

# Community Trustee Area Districting (CTAD) Committee

589 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087

[www.fuhsd.org/ctad](http://www.fuhsd.org/ctad)

## Regular Meeting Minutes

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Monday, Feb. 5, 2024

District Office

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### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by CTAD Chair Doug Kunz.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Wesley Chen	X			
Alan Dowdell	X			
J.R. Fruen		X		
David Fung	X			
Angela Hixson	X			
Sid Jain			X	
Doug Kunz	X			
Rommy Kushner	X			
Chemba Ranganathan	X			
Kei Sato	X			
Heidy Patricia Suarez Espinosa	X			
Bill Wilson	X			
Julia Zhao	X			
Taek Kim (Student)	X			
Kashish Mittal (Student)	X			
Sehej Singh (Student)		X		

### 2. Review and Approve Minutes from Jan. 8 Committee Meeting

CTAD member Wesley Chen asked for a correction to be made to the Jan. 8 minutes to state that under Item 5, he had asked a question about whether voter variance/balance of the trustee areas should be a criteria for the proposed maps. He also stated that he was looking for a response from legal counsel on this issue and staff member Melisa Wonch shared that our legal counsel would provide one later in the meeting.

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CTAD member Angela Hixson made a motion to approve the Jan. 8 minutes with the correction. CTAD member Alan Dowdell seconded the motion. The two student CTAD members in attendance unanimously approved the minutes. The remaining 12 CTAD members in attendance unanimously approved the minutes.

### **3. Communications**

3.1 Public Communications: Community member Jessica Jericke thanked the members of the committee and said she knew it had been a long and hard process. She shared that hoped the process would continue on its current timeline and that it is incredibly important to get this completed by the next election. She shared that people have been waiting patiently and respectfully for this transition, and she acknowledged that there was already a delay due to the death of one of the FUHSD trustees. She shared that she recently submitted a map that attempted to account for the elementary school district boundaries. She shared that she felt it was reasonable to try and keep Columbia and Sunnyvale Middle School together.

Community member Courtney Jansen thanked the CTAD members for their hard work and encouraged the district to stay the course for the November 2024 elections. She stated that this is not a north vs. south issue, but rather is about fair representation on the Board. She stated that North Sunnyvale is not the only area that has lacked representation, as there have only four trustees from the Lynbrook zip code in the last 50 or so years. She stated this change will build inclusion and representation for all and that it is long overdue.

Community member Mike Serrone commended the Board, the Superintendent and the CTAD for getting to this point. He said the district had appointed an excellent advisory commission, hired great consultants, and made tools available to the public. He asked that the district keep on schedule to get this done in time for the 2024 election and said that if the process is delayed, that is two more years the district is subject to lawsuits, which should be a serious consideration. He stated that moving to trustee areas greatly reduces the time and expense for someone to run for the Board of Trustees. In Sunnyvale, he has seen the positive impact of more people running for office.

Community member Jennifer Griffin shared that she attended CUSD and FUHSD schools, De Anza College and San Jose State. She stated she is very concerned with this process and that she feels that Cupertino gets dumped on because it has three high schools. She mentioned the rezoning of certain sites within the City of Cupertino, including De Anza College. She stated that because North Sunnyvale still does not have a high school, Google should provide one.

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Community member Melinda Hamilton, a graduate of Homestead High School and Fremont High School parent, thanked the committee for their service. She encouraged them to keep doing this work, as it's been nearly a year getting to this point. She stated that currently there is not equal representation throughout the district and that this is important for those whose neighborhoods have not been represented. She stated that you will have more people that can run for election and less money that needs to be raised, rather than only having people run who are independently wealthy. She stated that this process has been a long time coming for the community.

Community member Neil Achtman, a North Sunnyvale resident, stated that he has heard that people are asking for delays in this process. He asked the district to keep to the current schedule and keep going. He stated that the time and effort that has been put into this process has made a difference. He shared that he had heard about this process months ago even though he doesn't have kids in the district. He stated that for the people that live in the community currently, a delay will have a huge effect.

Community member Laura Thomas, a North Sunnyvale resident with one student in middle school and one in elementary, thanked the District and the CTAD on all the work that has been in progress for months. She shared that she was very happy to have students working on this issue. She stated that the process has been well laid out and thorough and there is no need to delay. She shared that she personally supports a North/South division in Sunnyvale to better keep certain neighborhoods together. She said it is important to ensure that minority communities of interest have at least one area where they are the majority or, where that is not possible, make up a significant percentage of the voting population.

Community member Lauren Ledbetter thanked the district staff and committee for all the hard work and long nights doing this work. She shared that she supports the current timeline the district is on to complete this process by the 2024 election. She said that the demographics of the census are very rough, particularly around the Asian category, which includes many groups. She stated that she knows that this is how the Census is, and it doesn't show subgroups, but that she would encourage the committee to still look at those subgroups as communities of interest.

Community member Changdao Dong stated that people in the community have seen Board Members at Sunnyvale events since the fall, but that many areas in the southern part of the district have not had representation. He read from a speech about equity and communism.

Community member Muni Madipatla, who lives in Cupertino, said that public education is great, and education is the greatest equalizer. He said that the concerns of Cupertino

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need to be addressed, including those of three schools that the community deeply cares about. If any of those three schools' ability to exist is going to be diluted in any form, he stated that a process would be instigated by members of the community to bifurcate the district. He stated that he doesn't want to see those three schools compromised. He stated that while the needs of North Sunnyvale need to be addressed, it should not be at the cost of Cupertino.

Community member Hui Liu, a Monta Vista parent, stated that they had asked many parents in neighborhood and students if they are aware of this process and that they were not. He shared his concern that he did not know about this meeting early enough and that the process is moving too fast. He stated that parents without kids in the district don't know about this process. He stated that right now there is a lot of concern that after this process finishes there will be talk of closing school. He acknowledged that the district has said they won't close schools, but stated that some community members don't believe this.

3.2 CTAD Committee Members: CTAD members Chembra Ranganathan, Wesley Chen, Sid Jain and Julia Zhao reported on several outreach events they have held, which were hybrid (virtual and in person). Much of the feedback they have received is that this is the first time people are hearing about this process. They stated that community members asked if the CTAD meetings can be online. Staff member Melisa Wonch asked the group if they captured emails that we can send updates to. The group shared that people asked about the map that showed the zip codes where trustees came from, and wanted to know if there was data on where candidates had come from.

CTAD member Angela Hixson made a point of order, and stated that questions about why the process is taking place or the timeline of the process should be directed to the Board and staff. She stated that the role of the CTAD is to get feedback on the maps.

Staff member Melisa Wonch asked that this topic be tabled until the agenda item regarding the role and responsibilities of the committee members.

CTAD member Julia Zhao stated that she thought the role of the CTAD was to gather all feedback, and that the feedback has included people asking the Board to take a step back on this decision. She stated that it seems like concerns from the north and south portions of the district are different.

CTAD member Alan Dowdell shared that his takeaway is that people will not have to campaign across the entire district, making it easier to run for office.

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CTAD member Julia Zhao shared that they also had questions from parents about using the map tool, as it is not very user friendly and that one idea would be to put a tutorial online.

Staff member Melisa Wonch asked if CTAD member Sid Jain would be willing to help staff record a zoom tutorial as he had done a great job with the tutorial during a previous meeting. Both Sid and Julia agreed to help with this task.

CTAD member Julia Zhao stated that parents want to see the maps that were submitted by community members. CTAD member Angela Hixson stated that there is a tab for shared maps. Staff member Melisa Wonch said that the community submitted maps would be brought to the next CTAD meeting to look at.

CTAD member Julia Zhao said that while many high school parents know about this change, the groups that seem not to be aware of it are the younger residents that just moved here and senior citizens. Staff member Rachel Zlotziver shared that staff has asked CUSD and SSD and our cities to send out information and will continue to do so.

CTAD chair Doug Kunz shared that he has been reaching out to the elementary and middle school parent groups to give a short presentation about the process. His general impression is that people feel this change make senses and that he hasn't seen a contentious response. These forums have not been as good for collecting feedback on the actual draft maps, however, one exception to that was at San Miguel PTA. The PTA president printed sheets of paper with map scenarios to see which type of split people prefer (North/South or East/West). About 20 people were surveyed, with a modest preference for Scenario Map 2.

Staff member Melisa Wonch reported on the informational community meeting held at Lynbrook High School. Staff had received a lot of reports/rumors about school closures and other misinformation. Staff quickly pulled together a meeting at Lynbrook to try and address these issues. There were about 85 attendees and most of the three-hour session was focused on answering questions and concerns that had been circulating.

3.3: District Staff: District staff shared an overview of the written feedback that staff had received. She shared that much of the feedback has not been under the CTAD's purview, in that it has focused on stopping or slowing down the process. Very little of the feedback has been actionable feedback on the draft maps. The feedback we have received on the maps themselves includes:

- designate North Sunnyvale (zip codes 94085 and 94089) as a Community of Interest to make sure all residents of the FUHSD have an equal voice and representation moving forward;

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- support a North/South division in North Sunnyvale to keep certain communities and neighborhoods together;
  - allow for more than one trustee to represent an area that also covers more than one school attendance area (i.e. students in that trustee area go to two different schools);
  - ensure that the minority communities of interest (Spanish speaking, Asian, etc.) have at least one trustee area where they are the majority (or if that is not feasible, they are significantly represented);
  - create a map similar to the community submitted “Map 5” that we received a lot of feedback on in the fall, which would roughly align three trustee areas with the MVHS, CHS and LHS attendance areas as much as possible, and would divide Sunnyvale along Evelyn.

CTAD member Angela Hixson said that in the community she is hearing a lot of people advocate for a North/South division of Sunnyvale, which is similar to how the City divides itself.

Superintendent Clark added that community members have shared similar feedback at the Board meetings, mostly on issues outside the purview of the CTAD.

#### **4. Review of CTAD Committee’s Role and Purpose**

CTAD chair Doug Kunz stated that it is important for the group to recalibrate on the role of the committee, and what is vs. what is not within its purview. He asked that the members reflect on what the group was charged with in this process, including educating the community, creating awareness, explaining why this process is happening and the mechanisms for providing feedback. He reminded the group that when members hear that this is the first time someone is hearing about this process, that means the group is being successful, as the group is reaching new people. He thanked the group for the efforts the committee members have been making. He stated that the role of the group is to enhance community engagement, actively seek feedback on sample maps and make sure diverse voices are being heard and factored into process. In future meetings, the group will move to feedback review and synthesis. The ultimate goal is for the group to make recommendations to the Board and explain why it has made these recommendations.

Doug stated that the committee’s north star is to ensure this is a fair and inclusive process, and to make sure this is something we can all be proud of at the end of the day

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that best encompass all the viewpoints of our diverse district. He asked that everyone reflect and make sure that they are comfortable with that and bought in to the process.

Staff member Melisa Wonch stated that she wants to make sure everyone feels comfortable to redirect folks to staff or the Board as appropriate.

Doug shared some information about what this process is not. CTAD is not addressing school attendance boundaries, or concerns about school closures or new schools. He stated that he understands that people feel that these issues are somehow related to this process, but they are not, and they are concerns that should be directed to the District staff. District staff have factual information they can share, particularly related to finances and bond improvements, to address these concerns. The CTAD is not addressing the stoppage or delay of this process. At the end of the day, the Board has set down the desired timeline for this process. Doug stated that it is the job of the CTAD committee to make sure that timeline is met as best as can be done. He stated that the CTAD members had been appointed to the committee to carry out that ask from the Board. In terms of stopping or delaying the process, that is not something we can speak to. He stated that people are entitled to have those concerns, but they should take those to the Board. The job of the CTAD is to do what we committed to doing when we were appointed to the committee.

CTAD member Chemba Ranganathan raised a question about whether the Board could opt to not use any of the CTAD recommended maps. Superintendent Clark stated that the Board would be looking to the committee to give the best recommendation and options.

CTAD Chair Doug Kunz stated that it seemed highly unlikely that the Board would review the recommendations from the CTAD and disregard them and then try and create their own maps. The Board is looking for a few actionable options to choose from.

Staff member Melisa Wonch said that the Board could ask for some modifications, but the likelihood that they would throw out all the work of the committee is unlikely.

## **5. Review of Updated Timeline for Trustee Area Process**

Staff member Melisa Wonch shared the original tentative timeline that we created before CTAD came together. At that time, staff thought the map hearings would all be part of board meetings that already exist. But because of other special items the Board has on its calendar, including school award nights, we have decided to have some stand-alone meetings. Thus, we will be having two special board meetings just on this topic,

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on March 20 and April 24. This helps us to maximize our timeline and gives us more space to do additional outreach.

Under the revised timeline, we would cancel the original final two CTAD meetings and reschedule them to March 11 and April 8. The original dates of Feb. 26 and March 18 would be cancelled.

Melisa asked if there were any questions or concerns from the group. CTAD member Bill Wilson asked if these revisions to the timeline still allowed for meeting the overall goal of completing the process for the Nov. 2024 elections. Melisa stated that it does still meet that timeline. CTAD member Kei Sato asked what would take place at the Feb. 27 Map Hearing. Melisa shared it would be more of an update on process, how the CTAD is doing and the progress being made so far.

Melisa stated that CTAD members would receive an updated meeting list.

## **6. Sequencing**

District legal counsel William Tunick reviewed sequencing. He shared that this is pretty abstract until you have actual maps to look at. The law says that special consideration should be given to purposes of the CVRA. For instance, if you have areas without a resident incumbent. If you have a map with one incumbent in each trustee area (which is unlikely), then you might sequence the areas to line up with the end of each incumbents' terms. If you have a situation with more than one incumbent in a trustee area, that makes it more complicated. If you have a situation with incumbents in both cycles, there has to be a decision about who is going to go in 2024 and 2026. Then you look at the CVRA and the intent of the law. Sometimes it better for a protected class to go in a presidential election year vs. an off-cycle year.

Staff member Melisa Wonch clarified that the group is not supposed to look at incumbency when creating the focus maps, but can then look at that for sequencing. Legal counsel William Tunick confirmed that that is correct.

CTAD member David Fung asked if any specific sequencing had already been looked at for the district. Staff and legal counsel stated that no sequencing has been done and that once we have the focus maps we can look at that. Right now, we are just sharing general criteria. David stated that he can see how there might be concerns from the community about balance if the general area of Monta Vista isn't included in the 2024 election.



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Staff member Melisa Wonch stated that she thinks the gaps will be apparent when we start looking at the map options, and that it is important to keep an open mind as we look at the maps.

CTAD member Angela Hixson stated that the point of the committee was to have members that represent the geographic diversity of the district, and that she doesn't feel there would be attempts to pack one area.

CTAD member Alan Dowdell asked what is done with the areas where people are not up for election. Legal Counsel William Tunick stated that for a two-year period, three people will remain At-Large. It will be easier to see once there are focus maps.

CTAD member Sid Jain asked if CTAD recommends sequencing or just a map and the sequencing would be obvious? Staff and legal counsel clarified that there would be options with each map that the CTAD could form a recommendation from.

***CTAD took a brief recess at 7:37 and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.***

## **7. Review of Community Outreach Presentation**

Staff member Melisa Wonch reminded the group of the goal to create simple foundational presentation for community outreach. The goal for this meeting is to finalize the presentation. She stated that this will be the approved slide deck that needs to be used by all CTAD members. If there is a concern or something more needed, CTAD members are asked to let staff know so we can address it. But we need to make sure everything is approved by staff and also legal counsel. CTAD members were asked not to edit or add slides. Legal Counsel William Tunick has reviewed and made minor revisions to the slide deck.

In response to CTAD member Wesley Chen's question about looking at the voter population and why this is not used for balancing, legal counsel William Tunick shared that we use total population and citizen voting population in different ways based on what the law requires. Total population is used for balancing. The CVAP is used because you can only influence an election if you can vote, so that is used to determine if it is possible to create an area that would allow a minority group's ability to influence elections. While the CVAP is not used for balancing, it could be weighed as a factor in map selection after ALL of the other required criteria are first considered. But you have to walk through all those other criteria first. Wesley confirmed that this answered his question and appreciated that legal counsel was available to address this question.

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Staff member Melisa Wonch led the CTAD members through an exercise to review the slide deck and provide final suggested revisions on it. Melisa thanked the group for their patience in putting the presentation together.

## **8. Community Engagement Planning Review**

CTAD Chair Doug Kunz reminded the group to make sure to send any outreach events they are attending or speaking out to staff so they can be captured in the outreach matrix.

Superintendent Graham Clark shared that there has been feedback about having some Zoom events for everyone, and to hold one on a Sunday. Staff member Melisa Wonch asked if there was a preference for Sunday, Feb. 18 or Sunday, Feb. 25. The feedback from the group was Feb. 25 was better. There was a consensus from the group to also do a Zoom during the week, possibly on Feb. 15.

There was a question about whether all CTAD members can be on a webinar. Staff member Melisa Wonch stated we would refer the question to Legal Counsel William Tunick, who had already left the meeting.

Staff will be looking for volunteers to present at the webinars. Staff will review the best way to handle Q&A.

CTAD member Kei Satro volunteered to reach out to senior centers and apartment complexes.

There was feedback from the community about lack of outreach in the Monta Vista area, committee and staff will look to do something in person at the school or nearby, but which can also be publicized more widely.

CTAD member Chemba Ranganathan stated that there seems to be less fear or concerns about this process in the Homestead and Cupertino attendance areas. She stated that she has been trying to reach out to parents that have students who have just graduated.

CTAD member Bill Wilson volunteered to reach out to the Cupertino Senior Center.

CTAD members felt that we need more feedback on the North/South or East/West split options in Sunnyvale. CTAD members Angela and Doug stated they would reach out to schedule a follow up meeting with Sunnyvale Community Services as part of this outreach.

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CTAD member Julia Zhao shared a suggestion to reach out to the Chinese-language newspapers. CTAD member Bill Wilson shared that Board Member Stanley Kou was interviewed by World Journal.

CTAD member Angela Hixson also will follow up with Columbia Middle School.

CTAD members Chemba, Wesley, Julia and Sid will plan for a zoom meeting on the map tool on Feb. 10 and record it so it can be shared on the district website.

## **9. Communications**

9.1 Public Communications: There were no speakers who wished to make public comment.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.