

Title: Westside Public School Education Event Featuring Elected Representatives Item No. _____
Meeting date: August 4, 2015
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation that the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa **co-host a Westside Public School Education Event featuring elected officials and school representatives** in the Fall of 2015 for Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista parents and local stakeholders – ideally including neighboring Westside communities -- to have Q&A with their local education elected officials to understand their plans for strengthening the quality of our local publicly-funded schools.

This would permit the NCWP to:

- 1) Provide residents and stakeholders in the Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista communities – as well as Del Rey, Mar Vista, and Venice -- with an opportunity to hear directly from their elected officials and school representatives regarding the latest public school updates of interest to and affecting our communities.
- 2) Provide an opportunity to collaborate with neighboring communities and their Neighborhood Councils (i.e., Venice, Del Rey, Mar Vista) on a multi-community issue: Publicly-funded schools.
- 3) Engage local parents (with and without school-aged children), child-free community members, and concerned stakeholders (e.g., realtors, business owners) to rally to assist our elected officials in improving our local schools.

Invited elected officials and school representatives may include: LAUSD School Board President and District 4 Representative Steve Zimmer and his Chief of Staff, Claudia Vizcarra; LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines; Assemblymember Autumn Burke; City Councilperson Mike Bonin; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; Senator Ben Allen; as well as LAUSD representatives such as Cheryl Hildreth – Instructional Area Superintendent for LAUSD Educational Service Center – West.

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 depends on the availability of our elected officials, but is expected to be held on a weekday evening in the Fall of 2015.

BACKGROUND:

Since July 2014, the NCWP Education Committee has discussed the idea of hosting an education forum for our community. Through outreach and collaborative endeavors, our understanding of the need for such an event has evolved into the one proposed above for the Fall. Longer-term goals are to: 1) Attract more families with school-aged children into the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista communities (increasingly important both because of our proximity to LAX and the impending “Silicon Beach” housing surge [see <http://www.latimes.com/business/realestate/la-fi-westchester-housing-20150102-story.html>]); 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.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Costs for advertising the event, brochures, and programs would be part of the NCWP Outreach Committee budget.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

ORIGINAL MOTION:

Subject to the approval of the event budget, that the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa **hosts a Westside Public School Education Event featuring elected officials and school representatives** in the Fall of 2015 for Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista parents and local stakeholders, inviting the collaboration of the neighboring Westside communities of Del Rey, Mar Vista, and Venice to have the opportunity to hear directly from our local education elected officials to understand their plans for strengthening the quality of our local publicly-funded schools.

OCTOBER MOTION:

Request for up to \$400 from Outreach Budget to cover costs associated with needed photo copies and supplies for the even on October 26, 2015.