

Title: Co-Host Westside Community Meeting on the proposed LAUSD-LMU New Middle School Academy for Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista		Item No. _____
Meeting date: October 26, 2016		
Agendized by: Education Committee		
Contact person: Dr. Michele Cooley-Strickland	Phone number:	
Committee Vote (if appropriate): Unanimous		
Does this item have a fiscal impact on the Neighborhood Council? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Additional documents attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation that the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa **co-host a Westside Community Meeting on the proposed LAUSD-LMU New Middle School Academy for Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista** in November or December of 2016. This community meeting would be for Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista parents and local stakeholders – ideally including neighboring Westside communities -- to have Q&A with local LAUSD and LMU education officials to understand their plans for opening a LAUSD-LMU New Middle School Academy. The NCWP may be helpful in reaching stakeholders within the Westchester/Playa footprint who are outside the traditional “feeder” schools but also include families with future middle school students who attend private, parochial, charter, and other District schools.

Co-hosting a community meeting with LAUSD and LMU would permit the NCWP to:

- 1) Provide residents and stakeholders in the Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista communities as well as surrounding areas with an opportunity to hear directly from education officials from Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Loyola Marymount University (LMU) regarding the plans to open a new Middle School Academy on the campus of Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School (WESMHS).
- 2) Engage local parents (with and without school-aged children), child-free community members, and concerned stakeholders (e.g., realtors, business owners) to participate in the process of establishing a new local middle school.
- 3) Provide an opportunity to partner with LAUSD and LMU in co-hosting the event.

Potential locations could be a local public school auditorium, the Westchester Senior Center, Otis College of Art and Design, or Loyola Marymount University.

The date and location of the event will be set by LAUSD and LMU, but is expected to be held on a weekday evening at the end of November 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The NCWP Education Committee has been working over the past years with LAUSD and LMU to strengthen the publicly-funded educational opportunities for families within Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista. We also successfully hosted a large education forum for our community in October 2015. Through outreach and collaborative endeavors, we believe that co-hosting another large community event would assist in achieving the Committee’s longer-term goals to: 1) Attract more families with school-aged children into the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista communities; and 2) encourage residents of our communities not to move outside of our district to areas with more perceived quality publicly-funded school options.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee believes this collaborative education event is timely and meritorious, and will provide a forum to enhance the larger community’s engagement and investment in our local publicly-funded

schools. We would be able to involve Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista families and stakeholders beyond those currently enrolled in the LAUSD feeder middle schools.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Costs for advertising the event, brochures, NCWP branded give-aways, and programs would be part of the NCWP Outreach Committee budget not to exceed \$750.

ATTACHMENTS: There have been letters from LAUSD Superintendent Michelle King and LMU School of Education Dean Shane Martin circulated to stakeholders within local LAUSD schools. One such letter regarding the proposed laboratory demonstration middle school is attached (dated October 17, 2016). The NCWP may be helpful in reaching stakeholders within the Westchester/Playa footprint who are outside the traditional “feeder” schools but also include families with rising middle school students who attend private, parochial, charter, and other District schools.

MOTION:

That the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa **co-host with LAUSD and LMU a Westside Community Meeting on the proposed LAUSD-LMU New Middle School Academy** in November or December of 2016 for Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista parents and stakeholders to have Q&A with their local education officials to understand plans associated with the formation, location, and sustaining of the new middle school on the campus of Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School with a budget not to exceed \$750.



Loyola Marymount University



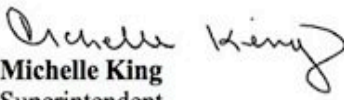
October 17, 2016

The Los Angeles Unified School District and the Loyola Marymount University School of Education are pleased to announce and begin the process of planning for a new middle school academy (New MSA), on the site of Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet. The school will serve as a LMU School of Education teaching demonstration site at the secondary level that creates an innovative and collaborative learning culture for students, teachers, parents, community members, and researchers. The new MSA will serve middle school students matriculating from the Playa Vista Elementary Demonstration School as well as interested students from throughout the area and other parts of our district. The New MSA will continue the established practices of Playa Vista ES by utilizing progressive, research-supported teaching practices and curriculum that is developmentally (cognitively, emotionally and socially) appropriate to increase student engagement and achievement in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Working groups will be formed to gather input from all stakeholders, which will inform the curricular and programmatic design process. The school planning process is aimed at reaching the following major milestones:

August 2017	Serve grade levels 6-7 in 2017-18
August 2018	Serve grade levels 6-8 in 2018-19

We are confident that the design process will ensure broad-based and authentic participation of all stakeholders, including: students, teachers, parents, community members, district representatives, and LMU School of Education representatives. In addition, this plan will be developed in consultation and collaboration with our collective bargaining partners, UTLA and AALA. Specific commitments regarding the partnership will be outlined in a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LAUSD and LMU.


Michelle King
Superintendent
Los Angeles Unified School District


Shane P. Martin, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
Loyola Marymount University School of Education