

Title: Letter to LAUSD RE: Proposed Educational Facilities Plan for Playa Vista/Westchester/Playa del Rey Areas		Item No. _____
Meeting date: December 1, 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? _____ Yes <u> X </u> No		
Additional documents attached? <u> X </u> Yes _____ No		

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation that the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa sends letters to Cheryl Hildreth (Instructional Area Superintendent for LAUSD Educational Service Center - West) and LAUSD Board Member Steve Zimmer about the potential plan they presented on November 16th: Proposed Educational Facilities Plan for Playa Vista/Westchester/Playa del Rey Areas recommending the creation of a collaborative engagement LAUSD Playa Vista/Westchester/Playa del Rey Educational Facilities Project Advisory Working Group. This would be a collaborative partnership between LAUSD and the stakeholders from each of the vested and potentially affected schools (i.e., administrators and parent representatives) to participate in discussions on next steps related to the operationalization of the facilities plan or any future decision-making process that may impact the aforementioned school and community stakeholders.

BACKGROUND:

On November 16, 2015 at Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, Ms. Cheryl Hildreth’s Office (Instructional Area Superintendent for LAUSD Educational Service Center - West) and Mr. Steve Zimmer (LAUSD School Board President and District 4 Representative) held a town hall meeting with Q&A for the Playa Vista, Westchester, and Playa del Rey communities about the potential educational facilities plan they have for Playa Vista/Westchester/Playa del Rey. The NCWP Education Committee helped to widely publicize this meeting via local school principals, emails, and social media outlets.

DISCUSSION:

LAUSD’s proposed changes would likely affect Playa Vista Elementary School and its rising middle school students, Wright Middle School STEAM Magnet, WISH Charter, Emerson Adult Learning Center, and potentially Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School among other Westchester/Playa publicly funded schools.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter to LAUSD Board President and District 4 Representative Steve Zimmer; copies sent to:
 Ramon Cortines, Superintendent, LAUSD
 Michelle King, Chief Deputy Superintendent, LAUSD

Cheryl Hildreth, Instructional Area Superintendent , LAUSD Educational Service Center -West

MOTION:

That the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa supports sending letters to Cheryl Hildreth (Instructional Area Superintendent for LAUSD Educational Service Center - West) and LAUSD Board Member Steve Zimmer about the potential plan they presented on November 16th: Proposed Educational Facilities Plan for Playa Vista/Westchester/Playa del Rey Areas.

NCWP LETTERHEAD

August 4, 2015

Hon. Councilmember Mike Bonin
200 N. Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Bonin,

After Westchester Secondary Charter School (WSCS) lost its local lease this past year, LAUSD offered them a new site in another community significantly distanced from its target students and teachers. Half of WSCS's student body is from Westchester, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Baldwin Hills, Ladera Heights, and View Park/Windsor Hills, with 30% from Westchester specifically. Thank you for contacting LAUSD in support of keeping this important educational asset in our community.

Unfortunately the site offered by LAUSD was too far and WSCS eventually turned it down with the understanding that LAUSD would help find a location closer to Westchester. It did not happen, but WSCS independently located a local facility within Westchester, less than half a mile from their original location: First Baptist Church on LaTijera.

The NCWP Education Committee held a Special Meeting on July 31st at the new potential school site. In attendance were Fred Sutton, WSCS faculty and administrators, as well as representatives from First Baptist Church. Residents from the adjacent neighborhood and business owners attended. The support for relocating WSCS to this property was overwhelming. No one was in opposition, despite WSCS students having canvassed the neighborhood posting fliers informing 800 households of the July 31st meeting. The fliers also indicated the opportunity to attend another community meeting on August 1st as well as tonight's NCWP Board meeting on August 4th. Sandy Menotti, one of the residents stated, "It's nice to have a community school that serves our community." Many comments were made about the benefits of walking/biking to school, as many of the students and teachers will be able to do so.

WSCS urgently needs your help stay in Westchester *before* the beginning of the academic calendar year; school starts in just a few weeks, so we understand that this endeavor will be challenging – but extremely worthwhile for our youngest Los Angeles citizens. NCWP implores you to do all that you can to help this community asset open for school this year in our community, subject to all applicable City permits and approvals.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Hench, President