

Ruth Carver
2593 Cheyenne Court
Walnut Creek, California 94598

April 4, 2008

Board member Pamela Mirabella
Board member David Krapf
Board member Daniel Gomes
Board member Glenn Ruley
Board member Daniel Borsuk
Superintendent Joseph Ovick
✓ Deputy Superintendent Ellen Elster
Contra Costa County Office of Education
77 Santa Barbara Road
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

RE: Walnut Creek school district boundary

Dear County Board members and Superintendent,

Please find below a copy of the email that I sent today.



Ruth Carver

Dear County Board members and Superintendent,

I am writing to request that the County Board consider a study of the school district boundaries in the Walnut Creek area. It appears that despite the express intent of the Legislature, the petition process in actuality is an insurmountable obstacle to school district reorganization in a case where it's necessary to improve education.

Yesterday I was informed that my petition is not valid because the parcel maps show 1-1/2 small streets would form an "island". In early December, the Contra Costa County Office of Education provided to me a school district boundary map, but the boundary in question is placed incorrectly on that map. Promptly in early December, another parent volunteer who is an engineer (but not in planning and not a cartographer) visited the County Assessor's office, made phone calls and sent emails, but was not given access to the parcel maps she requested. The CCCOE told me that I should hire an engineer to prepare a plat map, but in December I did not do so since I did not have the financial resources and since this is not a legal requirement for a petition (Education Code 35700.3). Now we're informed that the parcel maps that were inaccessible in December are used to prove that the petition is not valid, on a technicality.

I submitted 4,000 signatures to the CCCOE, and the Elections Office verified over 2,900 which is 10% of Walnut Creek School District voters. The County Counsel's office had ruled the petition was legally sufficient, and a hearing was scheduled. In preparation for the hearing, on Wednesday I delivered to CCCOE copies of my report describing how the 9 Criteria are met in the Walnut Creek case (I will attach a copy, although the attachments are too difficult to email, and I will attach another copy of my legal brief).

You should have received an email yesterday from Walnut Creek Mayor Regalia explaining why she supports this transfer (if not then I can forward it to you), and other Walnut Creek City Council members were planning to speak at the hearing to support this transfer.

We have done everything a reasonable person would do to bring this matter to your attention. The travesty yesterday which was front page news today could have been avoided if the County had supplied us with correct maps. I have already drafted new language for a resolution or petition, adding a few words to include the "island" area as suggested by Deputy Superintendent Elster, and I will copy the language below for your information. We trust our government agencies in their wisdom will help us overcome this obstacle by passing a resolution with the additional wording to add these streets and proceed with the necessary study. I believe it would be appropriate for the County Board to consider this matter on its own motion, at its earliest convenience.

With our sincere appreciation always for your continuing courtesy,

Ruth Carver

Attachments: Report & Legal Brief

TO THE SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY:
Pursuant to Education Code Section 35721(a), the undersigned constituting at least 10 percent of the registered electors residing in Walnut Creek School District, petition: that K-8 schools located in City of Walnut Creek (Foothill Middle, Bancroft Elementary, Eagle Peak Elementary, Valle Verde Elementary and Walnut Acres Elementary) should be transferred from Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) to Walnut Creek School District (WCSD); and that Northgate High School located in City of Walnut Creek should be transferred from MDUSD to Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD).

THE PROPERTY TO BE TRANSFERRED IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: All of MDUSD currently within the city limits of Walnut Creek; and in addition all of MDUSD territory in unincorporated areas south and east of Pleasant Hill Road (including but not limited to Shulgin Road, Purson Lane, Holland Drive, Kerrison Lane, Pleasant Lane, Sharon Circle, Huston Road, Cayucos Drive and adjoining streets); and in addition all territory within the current boundary of three elementary schools (Bancroft, Valle Verde and Walnut Acres).

TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS: the undersigned petition that students residing outside that boundary who are attending Eagle Peak (a charter school), Foothill Middle or Northgate High School may be "grandfathered" to continue to attend those schools, or may apply for an inter-district transfer.