

MARIN COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Special Meeting November 30, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Chairperson Debbie Butler called the meeting to order at 6:01 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
Amos Klausner	Y
Derek Knell	Y
Robin Moses	Y
Stephanie O'Brien	A
Kathy Ohm	Y
Elizabeth Robbins	Y
Richard Sloan	Y
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 of the Marin County Office of Education; Robert J. Henry, legal counsel.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Consider Approval and Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Butler called for a motion to approve the November 30, 2022 Agenda.

M/s/c Tanenberg and Crockett; to approve the November 30, 2022 Agenda.

Motion carried:	Aye: 10	No:	Abstain:	Absent: 1
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AGENDA ITEM 4: Consider Approval of Minutes, CCSDO Meeting of
November 28, 2022

Chairperson Butler called for a motion to approve the November 28, 2022 Minutes of the Special Meeting.
M/s/c Ohm and Moses; to approve the November 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Motion carried:	Aye: 10	No:	Abstain:	Absent: 1
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AGENDA ITEM 5: Open Public Hearing

Chairperson Butler opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 5a: Explanation of the Petition & Presentation of Facts

Secretary Designee Terena Mares introduced the East Corte Madera territory transfer petition and outlined the petition facts.

AGENDA ITEM 5b: Guidelines for Public Hearing

Chairperson Butler outlined the guidelines for the public hearing.

AGENDA ITEM 5c: Chief Petitioners

Chief Petitioners Craig Blok and Paul Burton addressed the County Committee. Chief Petitioner Heather Choate, not in attendance, shared her comments via a pre-recorded presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to, and made a part of, the original minutes of this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5d: Larkspur Corte Madera School District

Dr. Brett Geithman, Superintendent from the Larkspur Corte Madera School District, presented to the County Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached to, and made a part of, the original minutes of this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5e: Reed Union School District

Liz Webb, Board of Trustees President from the Reed Union School District, addressed the County Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached to, and made a part of, the original minutes of this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5f: Petition Proponents

Prior to the petition proponents, Secretary Designee Terena Mares called forward one public speaker who was neutral regarding the petition.

11 proponents of the petition addressed the County Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 5g: Petition Opponents

33 opponents of the petition addressed the County Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 5h: Next Steps

Secretary Designee Terena Mares outlined the next steps for the East Corte Madera territory transfer petition.

The next public hearing will be on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm, Reed Union School District Del Mar Middle School Gymnasium (105 Avenida Miraflores, Tiburon, CA 94920).

Committee member Richard Sloan asked legal counsel clarifying questions regarding the petition process.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Close Public Hearing

Chairperson Butler closed the public hearing at 8:26 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjournment

Chairperson Butler called for a motion to adjourn the November 30, 2022 Meeting.

M/s/c Crockett and Knell; to approve the adjournment of the November 30, 2022 Meeting.

Motion carried:	Aye: 10	No:	Abstain:	Absent: 1
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Chairperson Butler adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

EAST CORTE MADERA TERRITORY TRANSFER PETITION

Public Hearing, November 30, 2022
Larkspur Corte Madera School District

Chief Petitioners:

Craig Blok

Paul Burton

Heather Choate

History: RUSD's Granada School Closure

- RUSD's Granada School is the reason for the current ECM Hillside district boundaries
- Granada was the community school down the hill in the heart of the neighborhood
- It was the center of the community's identity
- Granada School **closed over 40 years** ago yet district boundaries remained unchanged



History: LCMSD's Cove School Opening

- LCMSD's Cove opened in 2014 serving as the “new Granada” school down the hill for the community
- District boundaries never changed
- Interdistrict Transfer (IDT) agreements between the two districts had been a workaround
- This year, the school boards could not reach an IDT agreement extension



Where We Are Now

- It is the responsibility of this generation to modernize the school district boundaries for East Corte Madera Hillside
- Now is the time to restore our neighborhood's sense of community identity by giving us our local school back
- Corte Madera kids deserve the chance to attend Corte Madera schools
- Let the community vote!

Reasons to Change ECM District Boundaries



The Cove School

Old Granada School

Area assigned to LCMSD

Area assigned to RUSD



Hall Middle

Neil Cummins Elementary

The Cove Elementary

ECM

Bel Aire Elementary

Del Mar Middle

Reed Elementary

Area assigned to LCMUSD

Area assigned to RUSD

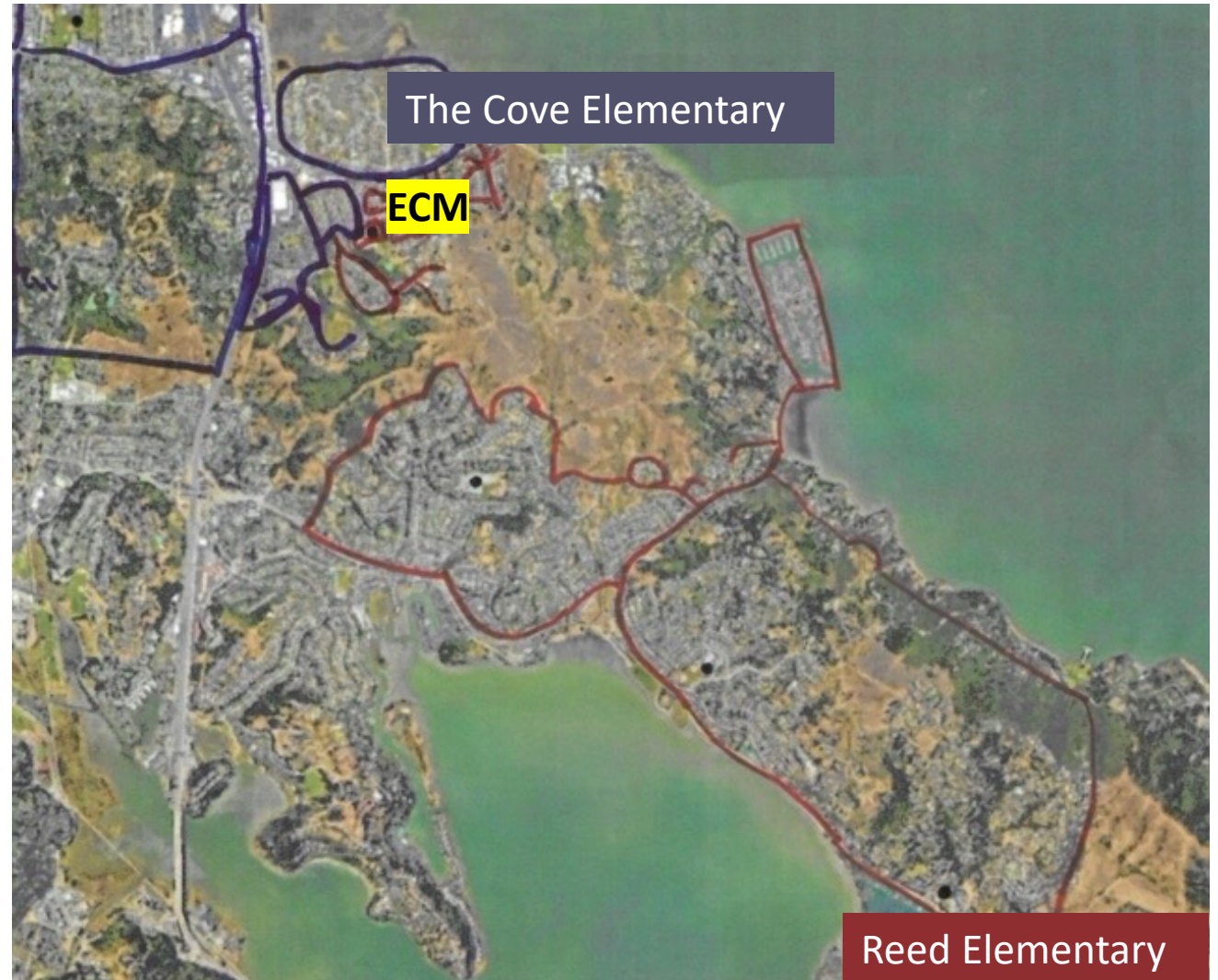
RUSD Buses

RUSD School	Grade Level	Total Time on Bus Round Trip per Day*	Total Time on Bus Roundtrip per Week*
Reed	TK - 2	74 min	6hr, 10 min
Bel Aire	3 - 5	58 min	4hr, 50 min
Del Mar	6 - 8	45 min	3hr, 45 min

*Data courtesy of RUSD Yellow Bus website

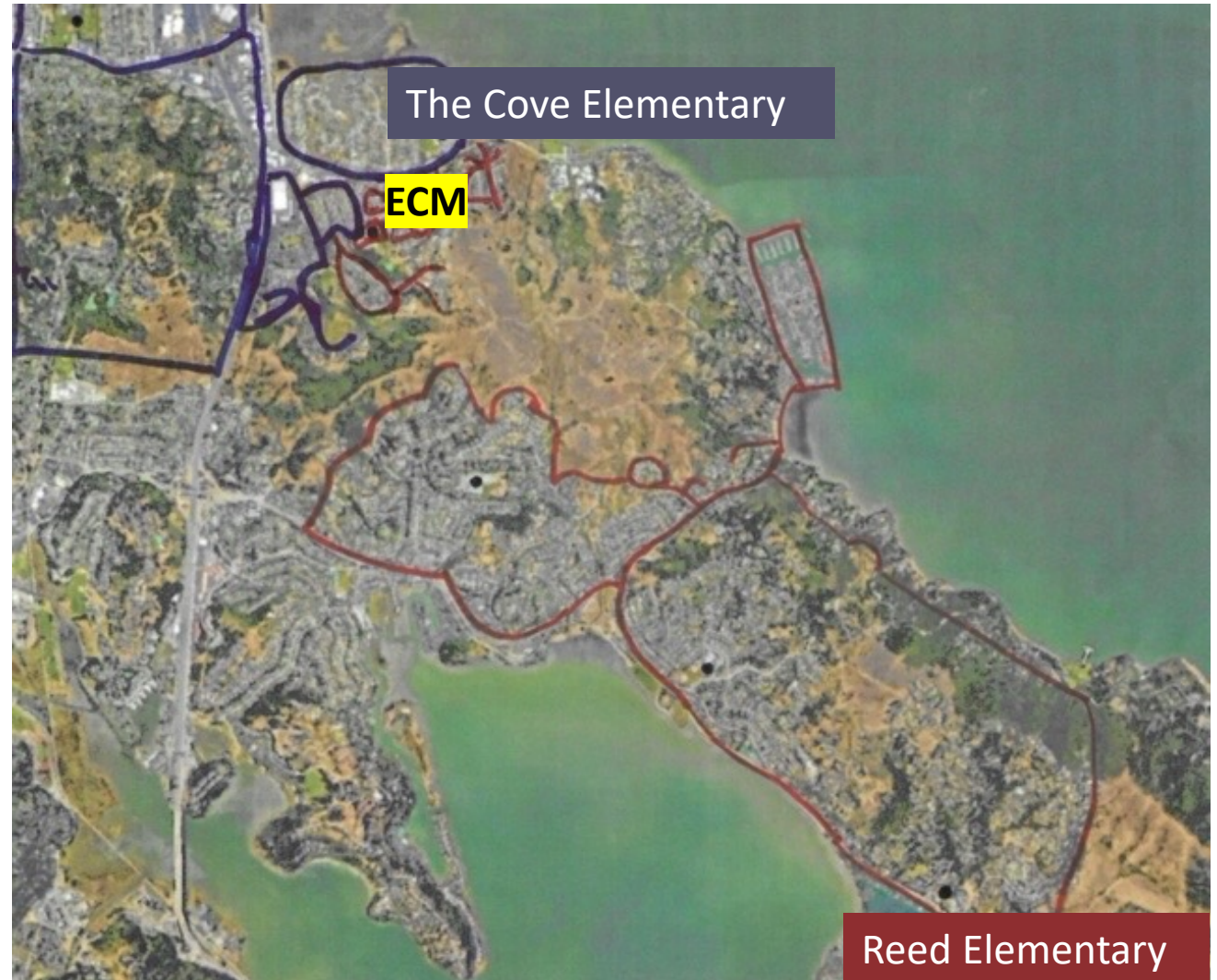
Emergency Safety Advantages to Redistricting

- Marin is not immune to impact of earthquakes, wildfires, and other disasters
- Disaster preparedness is more important now than ever before
- Keeping little ones close to family helps with family unification and family evacuation/egress



Environmental Advantages to Redistricting

- Walking and biking to neighborhood schools is the green choice for the environment
- Carbon footprint is reduced
- Tiburon Blvd traffic is reduced



Corte Madera Schools *for* Corte Madera Kids

Aligning Schools With Our Local Community

WHY SUPPORT A CHANGE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES?

- **MAKE A LONG OVERDUE CHANGE - DO THE RIGHT THING FOR KIDS NOW**

- RUSD's Granada School was ECM's community school until it closed in the 1980s; LCMSD's Cove School opened in ECM in 2014.
- ECM's neighborhood school changed, yet district boundaries remain unchanged.

- **COMMUNITY CONTINUITY - DEEPER SENSE OF BELONGING**

- Align our children's schools with our local community's identity - we are Corte Madera residents.
- Create consistency and convenience of support systems for our children, encouraging involvement in their community (extracurricular activities, volunteer opportunities, sports teams, etc., all within our community).

- **PROXIMITY OF SCHOOLS TO HOME - INCREASES FAMILY FOCUS TIME**

- The Cove is steps away from ECM homes - walk, bike, scoot with friends.
- Safer in an emergency, easier for kids to egress and unite with families.
- Lowers carbon footprint and reduces Tiburon Blvd traffic.
- Saves approximately one hour in commute time per day.

- **FIERCE ADVOCATES OF REED FAMILIES STAYING AT REED SCHOOLS**

- LCM is willing to approve and appropriately fund kids to stay at Reed
- BP 5117 - LCM Policy that allows funding to follow IDT kid

This process is the only solution that takes into account not just existing families, but all families and neighbors. Young up and coming families, neighbors without school age kids and future families who all shape our culture, schools and architecture of our community.

For more info scan the QR or go to CMSchools4CMKids.com



Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

Redistricting Petition Public Hearing

Dr. Brett Geithman, Superintendent

November 30, 2022

230 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939 / 415-927-6960



Strategic Priorities

- Foster healthy, inclusive, respectful, and safe learning environments. Promote the social, emotional, and intellectual growth of all community members.
- Inspire academic growth and civic responsibility through a rigorous, inquiry-based curriculum that is engaging and personalized.
- Attract, cultivate, and retain innovative, inspirational educators.
- Sustain the fiscal integrity and stability of the district.
- Facilitate collaborative partnerships between students, families, schools, and community.



What are the Core Issues?

- A section of East Corte Madera is in the Reed Union School District boundaries
- In 2014 Cove School (LCMSD) opened and is across the street from this East Corte Madera neighborhood
- Some families in the East Corte Madera neighborhood want their children to attend their resident schools (RUSD) and some want to attend LCMSD schools
- Memorandum of understanding regarding interdistrict permits from RUSD to LCMSD was agreed upon and expired on June 30, 2022; a one-year addendum was agreed upon for 2022-23
- When the expiring MOU was originally signed, LCMSD was an LCFF funded district. Beginning in 2019-20, LCMSD has been designated as a Basic Aid funded district; therefore, state funding for each student is no longer received by LCMSD
- There are families in the East Corte Madera neighborhood who would like to have the option for their children to attend/continue in LCMSD schools and there are also families in this neighborhood who plan/have their children enrolled in their resident schools (RUSD)
- LCMSD and RUSD engaged in good faith bargaining from January through November 16, 2022; a new agreement was not reached
- Residents have initiated a petition to transfer this territory to LCMSD



November 16 Negotiations

	LCMSD	RUSD
Per Pupil Expenditures	\$18,000*	\$28,000*
Payment Per IDT	\$6,800 (\$273,000)** Property taxes of ECM neighborhood/total students attending both RUSD and LCMSD	\$1,600 (\$63,000)** secured property taxes per IDT household + parcel tax
Evergreen Clause	Yes	No
Hall Middle	Yes	Yes
Current Families Only	Can “live with”	Yes

*estimated based on budget adoption

**these are estimates as they are based on property taxes that are allocated to RUSD



Redistricting



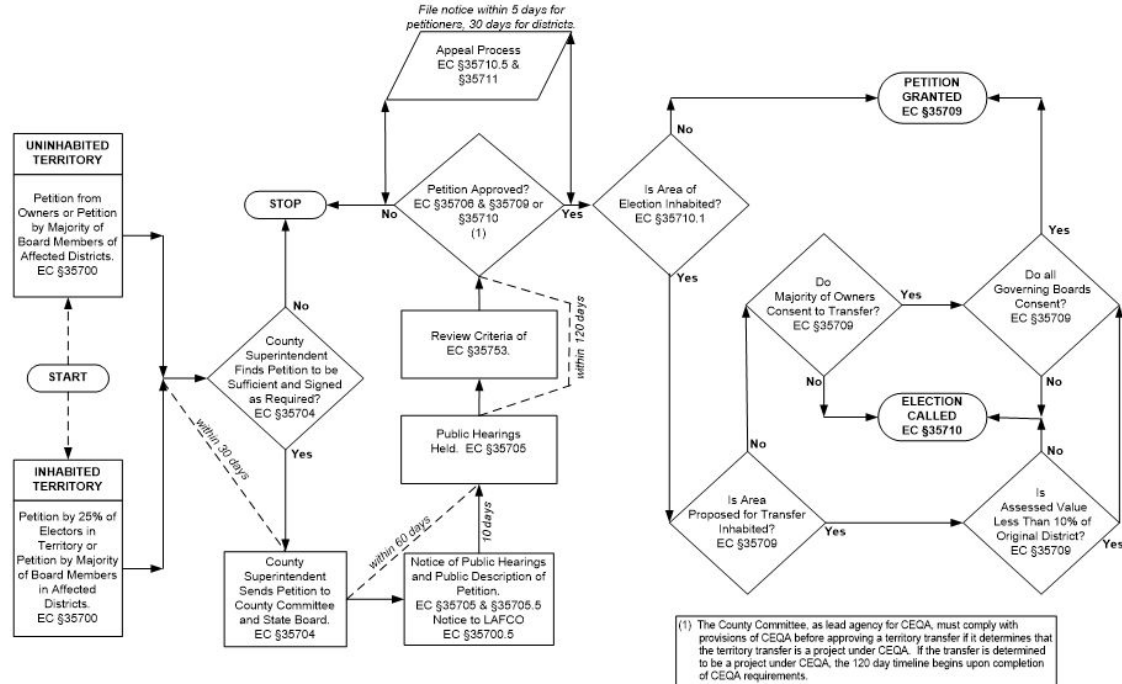
Choice

The only pathway to choice is an **AGREEMENT** between LCMSD and RUSD



Redistricting Process

TERRITORY TRANSFER INITIATED BY OWNERS, 25% PETITION, OR DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS



Current Enrollment of Petition Area

Total students in petition area is approximately 126

- RUSD IDTs to LCMSD
 - 51
 - 6 LCMSD employee related
 - 5 outside of petition area
 - 40 total in petition area (non-employee related)
- Students attending RUSD schools - approximately 80



Considerations to Inform LCMUSD's Recommendation

1. Public feedback
2. Marin County Committee on School District Organization feedback
3. Bonds
4. Parcel taxes
5. Property taxes
6. LCFF v. basic aid
7. Classroom space



Parcel Tax Revenue

	LCMSD	RUSD
Amount Per Parcel	\$910	\$643
Total Annual Revenue	\$3,664,570	\$2,483,215
Expiration	2032	2031
Number of Teachers Equivalent to	29	



**Every Student,
Every Day**



Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

Redistricting Petition Public Hearing

Dr. Brett Geithman, Superintendent

November 30, 2022

230 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939 / 415-927-6960





Reed Union School District

RUSD Presentation to the Marin County Committee on School District Organization

Presented by: Board President Liz Webb

November 30, 2022



Reed Union School District – Our Community



- The Reed Union School District (RUSD) is an elementary district serving southern Marin communities including Belvedere, East Corte Madera, and Tiburon
- Three school sites:
 - Reed Elementary – Pre-K through Grade 2
 - Bel Aire Elementary – Grades 3, 4 and 5
 - Del Mar Middle School – Grades 6, 7 and 8



RUSD Stands Together in Opposition to The Petition



- RUSD Board of Trustees unanimously opposes the Petition
- Our RUSD community has expressed strong opposition to the Petition
- The Petition is invalid and should not be considered
- The Petition does not meet the 9 legal criteria for approval



RUSD Board Unanimously Opposes the Petition

- RUSD Board met in open session on Monday, November 28, 2022 regarding this Petition
- Board members unanimously expressed strong opposition to the Petition
- Board directed Superintendent McGrath to prepare a formal resolution in opposition to the Petition for the Board's December 13, 2022 meeting



Community Has Expressed Strong Opposition

- Received over 70 letters of opposition to this petition
- Approximately 100 community members expressing opposition
- **At least 60 of those community members are from the territory proposed for transfer;** Additional from Tiburon and Belvedere families
- Continue to receive these letters/emails in opposition on a daily basis





Community Has Expressed Strong Opposition

- Petitioners stated goal: “This neighborhood should attend their community schools”
 - Approximately 130 students reside in the territory, and only 39 have chosen to attend the Cove school
 - 2/3 of students residing in the territory have chosen to attend RUSD schools
- Community members have come out strongly saying they believe Reed schools are their community schools



Community Has Expressed Strong Opposition

- *Redistricting would cause all three of my children to lose their entire support networks and set them back dramatically academically and socially.*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *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.*



The Petition is Invalid and Should not be Considered

- Multiple versions of the petition were being circulated and obtained signatures
 - Version 1 – Circulated and reviewed by MCOE on May 30
 - Version 2 – Submitted to MCOE on Oct 27
- Signatures from May 30 petition should not be counted
- Signatures were gathered using methods bordering deception
 - Petitioners were telling residents this was for “Choice,” not a territory transfer
 - Petitioners asked to have their names removed and they were NOT removed, even though petitioners said they would
 - Petition approved with just 19 signatures over the minimum
 - Petition does not have sufficient support



The Petition is Invalid and Should not be Considered

- *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.*
- *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.*
- *[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.*



Petition does not substantially meet the 9 legal criteria

- RUSD has engaged Lozano Smith, who will present to the County Committee on December 15, 2022 why this petition fails to meet the 9 legal criteria for a territory transfer, including but not limited to:
 1. Territory transfer would shrink RUSD population to close to 901
 2. Resulting in a school District that is notably less diverse
 3. Monumental loss to community identity
 4. Substantial financial impact to District

