removed from the petition circulating back in June. We understood the petition to offer a choice to the neighborhood but not that it would re-district East Corte Madera. For this reason, we feel strongly about remaining in the RUSD and request my name and my husband's name (cc'd here) be removed.

Thank you,
[redacted]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Mary Jane Burke

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 7:55 PM
To: Mary Jane Burke; [redacted]
Subject: Request for redistricting of East Corte Madera Hillside from RSD to LCMSD

Hello Superintendent Burke.

First off I want to thank you for your many, many years of excellent service for our [redacted] here in the county. We so appreciate you helping to mediate on behalf of these two excellent school districts and superintendents/school boards.

My [redacted] and I, and kids [redacted] Hall) and [redacted] Cove) live in East Corte Madera and have attend LCMSD schools for [redacted] wonderful years through an IDT between the districts. Despite knowing what a great district Tiburon is, as my cousins grew up going to schools there, we have felt so fortunate to be able to attend the school down the street, in OUR COMMINUTY. After school the [redacted] play with their friends in the neighborhood, often going from house to house until dinner time. Or play sports games at the field next to the school. And all the parents I know st the Nugget and get the chat about life matters with. None of those things happen if/when ours and other [redacted] get sent OVER THE HILL to Tiburon.

I've heard it my whole life - this neighborhood is called and considered "Corte Maghetto" by the Tiburon community and school kids. It's now the right time to make this practical and geographical split.

All the best with your retirement. You've certainly earned it.

Thanks for your consideration.

[redacted]

November 12th, 2022

Attn: Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Office of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Ave,
San Rafael, CA 94903
Sent Via email
Sent Via Certified USPS Mail

Re: Do Not Validate the East Corte Madera Redistricting Petition - Facts

Dear [redacted]

I request your board immediately invalidate the 10/27 petition. Do Not validate this based on the below and attached facts. Validation is obviously not simply an exercise in voter status. You have the authority to do what is right now. Using one or all the below facts, please invalidate the petition, do not move forward with public hearings:

1) Signature gatherer [redacted] requested you, the board, remove all 27 signatures on 5 pages which [redacted] gathered. [redacted] request was made to the board in writing and also verbally in public hearing on 11/07/22 in San Rafael. Please remove BEFORE validation on 11/28.
    a. [redacted] requested based on the false information [redacted] gave to signers about choice, and that they were not shown the real petition, they were presented only with information this was for "choice". Please remove all pages of signatures [redacted] collected now, do not validate this petition using these five pages of 27 signatures.
2) Petition gathers have swapped the real petition after it was signed. What was shown to (very few of) the signer's is attachment 1A. Without the signer's permission, in October, the chief petitioners swapped the petition with major fundamental changes, petitioners did not get the permission of the signers for these changes. Please invalidate.
3) 11/7/22 [redacted] statement, as I said to you all, I personally spoke to 20 neighbors on Granada, Endeavor, and endeavor cove, only. I went to every door, on 11/4 and 11/5 dates to discuss (prior to the petition upload, so anonymously). This is only 20 % or less of our area. Not a single person I spoke to in this area knew the petition was for full redistricting, everyone that signed thought it was for "choice". Many didn't sign because the facts didn't line up. The signers all felt betrayed, and have since emailed you the board, for signature removal. You have received removal requests from the signers, please comply before validating.
4) 11/7/22 neighbor statements said to the board, you, by 12+ ECM neighbors stating they have requested their signatures removed, based on a clearly misleading petition. Many were not shown the actual petition. All these email requests are in addition to those [redacted] spoke with, and combined are still only the tip of the iceberg for this neighborhood.

Please do not validate this petition, it is clearly invalid. You DO have the authority to do what is right now, before your 11/28 deadline. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the contents of this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me, my cell phone is [redacted] and my email is [redacted] Please keep this letter confidential.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[redacted]

CC: Marin Board & Committee Members:

[redacted]

Attachments: 1A) June /.July Petition, presented to signers. 1B) October Petition, submitted

Attachment 1A

PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

To the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County:

Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 35700, subdivision (a), the undersigned, constituting at least 25 percent of the registered electors residing in the territory proposed to be transferred, now within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, Marin County, petition that the boundaries of the Reed Union School District be changed to eliminate from it the territory hereinafter described. The undersigned persons petition that the territory be transferred to and included within the Larkspur Corte Madera School District of Marin County.

The property to be transferred is described as follows:
The territory is in east Corte Madera, California. It is south of Paradise Drive, between El Camino Drive and Westward Drive, an area that includes the following streets:



- Granada Drive
- Sonora Way
- El Camino Dr
- Vista Court
- Prince Royal Drive
- Windward Drive
- Paradise Drive
- Verona Place
- Endeavor Drive
- Endeavor Cove
- Granada Park
- Constitution Drive
- Windward Drive
- Buccaneer Ct
- Enterprise Drive
- Mariner Green Drive
- Mariner Green Court
- Westward Drive
- Balclutha Drive
- Privateer Drive

The undersigned request the changes in the respective boundaries of the school districts for the following reasons:

1. The territory is geographically part of the Town of Corte Madera and therefore should be included in the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. This neighborhood should attend their community schools. The distance from this territory to the Reed Union School District requires us to leave our community for school. Ring Mountain is a natural barrier between our neighborhood and Tiburon, separating this neighborhood from a true community experience with the Reed Union School District.
2. The Cove School (of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District) opened in 2014 and has close proximity to this territory. It is on average less than 1 mile (a range of 0.2 - 1.1 miles) from our territory to The Cove School, whereas it is on average over 5 miles (a range of 4.9-5.9 miles) to Reed Elementary of the Reed Union School District. It is in the best interest of kids to attend their community school and to then continue in the district through 8th grade for social/emotional growth and educational consistency. Additionally, Hall Middle School of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District is on average a half a mile closer (a range of .2 - 1 miles closer) than Del Mar of Reed Union School District.
3. Some streets in this neighborhood are already in the attendance boundaries for the Larkspur Corte

Madera School District. Incorporating these streets into the district is a continuation of the attendance boundaries that would bring our neighborhood back together so everyone in the Marin Estates, Mariner Green, and East Corte Madera Hillside subdivisions would attend the same school district as other neighborhoods in Corte Madera.

The Chief Petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are: 1. Craig Blok 33 Sonora Way, Corte Madera, CA 94925 2. Sarah Gerber 78 Granada Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Name Residence address *For office use only*

1 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

2 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

3 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

4 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

5 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

6 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

7 Sign No. & Street

Print City Zip Code

I, _____, state as follows:

(1) That my residence address is: _____ (2) That I circulated the foregoing petition and saw the appended signatures being written. (3) That according to my best information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the

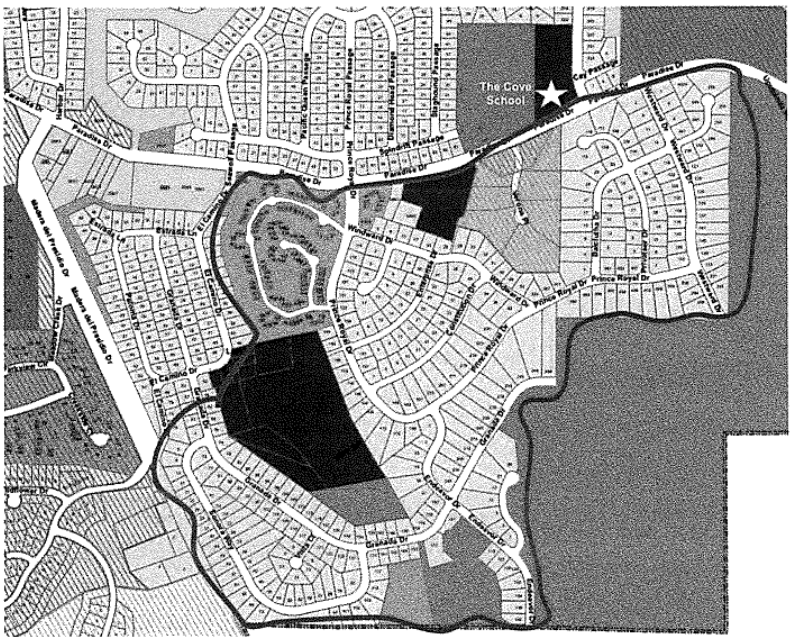
Attachment 1B

PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

To the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County:

Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 35700, subdivision (a), the undersigned, constituting at least 25 percent of the registered electors residing in the territory proposed to be transferred, now within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, Marin County, petition that the boundaries of the Reed Union School District be changed to eliminate from it the territory hereinafter described. The undersigned persons petition that the territory be transferred to and included within the Larkspur Corte Madera School District of Marin County.

The property to be transferred is described as follows:
The territory is in east Corte Madera, California. It is south of Paradise Drive, between El Camino Drive and Westward Drive, an area that includes the following addresses:



- Granada Drive #58-248
- Sonora Way (all) #1-117
- El Camino Dr #50-61, 76-78
- Vista Court (all) #1-14
- Prince Royal Dr. #51-508
- Verona Place (all) #1-7
- Endeavor Drive (all) #1-142
- Endeavor Cove (all) #1-25
- Constitution Drive (all) #1-45
- Windward Drive (all) #1-53
- Buccaneer Ct (all) #1-17
- Enterprise Drive (all) #1-37
- Mariner Green Drive (all) #1-116
- Mariner Green Court (all) #118-162
- Westward Drive (all) #1-208
- Balclutha Drive (all) #1-258
- Privateer Drive (all)#1-116

The undersigned request the changes in the respective boundaries of the school districts for the following reasons:

1. The territory is geographically part of the Town of Corte Madera and therefore should be included in the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. This neighborhood should attend their community schools. The distance from this territory to the Reed Union School District requires us to leave our community for school. Ring Mountain is a natural barrier between our neighborhood and Tiburon, separating this neighborhood from a true community experience with the Reed Union School District.
2. The Cove School (of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District) opened in 2014 and has close proximity to this territory. It is on average less than 1 mile (a range of 0.2 - 1.1 miles) from our territory to The Cove School, whereas it is on average over 5 miles (a range of 4.9-5.9 miles) to Reed Elementary of the Reed Union School District. It is in the best interest of kids to attend their community school and to then continue in the district through 8th grade for social/emotional growth and educational consistency. Additionally, Hall Middle School of the Larkspur Corte Madera School District is on average a half a mile closer (a range of .2 - 1 miles closer) than Del Mar of Reed Union School District.
3. Some streets in this neighborhood are already in the attendance boundaries for the Larkspur Corte Madera School District. Incorporating these streets into the district is a continuation of the attendance

boundaries that would bring our neighborhood back together so everyone in the Marin Estates, Mariner Green, and East Corte Madera Hillside subdivisions would attend the same school district as other neighborhoods in Corte Madera.

The Chief Petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are:

1. Craig Blok
2. Heather Armstrong Choate
[redacted]
3. Paul Burton

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2022 7:47 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Happy with RUSD

Hi Kimberly,

I know I reached out before but I'm reaching out again now that the petition was validated. I am writing to reiterate that we, as the parents of [redacted] in RUSD who reside in the East Corte Madera community, are very happy with RUSD.

We are not in favor of the proposed redistricting of our hillside.

[redacted] and I lived in Tiburon when our [redacted], was in [redacted] attending Reed. We then bought a home in East Corte Madera the summer before [redacted] started [redacted]. We purchased our home in this neighborhood specifically so our [redacted] and then [redacted] could attend RUSD.

[redacted] is a [redacted] grader at Bel Aire [redacted] has thrived academically and socially at both Reed and Bel Aire. Our [redacted], is a [redacted] grader at Reed. [redacted] comes home every day and reminds us how much [redacted] loves attending Reed. [redacted] is thriving academic with the low classroom to teacher ratio and is reading above grade level.

[redacted] take the bus every day to and from school. The bus has been very reliable and convenient. I understand that there has been a lot of discussion around proximity to school, and want to note that Del Mar is actually a little closer to our house than Hall Middle school.

[redacted] and I are active members of the RUSD community, donating every year to the Reed Foundation. I am an [redacted]

Thank you,

[redacted]



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[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:37 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Opposition to redistricting ECM

Good morning [redacted] and thank you so much for taking the time to send this email. I understand your perspectives and will be expressing my opinions and perspectives at the two upcoming public hearings that will be held by the County Board on School Organization. These two events will be the best place for you to express your perspective as this is the first governing body that will hear perspectives and will determine whether the petition should move onto the state or not.

The first public hearing will be on November 30th at 6:00 in the Cove Gallery at the
Cove School
330 Golden Hind Passage
Corte Madera 94925

The second is Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM at
Del Mar Middle School Gymnasium
105 Avenida Miraflores
Tiburon, California 94920

Take care and I hope to see you there.

Thanks,
Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District
"We are even stronger together!"

On Fri, Nov 18, 2022 at 9:39 PM [redacted] > wrote:

> Dear Dr. McGrath, Esteemed Board Members,

I am writing to share with you my firm opposition to redistricting our neighborhood to LCMSD.

My husband and I bought our home in East Corte Madera knowing that it was in a great school district. Our [redacted] are currently enrolled at Reed, in [redacted] grade and in Bel Aire, in [redacted] grade and [redacted] have attended RUSD since Kindergarten. As members of the RUSD community for the past 5 years we have developed strong family friendships and connections to the school community. Our experience with Reed and Bel Aire schools has been exceptional and we want our children to continue to receive the excellent educational and enrichment opportunities that Reed, Bel Aire and Del Mar offer.

Having to change schools would be detrimental to our children and to our family. Our [redacted] has had some challenges with reading acquisition and [redacted] has gotten specialized support at Reed for the past two years. This level of intervention would not be available at other schools. We know that reading is the foundation for learning and we highly value the extra support that [redacted] is getting at Reed school. Our [redacted] has blossomed in [redacted] education at Reed and Bel Aire due in large part to the caring and attentive teachers and staff that have supported [redacted]. [redacted] is a child who needs an educational environment with understanding and receptivity to children with high degrees of sensitivity and RUSD schools are highly skilled in this area. While at Reed and Bel Aire [redacted] has participated in the school play and [redacted] currently engages in morning math club and percussion. The direct relationship that [redacted] has with [redacted] teachers and specialists and these types of enrichment activities have been crucial in developing [redacted] confidence and ability to grow into [redacted] potential. [redacted] have developed sweet friendships with their classmates and certainly identify as "Reed Racoons" and "Bel Aire Bears". If you were to ask them, they would tell you that they love their schools and would be highly distraught about having to attend different schools. We love being a part of the Reed Union School District and want to continue to be engaged in this school community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for taking into account the negative impact that redistricting our neighborhood would have on my children and on my family.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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Remove me from Petition

[redacted]
Tue 11/1/2022 8:22 PM
To: [redacted]
Please remove my name from the LCMSD petition.

Thank you.

[redacted]
Misspellings by iPhone

Sorry another email about RUSD

[redacted]

Fri 10/28/2022 7:25 PM

To: Terena Mares tmares@marinschools.org

Terena, my apologies if your inbox is crazy. I just wanted to include this. This flyer in support of the petition was left on the stoop of every house in the neighborhood. As you can see, even their talking points in support of the filed petition imply that the transfer will give "choice". "Clear pathway for RUSD families to remain at RUSD" and "path for funding" and "we support choice". It's simply not true.

e are trying to get out the word to email if the reality does not reflect the wishes, but unless we knock on every single door, it's impossible to reach everyone. It can't be our burden to push back on a ie, can it? I hope this shows though, that the "choice" language was, is, and continues to be a key part of the sales pitch, even though it's patently untrue. The entire petition should be invalidated for this reason alone.



Corte Madera Schools *for* Corte Madera Kids

Aligning Schools With Our Local Community

A petition with more than 25% registered-voter support is currently being validated. It supports **changing the school district boundaries** for areas of East Corte Madera (ECM) **from Reed Union School District (RUSD) to the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (LCMSD).**

We are still hopeful that RUSD and LCMSD can reach an agreement that allows current IDT students and siblings to continue in LCMSD through Hall middle school.

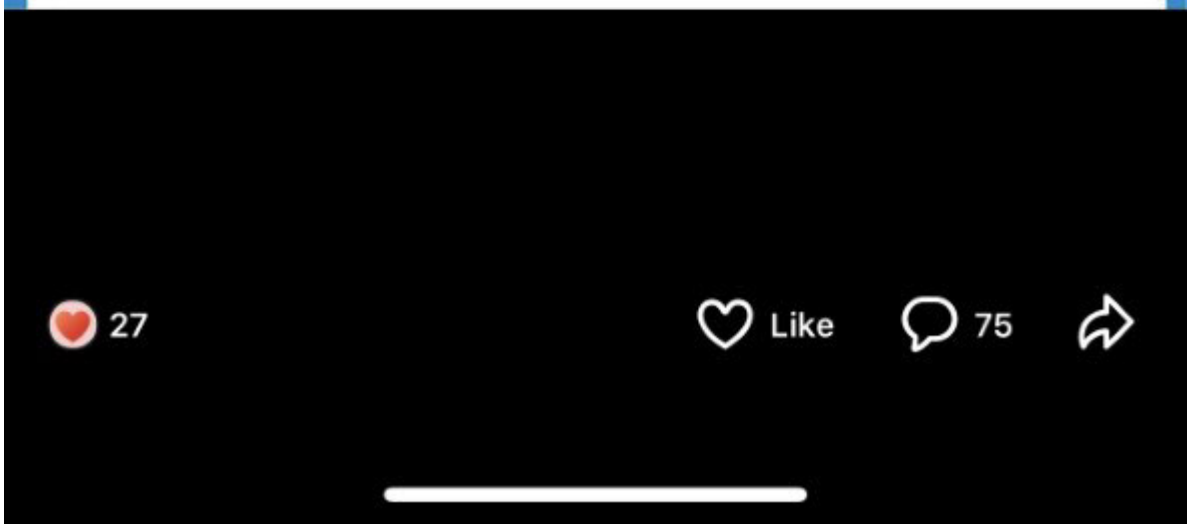
WHY SUPPORT THE PETITION?

- **COMMUNITY CONTINUITY – DEEPER SENSE OF BELONGING**
  - Align our children's schools with our local community's identity
  - Create consistency and convenience of extracurricular activities and

sports teams within our community

- **PROXIMITY OF SCHOOLS TO HOME**
  - The Cove is steps away from our homes - walk, bike, scoot with friends
  - Safer in an emergency. Easier for kids to unite and egress with families
  - Lowers carbon footprint - reduced Tiburon Blvd traffic
  - Commute time saves over one hour per day; 20+ hours per month
- **CLEAR PATHWAY FOR RUSD FAMILIES TO REMAIN AT RUSD**
  - LCMSD BP 5117 provides a path for funding for kids to go to RUSD
  - LCMSD and IDT families have always been committed to school choice

The updating of ECM district boundaries is overdue. RUSD's Granada School (in ECM) closed in 1980s. LCMSD's Cove School opened in 2014. Our neighborhood school has changed, yet district boundaries remain unchanged. Let's make the change so our kids can attend the schools in their community.



Alexis Oberlander

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Alexis Oberlander
Subject: FW: Strong Opposition to Redistricting Petition and Effort

---

From: Kimberly McGrath, Superintendent <rusdsuperintendent@reedschools.org>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 1:48 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition to Redistricting Petition and Effort

Thank you so much for taking the time to carefully construct and send this email [redacted] I understand your perspectives and will be expressing my opinions and perspectives at the two upcoming public hearings that will be held by the County Board on School Organization. These two events will be the best place for you to express your perspective as this is the first governing body that will hear perspectives and will determine whether the petition should move onto the state or not.

The first public hearing will be on November 30th at 6:00 in the Cove Gallery at the
Cove School
330 Golden Hind Passage
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The second is Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM at
Del Mar Middle School Gymnasium
105 Avenida Miraflores
Tiburon, California 94920

Take care and I hope to see you there.

Thanks,
Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District
"We are even stronger together!"

On Fri, Nov 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM [redacted] wrote:

> Dear Dr. McGrath,

I hope you are doing well. First, thank you very much for all your great leadership for the RUSD and for the strong support that you've given to the families and students who live on the East Corte Madera Hillside (ECM) who are privileged to have kids attending RUSD. You truly have gone the extra mile to ensure that we are highly valued members of the RUSD community, and we greatly appreciate that. I apologize in advance for the length of this email but there are several very important points I'd like to make that I hope you will kindly review and consider.

I am contacting you to express my very strong opposition to the pending school redistricting petition, as an ECM [redacted] of [redacted] kids who currently attend Reed, Bel Aire and Del Mar. As you know, given Larkspur Corte Madera School District's (LCMSD) puzzling recent rejection of the RUSD's very generous and reasonable offer to extend the inter-district transfer (IDT) for the ECM families who availed themselves of it, it is unfortunately the case that all of the ECM families with school age children now find ourselves in a very uncertain and stressful situation where we know that one group of our ECM kids will be forced to change districts, make new friends, etc. -- and of course we all hope that it is not our group of kids. Nevertheless, it will either be that the small minority of ECM students who knowingly chose to apply for an interdistrict transfer (IDT) will be forced to attend RUSD if our district remains as-is -- which it should, for the reasons discussed below -- or that the vast majority of ECM students who attend their assigned RUSD will be forced to attend LCMSD against their wishes.

There are four strong reasons why the ECM district should remain as-is: (i) it would be in the best interests of the large majority of ECM children; (ii) it would be the most fair, reasonable and obvious approach; (iii) the RUSD is an amazing system and it should benefit as many kids as possible, not less; and (iv) the ECM RUSD families and kids are deeply integrated from a community perspective with with one another, and with many families and kids in the Tiburon/Belvedere community -- and those ties should not be jeopardized simply because a small minority of IDT families want to redistrict in order to mitigate the fact that the risk they took unfortunately came to pass for them.

Status Quo Is in Best Interests of the Majority Kids

From the perspective of what is in the best interests of the children, as noted above, there sadly is going to be a group of kids who will be forced to move districts despite their and their families' wishes; it's just a matter of which group. While that would be even more of a terrible conundrum if there was about a 50/50 split of IDT vs. RUDS families -- that is not the case here, fortunately. Instead, as you know, there are about 90 ECM kids who attend RUSD, versus only about 40 kids who attend LCMSD under the IDT -- so the number of RUSD kids are more than double the number of LCMSD kids. As such, the clear and obvious path to benefit the vast majority of ECM kids is to simply reject the petition and leave the district as-is, and has been for decades. Otherwise, we would be disrupting the lives and education of more than 2 kids for every 1 kid whose lives and education would not be disrupted, which would obviously make no logical or rational sense.

Status Quo is Most Fair

In terms of fairness, when the IDT families applied for their IDTs they knew full well that they could be in the situation they find themselves in now but chose to make the decision to take the risk anyway. Indeed, our family very deliberately chose not to take that risk of being forced to uproot our kids and send them to a new school and we are so glad that we did because we absolutely love the RUSD. When our oldest child [redacted] was about to enter [redacted] my [redacted] and I were urged by several friends in ECM and down in the Mariner Cove neighborhood to apply for an IDT so that all of our kids could attend school together, and that was persuasive so we talked to school officials about it. However, school officials were very clear that if we applied, we ran the very real risk that we would need to move [redacted] to RUSD at some point before high school and siblings would get no preference when they applied for an IDT -- and I'm sure that every ITD family was told the same thing, and read it in the agreements they chose to sign. Nevertheless, the petitioning IDT families -- now that the risk has come to pass -- have somehow managed to rationalize that it is "ok" for them to try to unilaterally force the majority of families and kids to switch districts simply to keep their minority of kids in the same district. In other words, the petitioners bizarrely seem to think it is ok for them to try to force families and kids like ours to essentially indemnify them against losing their chosen district -- rather

than to model for their children traits like integrity, accountability and maturity by owning up to, and taking full responsibility for, the risk they chose to take with their decision to apply for an IDT. In short, it's baffling to me that they would file a petition like this -- knowing full well that it would likely divide the ECM community as it has, and with little chance of success -- and they should not be rewarded for this sort of selfish and unreasonable conduct.

RUSD is Exceptional and Should Benefit More, Not Less, Students

As you are well aware, and due in no small part to you, the RUSD is an exceptional district from every perspective. The academic quality is top notch. The teachers we've encountered are all engaging and at the top of their field. The parents are extremely engaged and supportive of the schools. The Foundation for Reed Schools does an amazing job at enriching our kids' educations and lives -- which is why our family is happy and proud to have been Scholar's Circle level financial donors for multiple years. And so in light of all that, the number of children who have the privilege to benefit from all this should not be reduced -- it should be increased by way of keeping the current ECM students enrolled and welcoming the former ECM IDT students with open arms! While I'm sure that LCMSD has some of the same qualities, we firmly believe that RUSD is superior and we would be very sad to be torn from it, as would all of the other ECM RUSD families who oppose the petition.

RUSD Has a Strong Community that Welcomes ECM Families

And in terms of community, our family and the other ECM RUSD families we know have very strong bonds among one another, as well as with RUSD families in Tiburon/Belvedere. The best examples of this are with our kids, each of whom have always had friends throughout the district. Our [redacted] (who attends [redacted]) has four best friends, two of whom are in ECM and two of whom live in Tiburon, and they all frequently spend time together outside of school, whether it's birthdays or meetups in Tiburon, ECM or elsewhere. The same sort of story with our [redacted] -- [redacted] has a very good ECM friend but most of [redacted] friends live in Tiburon/Belvedere, and they hang out in both areas, such as when [redacted] Tiburon friends bike to our house over [redacted]. And the same is true of our [redacted], as [redacted] one of best friends lives in Mariner Green (the ECM condos), and the rest of them are in Tiburon/Belvedere, where [redacted] frequently attends birthday parties and playdates.

Thank you very much for considering these points; I respectfully urge you to do all you can to stop this ill-advised redistricting petition.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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Mary Jane Burke

To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Support for East Corte Madera Redistricting Plan
Attachments: Territory Transfer Flowchart A.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Thank you so much for your outreach. I appreciate you taking the time share your thoughts about redistricting a portion of Corte Madera. Please be assured the education code provides the process for these types of requests. I have attached a PDF of the flow chart that outlines the process.

Again, many thanks for your email.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane

Mary Jane Burke (she/her/hers)
Marin County Superintendent of Schools
415-499-5801
@burkemaryjane

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:50 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Support for East Corte Madera Redistricting Plan

Hi Mary Jane,

Hope you had a great Memorial Day weekend!

I'm emailing my support for a school redistricting plan for East Corte Madera. The core reason for my support is I believe that children should have free access to the school that is located in the community that they live in.

The cove and hall schools are located in Corte Madera, the same address and community as East Corte Madera. To be able to contribute and enjoy a community without the ability to enjoy the school district is in my view, at odds with what building a successful community is.

As an IDT, [redacted] has experienced the joy of walking and biking to school, since the cove is less than a mile away. Compare this to Reed, which is 6.5 miles away and is where our school district says we are supposed to go.

Hall middle school is also criticaly important to what the Corte Madera community is. With children being the future generation, and the length of time it takes for children to grow into everything they envision for themselves, its important for children to have full access to Hall middle school, as it helps with the continuity and development of their growth as human beings.

I really appreciate you overseeing this matter, and your consideration this matter continues.

All the best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Support for Redistricting Corte Madera
Attachments: Territory Transfer Flowchart A.pdf

Dear [redacted]

Thank you so much for your outreach. I appreciate you taking the time share your thoughts about redistricting a portion of Corte Madera. Please be assured the education code provides the process for these types of requests. I have attached a PDF of the flow chart that outlines the process.

Again, many thanks for your email.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane

Mary Jane Burke (she/her/hers)
Marin County Superintendent of Schools
415-499-5801
[redacted]@burkemaryjane

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 9:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Support for Redistricting Corte Madera

Hi Mary Jane,

Happy Post-Memorial Day Tuesday!

I'm emailing my support for a school redistricting plan for East Corte Madera. I believe that children should have free access to the school that is located in the community that they live in, both for the children's ability to build life-long relationships and for the environment that suffers from inefficient commutes.

The Cove school is walkable from ECM. I could pick up my [redacted] on our bike and we could share many memories while enjoying an environmentally friendly commute to and from [redacted] school. [redacted] friends will be nearby and [redacted] will walk to visit them. We will cheer for and support the school just around the corner from our house, in the community that we live and thrive.

Reed is a 5 mile drive from ECM so not only would my [redacted] and I be commuting both ways for [redacted] to attend Reed but [redacted] will be distanced from [redacted] friends and the community [redacted] resides, separating [redacted] from the people meant to form the basis of [redacted] and our family's community. Over the course of a year, [redacted] and I will drive 2,000 additional miles by driving to Reed instead of biking to the Cove. Over [redacted] tenure in grades 1-8, that amounts to 16,000 additional miles driven or roughly 533 hours unnecessarily spent behind the wheel of a car. And, that just accounts for our family. When adding in the many other ECM residents making that commute, we are unnecessarily clogging our streets with cars and our air with exhaust when this redistricting effort could simplify the lives of our ECM community.

This issue sincerely matters to me and my family. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness, and consideration as this matter continues.

Best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 1:24 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: The east corte madera petition

Hi Mary Jane Burke,

My name is [redacted] and I was one of the people that went door to door for the petition signatures. I did so with the intent to accurately inform and share that we hoped to change the attendance boundaries. I believe I was clear and honest in that effort.

I know there were people, who after this, wanted to remove their signatures. I just wanted to say that I support removing those signatures if those individuals contacted you as it feels the most right. I know it may not be possible legally as it's something they signed that they thought was binding but just wanted to share that point of view with you.

As an aside, I also know this to be a really hard issue and am truly sad the two boards have yet to work something out. Seems like this petition process only further divides people and the boards have the power to fix this and have not done so. Its disappointing.

Wish you the best as you navigate,

[redacted]

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 3:03 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Tonight's East Corte Madera/RUSD Webinar

To whom it may concern,

We live in the East Corte Madera Hillside and are very concerned about this proposed School District Territory Change having purchased a house her specifically for RUSD access, which our [redacted] has been attending for the past 5 years.

I've posted the details of tonight's meeting on Nextdoor and it has come to our attention that the petitioners have been lying about their intentions to get signatures. I was initially told they hope we'll have a choice between RUSD or Larkspur/Corte Madera but when pressed said they're looking for a school district change. Other neighbors have been told they're only signing for one family's ability to stay in the Larkspur/Corte Madera school district, not that is was a school district change for the neighborhood.

https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=229927895

With this information it absolutely needs to be Marin County's Office of Education responsibility to follow up with every petitioner to verify their residency in the area and that they know this will change the school district for their house permanently, then see if they still support it.

I know several my neighbors will be fighting this every step of the way.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 10:39 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: transfer of school district territory proposed for east corte madera
Attachments: image001.jpg; Territory Transfer Flowchart A.pdf

Hi [redacted]

Thank you so much for your outreach. I appreciate you taking the time share your thoughts about redistricting a portion of Corte Madera. Please be assured the education code provides the process for these types of requests. I have attached a PDF of the flow chart that outlines the process. Additionally, here is the link to the June 15, 2022 webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws-QvfHCYps The information contained in the webinar should answer your questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out again if you have further questions.

Again, thanks for your email.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane

Mary Jane Burke (she/her/hers)
Marin County Superintendent of Schools
415-499-5801
@burkemaryjane

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 4:40 PM
To: Superintendents Office <superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org>
Subject: transfer of school district territory proposed for east corte madera

hello,

my family and i live in tiburon, and our children are in the tiburon reed unified school district.

we are considering moving to east corte madera, specifically to a street that would keep us in the tiburon reed unified school district.

however, i just heard about the potential territory transfer, so i'm concerned that won't work for us if we want to keep them in tiburon reed unified school district.

unfortunately, i was unable to make the zoom meeting yesterday.
can i get the recording link?

also are there any facts you can give me about the probability that the transfer will go through and when? can students currently residing in the east corte madera streets that are under tiburon reed unified school district stay in the district even if the transfer goes through? what about those that don't live there yet - meaning, could you apply to be in tiburon reed unified school district if you live in those streets that used to be in RUSD but then are no longer if the transfer goes through?

thank you,
[redacted]

FW: Transfer of territory petition

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 2:26 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Transfer of territory petition

Hi Mary Jane and Terena,

I hope your day is going well.

I was a part of the RUSD to LCMSD petition process in the ECM hillside neighborhood back in the spring.
I am no longer a part of that and haven't been since June. My children attend Reed and we are so happy.

I am aware that the petition has been turned in.

I would like to have the opportunity for the pages of signatures that I collected, and signed at the bottom to be removed because I unknowingly misrepresentated information when collecting those signatures.

I can't in good faith say I collected those signatures, because I unknowingly misrepresented what I said to collect them.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there are any further steps I can take.

Best, [redacted]

Alexis Oberlander

From: Terena Mares
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 4:18 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Jon Lenz; Alexis Oberlander
Subject: RE: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hello [redacted]

Thank you for reaching out. The Marin County Committee on School District Organization's website will soon include a link for submitting written comments. The county committee will receive all submitted written comments before or after the public hearings. The option for submitting written public comments will remain available until the county committee renders its decision on the petition.

Terena Mares
Senior Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

Secretary Designeee
County Committee on School District Organization

tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org>
Subject: Re: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

Hi Terena

Will we be able to comment via email/mail? I can't attend the meetings but would like to have the reasons for my support for the petition noted.

Thanks
[redacted]

> On Nov 16, 2022, at 8:19 AM, Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> The purpose of this email to is notify you that on November 10, our office received the attached certification of signatures for the east Corte Madera Territory Transfer petition from the Registrar of Voters. Thereafter on November 11, 2022, County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke notified the

California State Board of Education and the Marin County Committee on School District Organization that the petition has been examined and determined to be sufficient.

Since receiving the petition on October 27, 2022, our office has received numerous requests to remove signatures from the petition. We worked extensively with legal counsel and the Registrar of Voters to determine if there was a legal basis for removing signatures from the petition once a petition has been filed. In reviewing this matter we considered the allegations of signature gathering under false pretenses. After due consideration, the Marin County Office of Education concluded that there is no process in the law for removing signatures once the petition has been filed.

The public will have an opportunity to have their voices heard, either in support of or against the territory transfer during the public hearings. Thereafter the county committee will study whether the proposed territory transfer meets the state's nine criteria. The county committee is required to render its decision within 120 days of the first public hearing, or 120 days from a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination, which means a decision may be issued as soon as March 2023.

The Marin County Committee for School District Organization has scheduled public hearings on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Larkspur Corte Madera School District, Cove School, 330 Golden Hind Passage, Corte Madera
- Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Reed School District, Location TBD

Exact locations will be noticed at least 10-days in advance, including posting on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization's website.

Terena Mares
Secretary Designee
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835

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<Petition Certification.pdf>

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:06 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Validation of East Corte Madera Territory Petition

I am one of the people who wanted my signature removed from the petition. I don't understand your decision. You don't need a procedure, you just need common sense. When someone has signed a petition and then found out that they were given the wrong information, and want to take their signature off the petition, that should be honored! I retract my signature and I expect you to honor that.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 16, 2022, at 8:19 AM, Terena Mares <tmares@marinschools.org> wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> The purpose of this email to is notify you that on November 10, our office received the attached certification of signatures for the east Corte Madera Territory Transfer petition from the Registrar of Voters. Thereafter on November 11, 2022, County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke notified the California State Board of Education and the Marin County Committee on School District Organization that the petition has been examined and determined to be sufficient.
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Terena Mares
Secretary Designee
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
tmares@marinschools.org
O | 415.499.5835


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Validity of the East Corte Madera Territory Transfer Petition

[redacted]

Thu 11/10/2022 11:22 AM

[redacted]

Hello All,

I am a Reed parent and East Corte Madera resident writing in regard to the validity of the territory transfer petition. I hope you will consider the following information.

The petitioners, with their petition hidden beneath the signature pages and their children in tow, asked my neighbors "would you sign this petition to give my children school choice?" Then, when my neighbors learned what they had actually signed, they were told that the only way to remove their signatures was to ask the petitioners directly. Many of my neighbors were uncomfortable or even afraid to do this.

When some did contact [redacted] directly, he responded that he was not required to remove signatures. After the signature pages were posted (inadvertently) to the MCOE website, we could see that signatures were not removed as requested - although [redacted] continues to state that they were.

Only after the petition had already been filed, we were told that misinformed neighbors could email MCOE to request that their names be removed. As you know, many neighbors have done so, but then they received replies that this was not possible.

[redacted], one of the of the signature gatherers, informed you by email and in public comment on Monday that she obtained her signatures with false information, because she herself had been misinformed. She requested that you remove the pages she certified from the petition.

She also noticed that the petition submitted to your office was different from the one she had used to gather signatures.

I trust that it can't be the intention of this process to deem a petition "valid" when it was sold with misinformation, no longer has the support of 25% of our neighborhood voters, and has been changed between the time of signing and submission.

I respectfully request that you consider the information above in determining the validity of the petition.

I can provide documentation of everything stated above.

Thank you for your consideration,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 11:06 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Please oppose the Territory Transfer of our East Corte Madera neighborhood to LCMSD

Dear Members of the Marin County Committee for School District Organization,

As a parent and homeowner from the East Corte Madera hillside, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed territory transfer of our neighborhood into the Larkspur-Corte Madera District. My husband and I purchased our home in [redacted] precisely because it is within the boundary of the Reed Union School District. We actually moved from a home within the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District Boundary so that we could live within the boundary of RUSD and our kids could attend Reed Union schools. This was our intent when we purchased our property on [redacted]. We feel so fortunate to be a part of RUSD. We found the district to be inclusive, supportive and welcoming of our family after our move, and our [redacted] had a great experience as a new student at Del Mar.

As a parent of students who attended schools in both Larkspur-Corte Madera and Reed Union School Districts, and are now at [redacted], I have a wide lens from which to view the proposed territory transfer. While our kids enjoyed and thrived in their elementary school years at Neil Cummins and the Cove School, I have full confidence they would have been equally successful and supported had they attended Reed and Bel Aire. Middle School is where, for our family, the districts' offerings diverged. There are systems in place at Del Mar Middle School to alert parents when students are falling behind, as well as support classes and psychological services and testing to meet students where they are and lift them up. We are so grateful that our [redacted] was able to attend Del Mar, and, with the services [redacted] received there, [redacted] was well prepared for the focus, organization, and rigor required to succeed at [redacted].

With the many student services that the Reed Union School District provides, it's vital that it remain inclusive for families of all socio-economic levels. Maintaining the middle-class East Corte Madera neighborhoods within RUSD is an important step towards socio-economic diversity at Reed, Bel Aire, and Del Mar. Redistricting would come at a great loss of community and socio-economic awareness to RUSD students, while also removing access to critical student services which East Corte Madera students, like ours, might not otherwise receive.

Maintaining the Corte Madera neighborhoods within RUSD is also vital for community-building. It was such a great experience for our [redacted] to attend Del Mar. Through [redacted] years at Del Mar and extra curricular activities throughout Marin, our [redacted] arrived at [redacted] with close friends who reside in Tiburon, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Mill Valley

and Kentfield. Creating connections between families from Corte Madera, Tiburon and Belvedere in the elementary and middle school years builds trust amongst students as they embark on their high school journeys and beyond.

One of the points for redistricting, per the flyer circulated in our neighborhood (see below), that it would "create consistency and convenience of extra curricular activities and sports teams within our community", is something that already exists within our community, and is not a reason to disrupt the school boundaries of our neighborhood. When it comes to sports and activities, Southern Marin is the community. Our children swam with Tidalwaves in Larkspur and Northbay Aquatics in Tiburon and Larkspur; they played basketball with CYO in Larkspur and NBBA in San Rafael; flag football in Mill Valley; tennis at Tiburon and Corte Madera courts; and LaCrosse in Mill Valley and Tiburon. I could name more, but the point is the same. The beauty of all of these activities and sports is that they bring our small communities together - already!

The second point, "the proximity of schools to home", is only accurate for the Cove School. Del Mar is far closer to our neighborhood than Hall Middle School. Our route to Del Mar, a beautiful 12 minute drive along Paradise Drive, was such a lovely way for our [redacted] to begin each day. In contrast, the trip to and from Hall, which we made with our [redacted], was congested with long waits in traffic, as we were caught up in and had to navigate the stressful ride amongst many commuters accessing both highway 101 and Redwood High School. On the other hand, many of our neighbors regularly walk to Bel Aire or bike to Del Mar over Ring Mountain. I can't imagine a more peaceful and healthy way to begin each day.

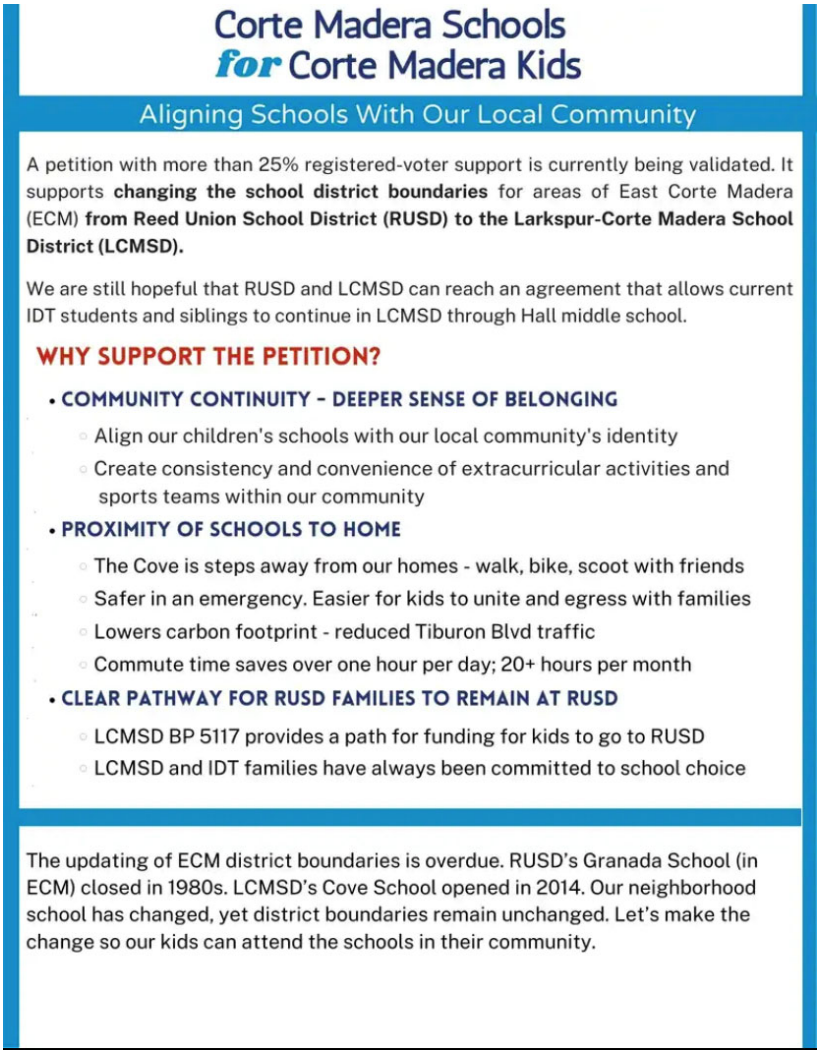
The third point, a "clear pathway for RUSD families to remain at RUSD" claims that there is a commitment to school choice and a funding path for kids to go to RUSD (after redistricting). I don't believe this is the case. In fact, wouldn't the territory transfer simply transfer the burden from a few families seeking an IDT to the majority of families in our neighborhood being required to seek IDT's?

In closing, I oppose the proposed territory transfer before you. The points argued in favor of redistricting are not persuasive enough to disrupt and upend the lives and investments of the majority of homeowners and renters alike who, like me, are content with their decision to reside within the boundaries of the Reed Union School District, in Corte Madera. Instead, I hope LCMSD removes their high financial bar for IDT's and return to the negotiation with more reasonable terms. Please join me in opposing this territory transfer. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

[redacted]

Attachment: Redistricting Flyer circulating in the neighborhood and posted on Nextdoor



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Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

Date Entered	Please share your comments regarding the East Corte Madera territory transfer petition.
11/22/2022	California Code, Elections Code § 18600 makes it a crime to intentionally misrepresent or intentionally make any false statement in connection with gathering signatures on a petition. If it is demonstrated that one or more of the signatures were gathered as a result of false and misleading statements by one or more of the petitioners, would this law apply and would it serve to invalidate the petition?
11/26/2022	I hope you will reconsider this decision and if nothing else, allow all current transfer students to maintain their schooling through Corte Madera. In a world where these kids have been flip flopped for the last few years with forever changing procedures through COVID, I hope you recognize the importance of community and friendships in our young kid's world these days. Interrupting these transfer students in the middle of their elementary years is just yet another unsettling event for these youngsters. Please please reconsider this!
11/26/2022	Please consider reworking our district lines to include our neighbors. Our community thrives on these friendships and common ground with school experiences, and it is such a shame for these kids to not be able to attend school with their friends and have to commute to a community that isn't theirs. Thank you for considering this.
11/26/2022	This petition is ridiculous. It's insane to force the vast majority of children in our neighborhood to switch schools to benefit one small group of parents. Not to mention that this small group of parents systematically lied to residents in order to obtain the signatures on the petition. One of their petitioners admitted they had done this at a public hearing and in a mass email. Since both sides agree the petition is fraudulent, how in the world did the committee validate it? I respectfully request that the committee reject this petition. Not only would this petition be a disaster for the children in this neighborhood, but it will also incur huge legal expenses when the committee is investigated to determine why they validated a petition that they knew to be fraudulent.
11/26/2022	County Committee on School District Organization,My name is [redacted] and I live in East Corte Madera. I purchased a home in this neighborhood just to be near my [redacted]. My [redacted], attends [redacted] at Reed. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the territory transfer petition that seeks to redistrict my neighborhood from RUSD to LCMSD.RUSD offers my [redacted] and all of the other children in the neighborhood a wonderful education and school experience â€" including small class sizes that maximize learning, great student-to-teacher-ratios, and a separate campus for kindergarten through 2nd grade. My [redacted] is thriving at Reed and we all want to see [redacted] continue [redacted] education there, along with [redacted] who should start [redacted] next year â€" a program I understand is not even available at LCMSD.If this territory transfer is approved, my [redacted] and [redacted] will move away from our neighborhood to find a new home in the redrawn Reed school district. This would clearly undo all of the planning I did in purchasing my home in the same neighborhood as my family!This territory transfer would benefit only a minority of families in the neighborhood who support it, while hurting the majority of families who are just trying to go to school in the district they bought their homes in, and want to remain in RUSD. This is not the right way to allow select families to attend LCM schools.Regards [redacted]
11/27/2022	I 100% support those residing in East Corte Madera be able to attend Cove School. It makes no sense that my family who resides in Chapman Park can attend the Cove, but those who live so close to the Cove that they can walk to school are forced to commute to a school outside of their community. These families have built relationships and connections with others within the Cove community and to have to rip these kids away from the only school and friends they know is an absolute shame. Please figure out how to keep these families in the school that is steps from their home and don't take them away from their community.
11/27/2022	Hi CCSDO and RUSD members, My name is [redacted], and I live at [redacted] in ECM with my [redacted] ou [redacted]. We moved to ECM a little over 1 year ago (before our [redacted]) for one reason: the school district. We wound up lucky enough to have wonderful neighbors too, but when we were looking for many years to move out of San Francisco, we were only looking for homes that were part of the RUSD. Last year the stars aligned and we were finally able to make our move and lock in the future of our children [redacted] education.. And we do not take our luck and opportunity lightly. We are just a couple years away from our [redacted] entering the K-8 school system, and we politely and empathetically ask you to please not take this away from our children. We moved to ECM specifically because of Reed, and to have the opportunity that Reed provides be ripped away from us, would be crushing. Please do not let this redistricting proposal go through. Thank you for listening. Best [redacted]
11/27/2022	to the Board Members,I understand the Marin County Committee Board on School District Organization will be holding two hearings on the petition to redistrict a portion of East Corte Madera from the RUSD into the LCMSD. I strongly oppose the petition and am forwarding to you, for your consideration, a letter I submitted to the RUSD Superintendent and Board regarding my position. This issue is about more than just what school children will attend, it will affect the home values and property taxes for every homeowner in our neighborhood.Please do not approve the petition. Thank you [redacted] Dr. McGrath,I live in East Corte Madera and I oppose this petition. We purchased our home in 1997, and were exclusively looking for homes within the RUSD because of its excellent reputation. Once we discovered that our hillside neighborhood was within the RUSD boundaries, we decided on East Corte Madera because we could afford more home here than we could in Tiburon. During escrow, I even called the RUSD offices to confirm that we were located within school boundaries, and that they had no foreseeable plans to change that. All [redacted] of my [redacted] attended and thrived at the three RUSD schools, from [redacted] through [redacted]. RUSD has maintained and even improved its reputation over the years. It has lowered class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios, raised resources per child, kept smaller, friendlier campuses, and created a huge selection of after-school activities and sports, not to mention an additional year of public school for [redacted].While I and many of my neighbors no longer have school-aged children, the redistricting affects all of our neighborhood. Our home is our largest asset, and I believe that the proposed redistricting will increase our property taxes and reduce our home's values, because many buyers specifically look for properties in RUSD due to its outstanding state-wide reputation. According to the figures listed in Marin County Tax statements sent out for the time period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, my property taxes â€" locked in since 1997 per Prop. 13 -- would be raised by approximately $473 04 if this petition is successful. RUSD parcel taxes are currently $624.58 and the bond rate is .0766 of the basic tax. LCMSD parcel taxes are currently $910 00 and the bond rate is .1018 of the basic tax. In other words, we're getting significantly more bang for our buck with RUSD.There are 475 homes in the petitioned area. Of those homes, only 27 have children who currently attend LCMSD. The parents in the 27 homes were all aware that their homes were within RUSD boundaries when they purchased or moved in. There are approximately 90 children that attend RUSD out-numbering the 39 who attend LCMSD in our neighborhood. The petition would allow 39 children who currently attend LCMSD to continue there, but would put 90 children who currently attend RUSD at risk of being yanked from their schools. There is no guarantee that the 90 children would be able to continue their education in their RUSD schools. California Education Code does not allow for any school district to extend an inter-district transfer (IDT) beyond 5 years, including under LCMSD BP 5117. During the IDT negotiations, LCMSD made a proposal to RUSD to allow the current students to continue their education. But, when RUSD agreed to the proposal, it was rejected by LCMSD. I believe that once the petition was filed, LCMSD saw the potential to capture all of the property taxes from our neighborhood, not just those from the 27 homes with children attending LCMSD schools.Please do not approve this petition or allow it to go forward.Thank you for your consideration [redacted]

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

11/27/2022	Hi Dr. McGrath, We are an ECM family with a [redacted] at Reed and we want to express our strong opposition to redistricting our neighborhood to LCMSD. Since starting at Reed Elementary, our [redacted] has thrived and grown in ways that bring us great joy. The community that [redacted] and we have built in the Reed family has been tremendous. Prior to our [redacted] attending Reed, and solely based on the distance to school, we had requested an IDT. However, our IDT was denied by LCMSD, and this was a true blessing! We have met wonderful families in the community who have introduced us to the bus system, carpool, after-school care, and activities and have helped make the [redacted] transition a smooth success.Our [redacted] loves everything about [redacted] Reed experience, and we so very much hope that we can remain in RUSD to best prepare her for Redwood HS and beyond. We appreciate your time and support and wish everyone on this email a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. Sincerely [redacted]
11/27/2022	Dear CCSDO Members and Other Concerned Parties: Conclusion: My children have been part of the RUSD community since our family relocated to the Bay Area from overseas and these kids strongly desire to remain part of the RUSD community. East Corte Madera is part of the RUSD and should remain a part of the RUSD. The deceitful and self-interested minority who live in East Corte Madera that want to be a part of the LCMSD have the option to move to that district without dragging along the majority of us who want to be a part of the RUSD. Background: I am a [redacted], all of whom have been raised as part of the RUSD community since we moved to the Bay Area. My [redacted] children, who are at Bel Aire and Del Mar, strongly desire to continue their education within the RUSD, just like their [redacted] did. During my divorce, my ex-spouse moved out of the district and the kids made it very clear to me that it was a high priority for them to stay with their friends in the community that they know and love. As such, I limited my search for a new family home to those located within RUSD. I could've bought elsewhere in Marin but limited my geography and bore the additional expense of staying within RUSD (ask any residential real estate broker worth their salt, homes in the RUSD carry a premium) out of respect to my children's wishes. It would be an injustice and cruel to rip these kids out of the RUSD community. The primary reason that I bought our home is that it is in the RUSD and the inherent value that comes along with that. If one of my kids eventually raises their own children in this home, they should do so as part of the RUSD. If they decide, like the petitioners have, that they'd prefer to raise their children in a different school district, then they can make that choice by renting/buying in such district. Somewhat off point, but worth noting, several months ago, a petitioner came to our home and deceitfully asked me to sign a petition that would give families the choice as to which school their kids go. It wasn't until I reviewed the petition and drilled down on the specifics that he reluctantly admitted that the petition, in fact, was for redistricting. This petitioner, like the few others in support of the petition, elected to move to a neighborhood that is part of the RUSD. This and the other petitioners, in their own self-interest, are now seeking to disrupt the lives of the children and families who moved to this neighborhood knowing and expecting that it is part of the RUSD. Their selfish, self-serving and deceitful behavior should not be regarded or rewarded. You'd be doing a disservice to the rest of us who decided to move to East Corte Madera because it is part of RUSD. Thank you for your time and consideration.Sincerely,[redacted]
11/27/2022	This petition is ridiculous. It's insane to force the vast majority of children in our neighborhood to switch schools to benefit one small group of parents. Not to mention that this small group of parents systematically lied to residents in order to obtain the signatures on the petition. One of their petitioners admitted they had done this at a public hearing and in a mass email. Since both sides agree the petition is fraudulent, how in the world did the committee validate it? I respectfully request that the committee reject this petition. Not only would this petition be a disaster for the children in this neighborhood, but it will also incur huge legal expenses when the committee is investigated to determine why they validated a petition that they knew to be fraudulent.
11/27/2022	I hope you all are well and preparing for a great Thanksgiving with your families and loved ones. My [redacted] and I are looking forward to it as well, as we will be spending this Thanksgiving as the first with our [redacted] Unfortunately, however, due to the threat of redistricting, we have been devastated over recent weeks. We closed on our home in East Corte Madera in late May of this year (bid submitted in April), and it was incredible stretch for us, to say the least - but we wanted to do everything we could to move to the Reed school district. We had prioritized the location of our home search by educational opportunities for our [redacted]). We felt so fortunate we would be able to give our [redacted] the opportunity to be within the RUSD and attend Reed, a school of a caliber that my [redacted] and I never remotely had the chance to attend when we were in school. We were completely destroyed to learn that we made such an important choice of where to purchase our first home on the basis of school, and that now our [redacted] may not be able to attend Reed.I implore you to ensure that the redistricting does not occur, and that we can all begin to enjoy holidays with family. We made an enormous personal and financial decision centered on educational opportunities for our [redacted] that are now at risk. Please, do not redistrict, and keep East Corte Madera in the Reed school district. Your caring neighbors, [redacted]
11/27/2022	I am writing to request that East Corte Madera continue to be included in the Reed Union School District. The repercussions of redistricting are vast and varied, with numerous detrimental implications for children and families. Our family has molded our home life around planning to attend Reed and redistricting would be devastating to us.On June 3 of this year, my [redacted] and I moved into our recently purchased home (May 2023 close date) when I was [redacted] with our [redacted]. We were thrilled and proud that as a young couple, about to welcome our first baby into the world, we were in a home that would provide our [redacted] with the opportunity to attend school within the RUSD.When we were conducting our home search during the first half of 2022, our number one priority as discussed with our realtors was school districts. We felt this was the best choice for our child and did what we could to enable our move to happen accordingly. At times we worried that we almost couldn't make everything work to facilitate our move, given financial constraints as we are both putting ourselves through graduate school business programs part time while working full time. However, when we were able to make this work for our [redacted] we were over the moon. I have had the incredible privilege of attending some of the world's top institutions for higher education, and I believe strongly that the foundation in education opens up a child's world for the future. While my past school attendance is not something I usually raise proactively, I am providing this information here only to emphasize the plausibility that my [redacted] and I would make a home purchasing decision - the decision where we settle our lives - most importantly on the basis of the school district that our [redacted] (and any future children, hopefully) would attend. I understand the critical importance of education and the corresponding impact on an individual's opportunities and outlook on the world. Our home and lives are shaped by this important choice - and, most importantly, our [redacted] upbringing and the foundation for all [redacted] future opportunities for learning. Please do not underestimate the impact redistricting would have on our community members. If we are redistricted, we will need to move again, which we have no desire to do, and wish to stay within our wonderful community. Thank you for your consideration of this request [redacted]
11/28/2022	It would impact some of our kid's friends who would have to leave the Cove if the boundary excluded this territory in East Corte Madera. We'd love to see this territory have the option to elect to attend the Cove School, particularly if already enrolled.
11/28/2022	The children in ECM should be able to attend the schools that are right in their own backyard, vs pulling them away from their friends and community. They should get the chance to enjoy walking/biking/scooting to school like their friends (helping the environment to boot). Attending school in ECM would further integrate them with their nearby friends and neighbors, instilling in them a sense of community and pride, while providing more quality time with their family (vs. having to sit in a car/bus polluting the air and adding to traffic). Not to mention, parents can more quickly pick them up in emergencies. Requiring these kids to leave their friends and neighbors and attend another school for political/financial reasons creates rifts in our community -- when what we need now more than ever is to strengthen it.
11/28/2022	It is the right thing to do. Decreases traffic, creates community within the community. These kids can walk to school at The Cove! It should have been done years ago.Last, but not least, it is very traumatic for children to change schools. Please consider how the lives of the children will be affected. They've been through enough with Covid And why is Reed USD keeping the money that should be going to these kids?

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

11/28/2022	I want my children to stay in the Reed school district. We specifically wanted to move to East Corte Madera because they were a part of the Reed District. We also have donated annually to the Reed school foundation with the belief that our children would be in that district. The petitioners for redistricting came to my home and LIED to my face saying the petition was for school choice, not a total redistricting. Please let my family and children have stability and keep our neighborhood in Reed school.
11/28/2022	I am opposed to changing the school district territory of east Corte Madera residents to the Larkspur/Corte Madera school district. Many of us bought our homes knowing and desiring to be in the Reed Union School District since it is one of the top school districts in the state. Our children went through the RUSD school systems and received a fantastic education. When I signed the petition asking for a change, I was not told it was to be a permanent change of territory. It was told to me it would give a choice to choose which school district the residents in this east Corte Madera area would desire their children to attend. I now find out I am unable to remove my name from that petition which was misinforming. That seems quite unfair.
11/28/2022	I was misinformed about the petition. I tried having my name removed and I wasn't allowed. I was told it was to give a choice not to permanently change the school district to which children in east Corte Madera would attend. There are 60 plus students who are currently living in east Corte Madera and attending their rightful district of the Reed Union School District compared to the 30 +/- students who have been attending the Cove School which is in Larkspur/Corte Madera school district made possible by a district transfer. The Reed School district is one of the top rated school districts in the state. It makes our property values higher than if it were in the Larkspur/Corte Madera school district.
11/28/2022	Hi all: thanks for your consideration. As a parent in East Corte Madera whose children happily are thriving at RUSD schools, I wanted to provide the context that fear of the unknown should not drive policy decisions. And yet fear is a powerful motivator. The reasons behind the petition are on the face simply about personal convenience, but are rooted in lack of information, assumptions and misinformation. The bus is lovely, and we have had the same driver for 4 years. Buses are used commonly within both districts, so pointing to the option to take a bus just makes no sense. People within LCMSD also use buses as well as many neighborhoods within RUSD. My children actually love the bus, which is organized by grade so no child is on a bus with another child more than 3 years older than they. It's a tiny slice of independence and socialization. Additionally we walk to school from ECM to BelAire and ride bikes to Delmar, both of which are not only closer but much quicker to get to because of less traffic. The ECM RUSD community is strong, with play dates, friendships, carpools, and moreâ€" and we have the same or bonds with our neighbors in Tiburon and Belvedere. Funnily, we also have deep and close friendships with people in Larkspur, Corte Madera, San Rafael, San Anselmo,, Santa Rosa, Tahoeâ€" you get the picture. Community is not restricted nor defined by proximity. We do not gaze out at Cove school and wistfully long to have our children there. We are very very happy and very very rooted in RUSD. I am a busy executive and I find it easy to pop into any campus to volunteer for lunch, reading, Steam Lab, and more. I serve on the [redacted] and grumble good naturedly about the commitment to the Bel Aire play with all the other parents. My child does [redacted] on Tuesday mornings and is part of the [redacted] team. She [redacted] on [redacted] and attended [redacted] camp with [redacted] class. The petition was conducted in a misleading way, as you all know. But, importantly, zero people who attend RUSD (the districts our homes are sitting in) are in favor of this Redistricting. It's very hard to combat misinformation and lies for those who are not in the weeds of this discussion. please listen to the overwhelming majority of families in the impacted neighborhood who full throatedly tell you that all the assertions in the petition are at best, minor and at worse, false. It is not inconvenient to go to RUSD. I am not missing community. The commute is not a burden. The RUSD families in ECM are doing just fine. Please do not disrupt us, and our children's lives, just help LCMsD solve a budget issue. That is not a children first methodology.
11/28/2022	We bought our home knowing and desiring that our children would be attending the Reed District schools. Our children received an excellent education. We want our property to continue being in the Reed School District because of the reputation of the Reed Schools. We also believe that our property values are enhanced by being in the Reed district. I signed the petition thinking it was giving individual home owners a choice to make an individual transfer. I believe the people circulating the petition misrepresented the essence of the petition.
11/28/2022	I am saddened that a continuation of the inter-district transfer agreement could not be reached in order to allow for families in the neighborhood of East Corte Madera to continue to exercise school choice. With that being said, I firmly oppose the petition to rezone East Corte Madera into the Larkspur-Corte Madera district. The high quality of RUSD was a major factor for us in our cross-country move as we explored different neighborhoods in the area. The bus system works seamlessly to bring our son to school and the aftercare program in RUSD is second-to-none. Changing schools at this juncture would be highly disruptive for our [redacted] not only socially and in terms of [redacted] beloved after school classes through the Ranch, but also because as [redacted] receives learning support for ADHD. The teachers and support personnel at RUSD know [redacted] and are familiar with [redacted] learning challenges. It does not seem fair to redistrict the entire neighborhood based upon the preferences of a minority of families in the district.I respect the right of the families to initiate their petition, and were I in their position, would probably feel similarly frustrated by how the system has failed to address their concerns. However, the will of the majority seems to rest with preserving existing district lines.
11/28/2022	I was not aware of the petition, even though our home resides in the district affected, until I read about it in the Marin IJ. In speaking with other neighbors, I heard others were misled into signing the petition. We represent a group of parents whose children are alumni of RUSD and currently do not have any children enrolled in RUSD schools.I am appalled that a group of parents took it upon themselves to claim to represent the interests of all the families affected by this petition. My [redacted] and I purchased our property relying upon the assurances that our children would attend RUSD schools and we fully expect our grandchildren to do so in the future. The bus system was very convenient, picking and dropping off our children at the bottom of our neighborhood, so I don't understand parents' grievances about it being inconvenient to attend school in Tiburon. My children received an excellent education, having attended Reed Elementary, Bel Aire and Del Mar Middle. It would be very upsetting to know that the plans we made for our family's future would be dictated by a small group of people, some of whom I understand were not even aware of the true intent of the petition. I hope both districts will resolve this in the most common sense and fair way - by renewing the IDT. Please do not be swayed by a small group of parents who do not represent most of us in the affected neighborhoods who prefer to remain in RUSD.Thank you [redacted]

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

11/28/2022	We first moved to the Marin county area in July 2016 and did extensive research prior to moving here which included speaking to a school district consultant. Based on our research, we decided to bring our [redacted] school age children (now [redacted] years old) to the Reed school district and rented for a year in Tiburon to give us time to find and buy a house. We specifically chose to buy our house (in July 2017) in the ECM area because it maps to the Reed district. In our house buying search, we excluded any and all houses that did not map to the Reed district and if ECM did not map to Reed we would have also excluded our current house. It would have been that simple for us to look elsewhere. Through this redistricting process, we have come to know that the majority (two thirds) of students go to Reed schools so it makes no sense why the minority (one third) should prevail in this petition. My [redacted] and our [redacted] kids have strong ties to the Reed schools and families, having formed strong friendships over the last [redacted] years. Our children are thriving in the Reed district and take part in many extracurricular activities there with their friends. We did everything right but are now faced with the risk that our kids will be uprooted from everything they know because a small group of families, many / most of whom made the conscious decision to live in ECM knowing full well that their preference to attend the LCMS district was not guaranteed. By signing their leases or purchase agreements and selecting LCMS, they signed up to play the IDT game but they are now rewriting the rules when they didn't get their way. This is neither ethical nor fair and certainly not an example of the type of values I would aspire to instill in my children. Imagine teaching our kids that if we don't get our way, then the heck with everybody else and it's alright to cheat our way to getting what we want. On that last point, I am referring to the petition signature gathering process and the only part about it that I would like to highlight is that one of the actual signature gatherers publicly stated that [redacted]oo was deceived by the organizers and collected signatures under false pretenses. This, to me, should have nullified the petition immediately. In conclusion, I hope that the CCSDO declines the petition out of fairness, ethics, and the fact that most of the children in the ECM community actually goes to Reed.
11/28/2022	I believe I signed the petition when someone came to my door, but if so, this was a mistake, and I never intended to support redistricting. When I questioned the person with the petition what this was about, I was misled and told that I was only signing a petition to put the issue to a vote by the affected neighbors. I am very upset about the misrepresentation, as I knew nothing about the issue in advance and relied upon the accuracy of the person's statements in our very brief conversation. I wish to have my name withdrawn from the list of supporters. I have contacted the Superintendendent's Office about this repeatedly, and have not received any confirmation that my name has been removed. I bought my home 30 years ago in part because it was in RUSD, and my kids were very happy to go to RUSD. The petitioners should be required to start this process over. I strongly believe others were misled about what they were signing, and, like me, did not mean to show they support redistricting of our neighborhood.
11/28/2022	[redacted]
11/28/2022	We purchased our home in 1997, and were exclusively looking for homes within the RUSD because of its excellent reputation. Once we discovered that our hillside neighborhood was within the RUSD boundaries, we decided on East Corte Madera because we could afford more home here than we could in Tiburon. During escrow, I even called the RUSD offices to confirm that we were located within school boundaries, and that they had no foreseeable plans to change that. Al [redacted] of my [redacted] attended and thrived at the three RUSD schools, from [redacted] through [redacted] grade. We made lifelong friends and always felt part of the RUSD family. RUSD has maintained and even improved its reputation over the years. It has lowered class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios, raised resources per child, kept smaller, friendlier campuses, and created a huge selection of after-school activities and sports, not to mention an additional year of public school for four-year olds. There are 475 homes in the petitioned area. Of those homes, only 27 have children who currently attend LCMSD. The parents in the 27 homes were all aware that their homes were within RUSD boundaries when they purchased or moved in. There are approximately 90 children that attend RUSD out-numbering the 39 who attend LCMSD in our neighborhood. The petition would allow 39 children who currently attend LCMSD to continue there, but would put 90 children who currently attend RUSD at risk of being yanked from their schools. There is no guarantee that the 90 children would be able to continue their education in their RUSD schools. California Education Code does not allow for any school district to extend an inter-district transfer (IDT) beyond 5 years, including under LCMSD BP 5117. During the IDT negotiations, LCMSD made a proposal to RUSD to allow the current students to continue their education. But, when RUSD agreed to the proposal, it was rejected by LCMSD. I believe that once the petition was filed, LCMSD saw the potential to capture all of the property taxes from our neighborhood, not just those from the 27 homes with children attending LCMSD schools.While I and many of my neighbors no longer have school-aged children, the redistricting affects all of our neighborhood. Our home is our largest asset, and I believe that the proposed redistricting will increase our property taxes and reduce our home's values, because many buyers specifically look for properties in RUSD due to its outstanding state-wide reputation. According to the figures listed in Marin County Tax statements sent out for the time period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, my property taxes â€" locked in since 1997 per Prop. 13 -- would be raised by approximately $473.04 if this petition is successful. RUSD parcel taxes are currently $624.58 and the bond rate is 0766 of the basic tax. LCMSD parcel taxes are currently $910.00 and the bond rate is .1018 of the basic tax. In other words, we're getting significantly more bang for our buck with RUSD.Please do not approve this petition or allow it to go forward.

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

Date Entered	Please share your comments regarding the East Corte Madera territory transfer petition.
11/28/2022	Dear Committee Members,My name is [redacted], I live at [redacted], and my family has lived in the ECM Hillside neighborhood since 2013. My [redacted] kids have happily attended RUSD from kindergarten until present â€“ and we all feel a very strong sense of community with RUSD families both in our neighborhood, and in Tiburon/Belvedere. Apologies in advance for the length of this but there is a lot at stake here and there are many points to be made as to why my [redacted] and I strongly oppose the petition to redistrict the RUSD to the LCMSD. Those reasons are as follows:* First and foremost, this whole petition needs to be called out and seen for exactly what it is. To put it bluntly â€“ yet fairly and accurately, the petition is nothing more than a selfish scheme hatched by a small minority of neighborhood parents who are bizarrely refusing to be accountable or to take responsibility for the risk that they deliberately chose to take, and the risk that caused them to be in the situation they created for themselves today. While they likely never expected the risk to ever pass, they nevertheless chose to take the big gamble that they might be forced to move their kids from LCMSD to RUSD if their IDT agreements were not renewed. But instead of doing the right and honorable thing by saying to themselves something along the lines of, 'Well, this is the risk we chose to take so now we have to deal with the consequences', they are instead shamelessly trying to reverse the situation that they find themselves by trying to use this petition as a vehicle to guarantee that their small minority of 39 kids can remain in LCMSD by forcing the majority of us RUSD families with 90 kids to be in the same sort of stressful situation of an impending school district switch brings â€“ and they have already done serious damage to our neighborhood relationships and trust as a result.*Of course, the petitioners know that they cannot frame their petition in such real and blunt terms if they have any chance of success. As such, they needed to find a way to 'market' their petition in a more appealing way. So at first, when gathering signatures, they misleadingly told unwitting neighbors â€“ who reasonably trusted their signature-gathering neighbor to give an honest and fair description of the petition â€“ that it was 'to support school choice', when the petitioners knew full-well that was false. While I can understand the appeal of that sort of message, it beggars belief that the petitioners thought they could get away with that sort of deception, let alone get along with it and maintain trust and good relationships with their neighbors. (In fact, I understand that the petition gathering process is partially governed by the California Elections Code and it appears that the petitioners have violated California Election Code sect. 18600(a), which makes it a crime for anyone who 'Willfully and knowingly circulates, publishes, or exhibits any false statement or misrepresentation concerning the contents, purport or effect of any state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition for the purpose of obtaining any signature to, or persuading or influencing any person to sign, that petition.')*Then, once petitioners' lies to petition signers came out in the open â€“ via multiple discussions among neighbors personally, on the Next Door app, and reflected in The Ark, in the Marin IJ and in communications from the RUDS Superintendent â€“ they have shifted the emphasis of their sales pitch on how the redistricting would somehow magically enhance our 'community' â€“ as defined by them â€“ which seems to be based on some vague, abstract, feel-good notion that their version of 'community' should be solely driven by the geographic proximity of (and walking distance from) the ECM hillside neighborhood to a single LCMSD school, the Cove School.*For proof of the disingenuous nature of the petitioners' whole 'community' argument on which their scheme is based, look no further than two critical points:(1) It is very telling that the petitioners were apparently just fine with the nature and structure of our existing community up until they started sensing that their IDTs might not be renewed (after the districts' negotiations to renew continued to bear no fruit) and only then did they come up with this petition to hedge their risky bets. In other words, if redistricting were so important to their sense of 'community', then why didn't they initiate this petition last year? Or the year before? Or the year before that? Why now?(2) At least one of the petitioners has admitted that the petition initially was only meant to give them 'leverage' in the IDT negotiations and they would drop their petition if the districts could align on a new IDT agreement. That also shows that it is not some vague notion of enhancing what they chose to define as 'community' that they truly care about, but rather their whole petition is simply about preserving their personal school situation at the expense of the majority of ECM families and kids attending RUSD.*As noted above, another rationale for the petition that the petitioners seem to be fixated on is their desire to walk their kids to Cove school. While I do not doubt that that is genuinely a big driver for at least some of the petitioners, the petitioners have exaggerated just how time-consuming and difficult it is to get ECM kids to RUSD schools â€“ and have ignored the significant distance and travel times required to drive from our neighborhood to LCMSD schools other than the Cove School. As such, the closer distance to Cove School also is not a valid basis for this petition for multiple reasons:(1) If LCMSD were to absorb the 90 neighborhood kids currently attending RUSD, some of those kids â€“ including petitioners' kids â€“ will likely be forced to go to Neil Cummins, which is obviously not in easy walking distance.(2) If one uses Waze or Google Maps to calculate the commute time from our neighborhood to Del Mar and to Hall, you'll see that each of the commute times are within one minute of each other.(3) Several of our RUSD neighbors enjoy a nice little hike over Ring Mountain some mornings to take our Bel Air-attending kids to school each week â€“ which is the same pleasant walk that several of our older neighbors told us they took their now adult kids to school.(4) As further indicia of just how geographically close we are to RUSD schools and friends in Tiburon, my [redacted] has a friend lives in our neighborhood and rides [redacted] bike over Ring Mountain to Del Mar every day â€“ and [redacted] has another friend from Tiburon who rides over to our house in order to mountain bike in our neighborhood.(5) We also have the Granada Field right in our backyard where we have enjoyed walking down our hillside for the last couple of years for our [redacted] soccer practice. (6) Every morning we drive our kids â€“ with stops at each of their three RUSD schools (Reed, Del Mar and Bel Aire) â€“ and the entire scenic trip takes under an hour.(7) And in the afternoon, our three kids each take the bus and have a lot of fun doing so, as it gives them some time to spend with their RUSD friends who live in and near our neighborhood.*While my [redacted] and I can sympathize with the unfortunate situation our ECM neighbors on IDTs have created for themselves, those neighbors are using this petition to solve a problem of their own making â€“ while we very deliberately chose the path that was supposed to prevent us from being in their situation by sending our kids to the assigned RUSD school district. *That being said, when we moved to the ECM hillside neighborhood, several of our ECM friends and neighbors â€“ both on the hillside and in Mariner Cove area (adjacent to the Cove School) â€“ encouraged us to apply for an IDT, so we took it seriously by speaking with LCMSD officials.The LCMSD officials stressed very clearly and in no uncertain terms three very key points:(1) the IDT process is for a limited amount of time;(2) if we were granted an IDT it does not guarantee an uninterrupted path to Hall Middle School; and (3) even if one of our children was granted an IDT, it does not guarantee siblings would get IDTs as well (which could result in having our kids in different school districts at the same time).*In fact, we purchased our current home from [redacted], who is the original and current [redacted] of [redacted] school, and (through our respective realtors) [redacted] reiterated the exact same things when we were deciding whether to apply for an IDT for our oldest son. *So we heard the message loud and clear: If we chose to send our kids to LCMSD on an IDT, we were putting ourselves at the risk of disrupting our lives and kids' educations by way of being forced to send our kids to RUSD at some point â€“ and it would be completely out of our control.*And obviously all of the petitioners were told the exact same thing â€“ yet they knowingly chose to take the risk, and now that that risk has come to pass they are unwilling to come to terms with it by doing the responsible, accountable and mature thing by simply accepting their fate and dealing with it.Turning to the very real community that we RUSD families already have â€“ and love â€“ which we have seen from the beginning of our time in RUSD, we have felt very warmly welcomed by many other RUSD families and quickly became deeply integrated in that community, with strong relationships among parents and kids living both in our ECM neighborhood, as well as Tiburon and Belvedere. Here are some examples:(1) When our [redacted] started [redacted] at Reed, [redacted] quickly made friends with classmates who live in our neighborhood as well as in Tiburon and Belvedere, which manifested in play dates, birthday parties and family get-togethers in all three towns. And that resulted in my [redacted] and I forming strong bonds with certain families in all three towns which continue to exist and grow today.(2) Further, even though we can literally see the many preschools at the Granada School grounds from our house (as we are on the hill overlooking the school), we nevertheless chose to enroll our two younger kids in preschool at the Belvedere Tiburon Child Care Center (which is on Reed elementary's campus) at the urging of a Tiburon parent who was the [redacted] of our [redacted] friend and who happened to be on the BTCCC Board â€“ and were very happy with our choice. The BTCCC staff was amazing and we were welcomed into the BTCCC school community almost immediately. That experience culminated in additional relationships between our family and families residing in ECM, Tiburon and Belvedere â€“ and meant that our [redacted] kids started kindergarten with already-made friends in each of their classes(3) Over the years, our kids have also participated in various Tiburon Rec after school classes with the Ranch (e.g., Chess Club) as well as BTCCC after school and summer camps, Tiburon [redacted] Tiburon [redacted] and various school events hosted by the schools PTA's and the Foundation. In sum, I want to stress that the petitioners have already done a tremendous amount of damage to our ECM neighbor community -- including to our relationships and trust among neighbors -- with their petition, and the well-known deceptive manner by which they gathered signatures for it. And if their petition is granted, the division, resentment and ill-will they have already created in our ECM neighbor community will be magnified many times over after the majority of us RUSD families are suddenly forced to send our kids to LCMSD against our will for the districts to remain as-is. For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to reject this petition and do what is best for the majority of families in our neighborhood and not disrupt our kids' education for the benefit of a minority of families who aren not willing to accept the consequences of their decisions. Sincerely [redacted]

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

11/28/2022	-I purchased my home in June 2020 after moving out of San Francisco. One of the main reasons I made an offer on the property, is the fact that it feeds into RUSD and had an expectation that our homes would remain in this assigned district. -My [redacted] in [redacted] are thriving & love going to RUSD. They [redacted] have great friends made in class & on the bus taken to school (which is very easy to navigate). -I'm against this territory transfer & fail to see any positive impact for our children having to change schools.
11/28/2022	Dear CCSDO members,My name is [redacted], and I am a homeowner in East Corte Madera (ECM). Our [redacted] is currently attending [redacted] at Reed elementary school and our family is against the redistricting petition. I know there are many factors that go into decisions like this, but I wanted to share our story in the hope that you oppose the re-districting petition. [redacted] y [redacted] and I are both physicians so we understand the importance of this type of social bonding and particularly the consistency that crucially starts at the pre-K level. We also know the harm it can do when it's not offered or disrupted in any way. For or us personally, it's of supreme importance for [redacted], this gave us a new perspective on how important their continued development will need to be. As physicians we know the risks involved in pre-term children, and we still worry about the possibility of long-term consequences like learning difficulties, attention issues, or other sensitivities. Like others their age, but particularly so given their early health issues, it's essential that they're in a structured, established, and consistent environment in which to learn and develop.As [redacted] got closer to school age, we began doing extensive research to ensure [redacted] had the optimal place to begin pre-K.My closest friend was a Kindergarten teacher at Reed for 5 years and according to her this was a dream school. One of the most unique benefits of Reed [redacted] explained to me was the way the schools are broken down into grade levels. The small age range of the student body allows the administration and teachers to focus on early literacy skills and social emotional learning for our youngest learners. In addition, the small age range allows for more valuable teacher professional development since they teach similar aged kids and understand each other's jobs. This of course translates into better happier teachers for our kids, and better prepares them for the coming next grade levels [redacted] told me how dedicated the teaching staff and leadership are to providing the most excellent educational experience possible, and it was [redacted] recommendation, along with the research we did on our own, that lead us to choose RUSD for [redacted].When we were looking at homes to buy, we were looking exclusively for those that were in RUSD, which is how we ended up where we are now. We had a reasonable expectation that our home would remain in its assigned district.In our short time at Reed, we have been overwhelmed by the strong community support of public education. The Foundation and PTA are extremely impressive, and we know our kids are in good hands with that level of community support. While Reed did not receive any additional funding from the state, they made the decision to proceed with the plans for starting a PreK program, showing incredible leadership and child centered forward thinking. Not only did they implement a PreK program when LCMSD did not, the PreK program is incredible. PreK is a full day, the daily schedule aligns with the current K-2 schedule, and they participate in Foundation-supported specialist programs including PE, music, and art classes. We are strong supporters of RUSD and have developed a wonderful community there. While we love our home in Corte Madera and have lovely neighbors and friends at the Cove school, our focus has always been getting our children into RUSD at the pre-K level. We were thrilled that we were able to accomplish that with the purchase of our house and are devastated at the prospect of now breaking up the [redacted] ' and the damage it will undoubtedly do not just for [redacted] and the other friends in [redacted] class as well.This decision goes far beyond districting, town lines, and finances, it's about the little kids who had no part in any of these decisions but will ultimately be the ones who are negatively affected the most.Thank you for your time and consideration of keeping our district lines unchanged. Respectfully [redacted]
11/29/2022	I am an East Corte Madera (ECM) resident with [redacted] children in the LCMSD and fully support the petition to change the boundary lines to incorporate the ECM residents into the LCMSD. The current boundary lines which separate Corte Madera residents from their own town's school district are antiquated and create needless division and disruption within the community as well as long commutes and additional traffic congestion. Additionally, each year the erroneous boundary lines create unnecessary angst and stress for new families enrolling their children in the education system. This petition serves to correct an overdue error once and for all, to right a wrong, to provide stability and continuity to families, to our neighborhoods, to our town, and most importantly to the children of Corte Madera.Each year families challenge the current boundary lines. Some have been lucky enough over the years to be granted IDT's, other unfortunately not. This trend is growing stronger with emphasis on local community, green initiatives, and fostering strong family and community ties. The petition to redistrict ECD will not go away â€“ families are determined to see it through. The support is strong and ever growing. Now is the time to approve this petition and put it to a vote.
11/29/2022	I signed the petition earlier this year thinking that there would be a vote with all the members of the community. As far as I can tell, there is no such vote. For that reason, please withdraw my signature from the petition.Also:The majority of neighborhood families go to RUSD and wish to remain in RUSD!!We purchased or rented homes in RUSD and had a reasonable expectation that our homes would remain in their assigned district (Ed. Code § 35500). As such, we reasonably relied on that presumption in making important decisions about our lives, families, and children's education. We established a community at RUSD. We enrolled our children in RUSD schools, signed our children up for sports and activities with their school friends, volunteered our own time at RUSD schools, made our own friends, and took on leadership roles in the PTA & Foundation.The bus system is easy and fun and it serves all of Tiburon/Belvedere in addition to ECM. The Tiburon boundary is right around the corner and many Tiburon neighborhoods are included on our bus line.It's easier to commute to Del Mar than Hall, and we prefer our kids go to Del Mar instead of Hall.
11/29/2022	This is a waste of time. The majority of the residents in Corte Madera want to remain in the Reed school district. That is why we live here. It seems odd that a minority - 25% - can change this. Our district is just emerging from a pandemic. Redistricting should not be a priority.
11/29/2022	Hello,We purchased our first house, and moved to East Corte Madera exactly a year ago. While my [redacted] and I looked forward to beautiful weather, vibrant community and amazing location, RUSD was the top reason behind our house choice. In our first weekend here, we went to Reed Elementary, and looked at the classrooms which our little [redacted] would be starting in a couple of years. Even though our house is 5 minutes walking distance away from Cove Elementary, we never had any second thoughts about Reed given its better math and english scores, and smaller class sizes compared to Cove. We wanted to provide the best education opportunity to our children by purchasing a house in East Corte Madera. When we heard about this redistricting petition, we were extremely disappointed. We strongly oppose this petition, and we want to be able send our children to Reed.
11/29/2022	My [redacted] and myself have been fortunate to live in East Corte Madera for 18 years. Our [redacted] children attended Reed, Bel Aire and Del Mar RUSD schools and we oppose the IDT Transfer out of RUSD. We deliberately purchased our home to be in this award winning school district - it was the #1 reason we purchased our home in this neighborhood. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the RUSD schools and the 3 individual schools allows for more targeted teaching for each age group. Their education was fabulous, friendships terrific, the bus system was great and efficient and the kids often walked over Ring Mountain to Bel Aire. As for middle school - commuting to Hall from East Corte Madera has much more traffic than the back road commute to Del Mar. I can get to Del Mar in 1/2 the time as Hall - I know this first hand as I take my kids to Redwood (next to Hall) often and the traffic along Doherty is much worse and more time consuming.I have several friends with young children who specifically purchased their homes to be in this school district, like my [redacted] and I did 18 years ago. It is unfair to redraw territory lines when people have planned their children's education and property values associated with their East Corte Madera address being part of the RUSD district.Regards, [redacted]

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

11/29/2022	Good evening, my name is [redacted];My family resides in East Corte Madera and my [redacted] attends [redacted] grade at Del Mar Middle School in the Reed Union School District (RUSD). We specifically chose to live in our current home because of its zoning in RUSD schools. Our [redacted] who currently attends Del Mar has learning differences. [redacted] been embraced by RUSD schools. There have been numerous teachers, counselors, and administrators who have advocated for, cared for, and helped my [redacted] learn and grow into a more self-confident and responsible student.If my [redacted] had to move schools now, [redacted] would be devastated [redacted] is still recovering from the emotional isolation and learning difficulties during the pandemic. I know [redacted] is not alone [redacted] friends all go to RUSD schools. They learn together, play together, go to camp together, and we even took a vacation together with another RUSD family. We want to remain in this community. I urge you to deny the petition to move East Corte Madera out of RUSD [redacted];Thank you for hearing our voices.
11/29/2022	I'm a parent who has children in both Bel Aire and Del Mar schools in Tiburon. We spent a significant amount of time researching the best schools to enroll our children into, before making the move up here from San Diego, including consulting with a school relocation specialist. The REED school system was by far the best one. Classroom size, test scores, 2M annual investment every year from the parents, robotics class and international competition that my [redacted] is competing in, the Broadway Theatre Director that the Bel Aire elementary school hires every year to put on the school play, the IEP specialist classes, the dedicated full time school psychologists, the list goes on and on. The only reason we bought our house where we have is so that our children can attend the REED School district. It is the only reason. It is not an unreasonable expectation that we should expect that to remain so. As for the minority of parents who attend the Cove and Hall schools through an interdistrict transfer, they were fully aware when they bought their properties or signed rental agreements that they were moving into the REED school district. It was not a given that any IDT would be granted. That they should now expect the majority of the community here (some 90 different families) to all uproot and change school districts because they are not happy is beyond selfish and an extremely unreasonable request. They are trying to force the many to satisfy the whims of the few. If they want to continue attending Cove and Hall schools then I suggest they go back to their Superintendent and persuade him to rethink their IDT rather than dragging the rest of us through this needless upheaval. Our children and our community have built friendships and a very strong bond with the REED district and this cannot be simply 'transferred'. Thousands of dollars and hours of dedicated voluntary work have been invested into our children's well being at REED.As for the flyers going around by the petitioners their main concerns seem to be:1.To be able to walk down to the Cove school and avoid transport. Do they not realize that a lot of us already are at middle school age and we would have to 'pollute' by using a car, anyway? Del Mar is actually closer and far better, as parents who have experienced both Hall and Del Mar can attest. They are not the same. It is extremely short sighted on behalf of the petitioners to be making the claim that proximity to school should be the main driving force. Having a [redacted] or [redacted] grader presents you with a lot more decisions than that. 2.Their second (and only other) point is to enforce a sense of community. Our community at REED already is strong. We meet, we have playdates where we live, nothing is broken and nothing needs to be fixed. After this debacle, what community are they hoping to enforce? They have torn a huge gash down the center of it. Finally I would like to reiterate the point that we shouldn't even be having this conversation in the first place. As many before me have attested, all of the signatures were collected under false pretenses. We were lied to. We were all told by the petitioner that they would like to collect signatures to show support so that they could maintain THEIR children in the Corte Madera District. That they would like us to sign the petition in favor of them having the choice. There was no choice. We later found out the signatures were to support a total interdistrict transfer of the entire community to the Corte Madera school system. Noone had knowingly signed up to that. Even one of the [redacted] going around collecting the signatures resigned in disgust. [redacted] had been lied to as well. This needs to be looked at and the whole petition thrown out since signatures were acquired by false means.
11/29/2022	I am writing to strongly oppose redistricting the East Corte Madera neighborhood to LCMSD. We have lived in our ECM home for the last 8 years. Finding a home in the Reed Union School District was our top priority. We would not have purchased our home if it wasn't in the RUSD. From the moment we became parents, we've tried to make thoughtful and careful decisions to ensure, to the best of our ability, that ou [redacted] would have a safe, nurturing and consistent environment to grow up in. The thought of our [redacted] being forced to move schools is heartbreaking and utterly unfair. It would be one thing if we put ourselves in this position, but we didn't. We did everything we were supposed to do, yet somehow here we are, unsure of what school life will be like for our [redacted] in the coming years. The majority of families in ECM do NOT want redistricting to happen. We are happy at RUSD. We have put deep roots in our RUSD community and our children have thrived and grown with the same friends, teachers and familiar faces. We do not deserve that to be taken away from us, especially in this way. Thank you for your time.
11/29/2022	It is unfortunate that we are in this situation and so we wanted to share our thoughts on this petition. This is not about which school district is better. For us, this is about continuing to be in the district where we purchased our home and attending the schools that we feel is best for our family. The argument that the RUSD schools are further than LCM schools doesn't hold up. Our child loved walking across the street and greeting other kids at the very convenient bus stop. The bus helped create bonds between our child and other kids in our neighborhood and along the route. And Del Mar is much closer to ECM than Hall is. I was fortunate to be able to volunteer at the RUSD school and we felt very connected to both the ECM and the Tiburon/Belvedere RUSD community. Therefore, we are strongly against redistricting ECM to LCM.
11/29/2022	We bought our house in 2012 when our [redacted] old so we knew Marin schools were good but hadn't thought lots about [redacted] schooling. As the time for [redacted] to attend school grew closer I was becoming nervous of sending [redacted] to another town for school especially as living in Corte Madera, all our local friends from preschool, pre-K clubs would be attending LCMSD. When the Cove opened in our neighborhood we were delighted as we thought it meant we could attend a school under 5 minutes walk away. As mentioned the activities we do, friends we have are from our lives in Corte Madera/Larkspur and [redacted] being able to attend school so close has been amazing for us and [redacted] We were lucky enough to be given an IDT and [redacted] is now in [redacted] grade at The Cove [redacted] walks to school, walks to [redacted] friends house, we bike to [redacted] after school activities which are predominately in Corte Madera or Larkspur. Building The Cove was a fundamental change to our neighborhood and the Reed/Granada school which caused us to be within the Reed School District Territory has been closed for decades.We can't just keep this neighborhood within Reed based on a history which is no longer applicable. I am so tired of telling people we are in that strange part of Corte Madera which isn't treated as Corte Madera and that although there is a school under 5 minutes walk away, our neighborhood buses them to Tiburon, a 40 minute bus journey away. It just doesn't make any sense any more that we are treated like that no matter how good the Reed School system is. I believe both schools to be excellent schools, but we have all these small school districts in order to align the community with their local school and in our case, this isn't occurring. I know that any change is going to be hard and I strongly believe that any families within Reed should be allowed to continue their education there, though I also believe if the Territory transfer doesn't occur, The Corte Madera families should be allowed to continue their families schooling in Corte Madera the neigborhood they live.We have no families close by, [redacted] is an only child and I can only beg that you take into consideration the positive impact of being able to attend a school so close to where we live. I am distraught at having to potentially switch and lose all the networks we have built up here over the years. I heard one person arguing against the transfer say having kids is inconvenient and driving them around everywhere is part of life, but that is just not the case when you go to your local school. Lots of days I barely drive, I pop into school as and when needed as it is so easy. The beneficial impact of having school so close is in my opinion so great it just can't be overlooked any more. Ideally we would have this area as a school of choice given this has caused so much neighborhood angst, however I do think this is now the time for a positive change to bring our East Corte Madera neighborhood back to Corte Madera, which after all is our city of residence.
11/29/2022	I support the petition. If you were doing the districting now, there would be no doubt that we should be within LCMSD. We can't keep the neighborhood out of Corte Madera based on a historic districting when that school closed decades ago and The Cove opened in 2016 walking distance from our homes. It is time for change. We should not be busses our kids to another town. The only negative impact would be for families with Reed kids and please can we make the schools agree to support these families and keep them in Reed. As a [redacted] being able to walk my [redacted] to school everyday for the last 6 years (our [redacted] is in [redacted] grade) has been a bonding experience, I know my [redacted] #39;s friends and their parents from our daily walks to school. We live in a neighborhood in Corte Madera and it just makes sense for so many reasons that we are part of the Corte Madera school district. Please allow the territory transfer to occur.

Comments received from form on the Marin County Committee on School District Organization website as of 11/29/22 at 11:00 am

11/29/2022	Thank you for hearing this important matter. I'm a resident that has [redacted] children at the Cove school. Our kids have found great friendships and community with the kids and families who are at the Cove through IDT. Their homes are close to ours. Their parents coach our children's sports teams. It would be very detrimental to the IDT kids and my own children to be torn out of a community that has held and nurtured them throughout a global pandemic and their formative years. Please think creatively, to come up with a solution that works for both districts. Let this discussion start and end with what is good for the kids impacted- and not just about the bottom line for either district. Southern Marin is a small, intimate community. If we can help keep kids where they want to be, at the schools that work best for their families, the entire area will benefit. Thank you for weighing all available options with an open mind. Let's step outside the box and figure out a way to make this work for all. [redacted]
11/29/2022	To Whom It May ConcernI am a parent of [redacted] children that attend RUSD and live in East Corte Madera. I'm strongly opposed to the territory transfer proposal. Our kids have been through unprecedented uncertainty and inconsistency over the past few years, and forcing them to change schools would be devastating to them. It is morally abhorrent, cruel, and unnecessary.We were all children once. Imagine being [redacted] years old. Imagine being told you can no longer go to your school where your friends are, where the teachers you love are, because some grown-ups you don't know redrew lines on a map. Imagine how you would feel. This should not happen.Our neighborhood has benefited from being in RUSD. We have contributed time, money, energy to the RUSD community. And we are happy being part of RUSD. We all knew this neighborhood was part of RUSD when we moved here. For us, it was a big part of our decision. We felt very fortunate to get to be part of RUSD. We also respect that a minority of the families here wanted to attend LCMSD, and are happy for them that they can do that through the IDT. It was wrong for LCMSD to let the IDT expire without renewal. Renewing that agreement is the solution, not pulling nearly 100 children away from the schools they and their families love so that 30 can stay out of district.This transfer petition should be rejected immediately.Sincerely-Marshall FeldmanPs. I was unable to post my full statement due to technical difficulties.

Agenda Item 5e:

Public Hearing:

Reed Union School District Representatives

REED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

277 A Karen Way Tiburon, CA 94920 tel: 415.381.1112 fax: 415.384.0890
www.reedschools.org

Board of Trustees:
A. J. Brady
Jacqueline Jaffee
Sherry Wangenheim
Liz E. Webb
Afsaneh Zolfaghari

Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent

Carlos Estrella
Chief Business Official

By U.S. Mail & E-Mail: tmares@marinschools.org

November 29, 2022

Marin County Committee on
School District Organization
Marin County Department of Education
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear County Committee on School District Organization,

On behalf of the Reed Union School District ("RUSD"), **I am writing to unreservedly oppose the proposed petition** (the "Petition") for a transfer of territory from RUSD to the Larkspur Corte Madera School District ("LCMSD"). As will be addressed fully below, the Petition should be summarily denied because: 1) the RUSD community, including many of those residing within East Corte Madera, have overwhelmingly objected to the Petition; 2) the Petition is procedurally flawed, with several iterations presented to community members and signatures obtained improperly; and 3) the Petition does not substantially meet the legal criteria for approval.

I respectfully request that the Marin County Committee on School District Organization ("County Committee") and Marin County Office of Education staff consider this letter as it begins to deliberate the legal merits of the Petition. We intend to submit additional material at a later date.

I. The Petition is Overwhelmingly Opposed by the Community

Upon learning that the Petition had been verified by the County Superintendent's Office, the RUSD community swiftly and convincingly relayed their collective opposition to the territory transfer. By way of background, the Petition will disproportionately impact East Corte Madera students and families who wish to remain within RUSD's boundaries. Currently, there are approximately 130 affected students residing in East Corte Madera. Of these, only about 39 are attending LCMSD schools through an interdistrict transfer agreement that will expire at the close of the 2022-2023 school year. By simple arithmetic, the Petition will **displace two-thirds** of students in East Corte Madera to attend a District they did not choose.

The RUSD community has recognized this injustice and expressed their opposition. As of this writing, my office has received **letters signed by approximately 102 community members**. Most strikingly, approximately 64 of these community members are from East Corte Madera residents. These letters explain how this territory transfer will negatively impact innocent children; will fray long-standing ties and a shared community identity forged by residents of East Corte

Madera, Belvedere, and Tiburon; and ignores the economic reality that many families made sizable investments to live in East Corte Madera in reliance upon their ability to attend RUSD schools. Rather than summarize their opposition, I'd like to let the community's words speak for themselves:

> *Redistricting would cause all three of my children to lose their entire support networks and set them back dramatically academically and socially.* (Josh Neland, ECM resident.)

> *The repercussions of redistricting are vast and varied, with numerous detrimental implications for children and families. Our family has molded our home life around planning to attend Reed and redistricting would be devastating to us.* (Erin V. Muller, ECM resident.)

> *As members of the RUSD community for the past 5 years we have developed strong family friendships and connections to the school community. Our experience with Reed and Bel Aire schools has been exceptional and we want our children to continue to receive the excellent educational and enrichment opportunities that Reed, Bel Aire and Del Mar offer.* (Dr. Carrie Dobbin Bourguignon, ECM resident.)

> *My child's life has been positively impacted by his experience with our friends from ECM, through an increase in exposure to neighborhoods, perspectives, and social circles.* (Karla Burkitbayeva, Belvedere resident.)

> *Our friends from the ECM neighborhood are a highly valued part of our school community and we want them to continue to be a part of it. Many of our friends and our children's close friends from school live in ECM, and it would be a huge blow to those friendships if the children living in ECM were forced to switch schools in the middle of their elementary education. Those families don't want a territory transfer. We don't want it. It would be a huge loss to very many people for a small convenience for a few.* (Sarah Abbott and Michael Reed, Tiburon residents.)

I invite the County Committee to thoroughly review the many compelling letters in opposition to the Petition. **Enclosed are copies of the opposition letters that RUSD has received to date.**

II. The Petition is Invalid and Should Not Be Considered

I next urge the County Committee to consider the circumstances under which the Petition arose, which are replete with procedural irregularities bringing to doubt the Petition's validity. First, it is likely that multiple iterations of the Petition were circulated as signatures were gathered. As a result, at least some of the signatures were not obtained in support of the *actual* Petition that was submitted.

On May 30, 2022, the County Superintendent forwarded correspondence to me from Emily Bedecarre, one of the individuals circulating the Petition. This correspondence included a copy of the petition in circulation at that time and acknowledged that petitioners were already collecting signatures. On October 28, 2022, the County Superintendent informed me that the Petition had been submitted for review and signature verification. A copy of the Petition was provided.

The submitted Petition was substantively different from the petition which Emily Bedecarre acknowledged was being circulated as of May 30, 2022. For example, the May 30, 2022 petition did not include a list of the property parcels affected by the proposed territory transfer. Additionally, the May 30, 2022 petition listed 19 residential streets affected by the territory transfer,

while the submitted Petition only included 17 residential streets. This is a material difference that cannot be ignored; those signatures obtained for the May 30, 2022 version of the petition should not be counted as supporting the actual Petition submitted to the County Superintendent.

I have also been troubled to learn from various community members that signatures were gathered using methods bordering deception. Community members felt that they were misled about the content of the Petition when their signatures were acquired. Many of these community members have reached out to inform me of these troubling facts. In their own words:

> *I've experienced first hand the misleading tactics petitioners used when collecting signatures when they visited our house and sold it as a "choice" for families to have between RUSD and LCMSD.* (Marc Chu, ECM resident.)
>
> *The petitioners, with their petition hidden beneath the signature pages and their children in tow, asked my neighbors "would you sign this petition to give my children school choice?" Then, when my neighbors learned what they had actually signed, they were told that the only way to remove their signatures was to ask the petitioners directly. Many of my neighbors were uncomfortable or even afraid to do this.* (Dana Ray, ECM resident.)
>
> *[S]everal months ago, a petitioner came to our home and deceitfully asked me to sign a petition that would give families the choice as to which school their kids go. It wasn't until I reviewed the petition and drilled down on the specifics that he reluctantly admitted that the petition, in fact, was for redistricting.* (Jeff Diener, ECM resident.)

Despite subsequent demands from misled community members to have their signatures removed from the Petition, this has not happened. The County's Election Department certified that the Petition had required 228 signatures to proceed to this stage, and that it had received 247 verified signatures. A margin of 19 signatures has led us to this point. Considering that this slim margin was obtained with the assistance of procedural irregularities and deception, it is clear that if those who no longer wish to be signatories to the Petition were removed, as they have strongly expressed, the Petition would not have a sufficient showing of support.

III. The Petition Will Not Substantially Meet the Legal Criteria Upon Which it is Evaluated

Beyond the arguments identified above, I urge the County Committee to reject the Petition because it does not substantially meet the legal criteria identified in Education Code section 35753. I have directed legal counsel to prepare a thorough report of the legal arguments against the Petition's approval, which the County Committee will soon receive. I'd like to highlight a few notable arguments.

If approved, the Petition will likely shrink the RUSD's pupil population to an inappropriate level. Based on initial projections, if the Petition were approved today the District's enrollment would decrease to approximately 905 pupils. This enrollment is perilously close to the enrollment count (901) identified in law and regulation as a factor that would support a rejection of the Petition. Given that the RUSD is experiencing declining enrollment and projects this trend to continue, approval of the Petition will near certainly result in an RUSD that is not adequate in size, and thus weighs in favor of rejecting the Petition.

Beyond the impact on the size of the RUSD, the Petition's approval would also result in a school district that is *less diverse* in racial/ethnic and socioeconomic composition. If reviewed in the context of RUSD's population today, approval of the Petition would result in decreases of over 10%

each of the Asian, Filipino, Hispanic, and Two or More student populations. This would be an unfortunate cost that our pupils would bear and would deprive them of exposure to a diversity of backgrounds which is so critical as we prepare our children to engage the incredibly diverse population of California and the nation.

One of the main criteria that the County Committee will examine is whether the Petition will result in districts that are organized on the basis of a substantial community identity. The petitioner's arguments conveniently ignore the wealth of evidence showing the strong community ties between the East Corte Madera, Belvedere, and Tiburon communities that the RUSD serves. Our community members state this best in the enclosed opposition letters:

> *This neighborhood [East Corte Madera] has been a part of our community for decades, and is very enmeshed in the fabric of our lives, education, sports, social circles, enrichment activities, volunteer activities, and play dates since Granada School closed 40 years ago.* (Linda and Justin Sapolsky, Tiburon residents.)

Beyond their interactions in the RUSD, the East Corte Madera, Belvedere, and Tiburon communities cross utilize local parks, recreation facilities, and share community bonds that they wish to retain. Seeking to break these bonds, the petitioners rely upon the fact that some LCMSD schools are slightly geographically closer to East Corte Madera than their RUSD counterparts. These arguments overlook the fact that affected middle school students will have to traverse the busy and dangerous 101 corridor to attend LCMSD's Hall Middle School, cut off from their community east of highway 101 and attached to the Belvedere and Tiburon peninsula.

Ongoing analysis will soon show that other factors, including a draconian financial impact to the RUSD and related impacts to the quality of the educational program we can continue to provide will be factors supporting the denial of the Petition. Finally, and importantly, the County Committee retains full discretion to either approve or deny a Petition, even if the legal criteria are met. While the RUSD will make the case that the legal criteria do not support approval of the Petition, I urge the County Committee to use its discretionary authority to deny the Petition in light of the negative consequences to the RUSD which we are already able to outline.

IV. Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, RUSD opposes the Petition. As the County Committee continues its deliberative process, more facts will come to light in support of our position. As a result, RUSD reserves the right to supplement its opposition to the County Committee. I close by strongly urging the County Committee to heed the 102, and counting, RUSD community members and allies who have written to me in opposition to the Petition. Further consideration of this flawed Petition will unnecessarily divide a community with a strong shared identity and an overwhelming desire to remain in the RUSD – keep our community intact and reject this spurious Petition.

Kimberly McGrath

Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District

Enclosure