

RESOLUTION NO. 13

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTING SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM "PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE" COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND APPROVING THE CONSOLIDATION AND RELOCATION OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS, CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES AND TAKING RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

WHEREAS, since 2008-09, enrollment in the Redwood City School District ("District") has been steadily decreasing, declining by almost 13% over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, enrollment decline has resulted in some District schools operating at significantly less than their full capacity, without sufficient numbers of students to cover the costs necessary to keep the schools open, staffed and fully operational, and which shortfall results in Districtwide budget losses in the millions of dollars based on state funding formulas; at some sites enrollment declines have been particularly acute, reflecting declines in some places of over 60% over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, some students are choosing to enroll in local charter schools, which reduces enrollment in District-run schools, while other students and families are leaving the District due to the high cost of living in the region, resulting in losses of per-student funding for those students no longer enrolled in District-run programs; in addition, the District's operational costs, particularly pension costs, have continued to increase over time; and

WHEREAS, in light of declining revenue and increasing costs, in May, 2018, the San Mateo County Office of Education mandated that the District develop a plan and approve by no later than December 15, 2018 to cut \$10 million from its budget over a three year period; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, the District performed an analysis that concluded that the District could not achieve fiscal stability or the necessary cost reductions if it continued to operate 16 schools with an enrollment of approximately 7,500 students, and in particular, could not sustain schools with less than 400 student enrollment; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, the Superintendent of the District launched an extensive community engagement process called "Planning for Our Future," which included the formation of a Superintendent's Advisory Council ("Council") comprised of parents and staff members from all school sites to assist the District in developing concrete ideas and plans to present to the Board of Trustees ("Board") that could achieve the mandated cost reductions while still preserving critical programs and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, the Council was presented with and did review comprehensive District data analyzing historical enrollment patterns, academic programs and achievement, student testing and outcomes, fiscal and facilities data, demographics and attendance patterns and similar information, with the ultimate goal of assisting in the development of a comprehensive plan for the future of District schools; and

WHEREAS, as part of the community engagement effort, the Superintendent and District staff designed and deployed a community survey sent to all parents of enrolled students and other available community members to receive feedback and ideas and held multiple Board workshops and open school and community forums to solicit extensive

critical feedback and ideas from the larger community regarding options to cut costs, including closing and consolidating school sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, after extensive review based on feedback and input from hundreds of parents and community members as part of the Planning for Our Future Community Engagement process, the Superintendent did prepare a proposed set of recommendations which include, in part, recommendations to consolidate and relocate schools and programs and to close schools and facilities ("Consolidation Plan") which recommendations have been presented in a Memorandum ("Report") presented in conjunction herewith, and are hereby incorporated by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to accept the recommendations reflected in the Report and implement the Consolidation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees to the Redwood City School District hereby orders and resolves as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.

Section 2. Acceptance of Report. The Board hereby accepts the Report presented by the Superintendent herewith, and directs the implementation of the Consolidation Plan and other components of the Report.

Section 3. School Consolidations, Relocations and Closures. The Board hereby approves the following enumerated actions, the background and rationale for which are detailed in the Report and are based on the consideration of the following factors:

(a) *Criteria Considered.* The District and Board has considered a wide variety of factors in determining the need to relocate and consolidate programs and close schools. Those factors, consistent with the guidance of the California Department of Education, include the following:

- enrollment trends;
- operating costs;
- capacity (including receptor school capacity);
- special facilities and programs, including pre-school programs, afterschool programs, family centers, and bilingual programs;
- attendance;
- summer school program;
- school staffing and professional development opportunities;
- student achievement;
- distances and transportation options for students attending new schools; and
- the requirements and need for housing District-approved public charter schools.

The details of how these criteria were applied to the actions approved herein is contained within the Report, as supplemented by this Resolution.

(b) *Consolidation of Orion Alternative Elementary School with John Gill Elementary School (Report Recommendation 1A).* The Board hereby determines that as of June 30, 2019, Orion Alternative Elementary School ("Orion") will be consolidated with and relocated to the campus of John Gill Elementary School ("John Gill") and the Orion Parent Participation Program will continue to operate as a program at John Gill. As of June 30, 2019, John Gill will become a school of choice, without a neighborhood boundary, and the Orion campus shall be deemed closed as a District school. Unless a student attending Orion

requests assignment to another available program or site through the school choice program, current students attending Orion shall remain enrolled in the Orion program at John Gill, commencing with the 2019-20 school year.

(c) *Consolidation of Adelante Spanish Immersion School with Selby Lane School (Report Recommendation 1B).* The Board hereby determines that as of June 30, 2019, Adelante Spanish Immersion School ("Adelante") will be consolidated with and relocated to the campus of Selby Lane School ("Selby Lane") and merged with the Spanish Immersion program at Selby Lane. Selby Lane will become a school of choice, without a neighborhood boundary. Current Selby Lane students who are not enrolled in the Spanish immersion program at Selby Lane (460 students) shall be relocated to any other available campus in accordance with the school choice program. As of June 30, 2019, the Adelante campus shall be deemed closed as a District school. Unless a student attending Adelante requests assignment to another campus in accordance with the school choice program, current students attending Adelante shall be automatically enrolled at Selby Lane for the 2019-20 school year.

(d) *Closure of Fair Oaks Community School (Report Recommendation 1C).* The Board hereby determines that as of June 30, 2019, the Taft Community School ("Taft") attendance boundary will be expanded to include the current Fair Oaks Community School ("Fair Oaks") attendance area, and Fair Oaks shall be closed as a District school. Current Fair Oaks students will be enrolled at Taft commencing 2019-20, or may request transfer to any District school, subject to capacity and other requirements of the school choice program.

(e) *Closure of Hawes Elementary School (Report Recommendation 1D).* The Board hereby determines that as of June 30, 2019, the Roosevelt Elementary School ("Roosevelt") and Henry Ford attendance boundaries will be expanded to include the current Hawes Elementary School ("Hawes") attendance area, and Hawes shall be closed as a District school. Current Hawes students will be enrolled at their choice at Roosevelt or Henry Ford commencing 2019-20, or may transfer to any District school, subject to capacity and other requirements of the school choice program.

(f) *Attendance Options.* Notwithstanding the closure and relocation of schools and programs as described in subsections (b)-(e), and the reassignment of students to new locations as indicated, all students shall have the right to request assignment to another school or program of the District, through the school choice program. Attendance priorities shall be implemented as described in the Report (Report Recommendation No. 4). Any student currently attending neighborhood schools John Gill, Selby Lane, Fair Oaks or Hawes, and any other campus as specifically directed by the Board, who requests transfer to another program or school will be given priority in the school choice lottery. In no event shall any student be permitted to transfer to any school that does not have capacity to house students within the limits allowed by law as described in Section 5(a)(1) hereof. The Superintendent is authorized and directed to immediately prepare and issue new school assignment information to notify affected students and parents of their reassignment and options for enrollment, and to notify staff and employees, and take any other related action deemed necessary or appropriate to implement the Board's decisions. The Superintendent shall prepare new attendance boundary maps consistent with these decisions.

Section 4. Relocation of District Office. The Board accepts in concept the Superintendent's and Council's recommendation (Report Recommendation 1E) that the District Office should be relocated to a closed school campus, with a specific location to be determined and approved after further investigation. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to convene a property advisory committee pursuant to Education Code

section 17387 et seq. (a.k.a. "7-11 Committee") to determine whether the current District office property shall be declared surplus, which 7-11 Committee shall provide recommendations to the Board, as mandated by law, regarding its future disposal by lease, sale or otherwise.

Section 5. Environmental Considerations.

(a) The Board finds that the implementation of the Consolidation Plan is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Res. Code § 21000 et seq. "CEQA") pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.18. In accordance with Section 21080.18, CEQA does not apply to the closing of any public school in which kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12 is maintained or the transfer of students from that public school to another school if the only physical changes involved are categorically exempt from CEQA. The physical changes involved are categorically exempt because:

1. *Student Capacity is Within Applicable Limits (Class 14 CEQA Exemption).* As shown on the data attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, the designated receptor schools (i.e. the schools to which students would be reassigned - John Gill, Selby Lane, Taft, Roosevelt and Henry Ford, herein after "Receptor Schools") have or will have at the time of reassignment, capacity over and above the number of students who would be reassigned or approved to transfer to those campuses; thus, such transfers would not result in an increase of the original student capacity at any Receptor School by more than 25 percent or ten classrooms, the threshold permitted for use of a Class 14 exemption (see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15314). While students may request reassignment to a different campus through the school choice program, no student will be permitted to transfer to any school site that lacks sufficient capacity or for which additional facilities will be needed to house those students. In addition, any charter school that may be relocated as a result of or as a condition of the Consolidation Plan (at a closed site or any other site) will remain within the original student capacity of that site or within the limits established by the Class 14 exemption.
2. *No Physical Changes are Needed (Class 22 CEQA Exemption).* No alteration or additional classrooms or space is needed at Receptor Schools to house additional students, nor are such changes needed on any closed sites that may be used in the future to house charter school students or other District programs as a result of the Consolidation Plan. Thus, the implementation of the Consolidation Plan can also be characterized for purposes of CEQA as the "adoption, alteration or termination of educational programs which involve no physical alteration in the area affected or which involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures." (see Cal Code Regs., tit. 14, §15322).
3. *No Exceptions to the Use of Exemption Apply.* There are no exceptions to the use of a CEQA categorical exemption that would apply to the Consolidation Plan (see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15300.2) for reasons as follows:
 - a. Uniquely Sensitive Location. This exception does not apply to projects exempt under Section 21018.18 or the Class 14 and Class 22 categorical exemptions.
 - b. Cumulative Impact. Once the Consolidation Plan is implemented, no additional closures or relocations are anticipated in the near or long

term and thus no known successive projects of the same type could result in a cumulative impact on the environment over time.

- c. Unusual Circumstances. There are no unusual circumstances created by the Consolidation Plan or at the Receptor Schools or any campus as a result of its implementation; thus there are no reasonable possibility that a significant environmental impact results from unusual circumstance.
- d. Scenic Highways. The Consolidation Plan will not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
- e. Hazardous Waste Sites. The Consolidation Plan does not affect any site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous materials sites).
- f. Historic Resources. The Consolidation Plan will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resources, as defined in CEQA.

(b) The Board directs the Superintendent to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption based on the information and analysis presented in this Resolution and as consistent with applicable laws and regulations

Section 6. Charter Schools. The implementation of the Consolidation Plan will require or result in the assignment of one or more District-sponsored charter schools to new locations. The future assignment or allocation of any closed site described herein, in whole or in part, to a District-sponsored charter school for future use shall be made consistent with the requirements of Education Code Section 47614 and its implementing regulations ("Proposition 39"). Any relocation of a charter school shall be to one or more sites with sufficient student capacity to accommodate enrollment within permissible limits, as described in Section 5(a)(1)-(2) hereof (Class 14 and/or Class 22 categorical exemption). Space provided in excess of that required to house in-District students, if made available, may be offered at fair market rent. The Board hereby declares that any relocation of a charter school to a new location is necessary in order to maximize its real property assets for the benefit of the entire District community and to ensure that facility allocation results in a fair sharing of existing resources. All future space allocations to charter schools shall be subject to Board approval in accordance with Proposition 39.

Section 7. Future Disposal Considerations. Other than as described in Section 6 with regard to the use of sites by charter schools, all decisions regarding the use, lease, sale or other disposal of sites recommended to be declared surplus to the District's needs shall be made in accordance with Education Code and other legal requirements related to the disposition of surplus property, including prior review by the 7-11 Committee.

Section 8. Delegation of Authority. The Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things which they may deem necessary or advisable in order to consummate the decisions herein authorized and otherwise to carry out, give effect to and comply with the terms and intent of this Resolution.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its date of adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this day, November 28, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

President of the Board of Trustees of the
Redwood City School District

Attest:

Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the
Redwood City School District