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December 9, 2021

THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA)

Dear Members of the Anaheim Elementary School District Community,

The Anaheim Elementary Board of Education adopted a Resolution to change its existing at-large voting system to a district based voting system. The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) strongly discourages at-large voting and strongly encourages district based voting. The District implemented a district based voting system on December 9, 2015.

The California Legislature enacted the CVRA in 2002 and since that time every public agency that has been sued under the CVRA has lost in court. As a result, most cities, school districts, and other public agencies have converted to a district based election system or are in the process of converting to a district based system.

The intent of the CVRA is to enhance the voting rights protections for minority groups and to ensure that minority group voting rights are not abridged or diluted. The CVRA prohibits the use of election systems such as at-large voting systems that impair the ability of minority groups to elect candidates of their choice. If it can be shown that racially polarized voting has taken place in the past, a violation of the CVRA will be found and a court may order a public agency to convert to a district based voting system.

Due to the low threshold of proof under the CVRA and cost of attorney fees, most public agencies have decided to voluntarily convert to a district based election system before receiving a demand letter or being served with a lawsuit.

Education Code section 5019.5 requires school districts that elect board members by trustee area to adjust their trustee area boundaries every ten years after each census. The 2020 census data indicates that the school district's trustee areas vary in population by more than 10%. Therefore, the Board must adjust its trustee area boundaries to bring the variance in population below 10%.

The Board of Education will be holding public hearings in the near future to receive public input on the proposed trustee areas. A demographer will prepare two or more proposed maps for the Board of Education to review and for public comment.

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The following [CVRA FAQ](#) provides responses to the most frequently asked questions regarding the California Voting Rights Act.

Based on the 2020 Census data, our demographers have proposed the following three maps that meet the mandated redistricting requirements.

- [AESD Trustee Redistricting Plan Scenario 1](#)
- [AESD Trustee Redistricting Plan Scenario 2](#)
- [AESD Trustee Redistricting Plan Scenario 3](#)

You are invited to submit your feedback on the maps by completing a brief Google Form using [this link](#).

To maximize the opportunity for Public input, the following Public Forums will take place in Trustee Area 4 schools:

- **January 5, 2022:** Orange Grove ES (9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.)
- **January 6, 2022:** Olive Street ES (9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.)
- **January 7, 2022:** Jefferson ES (9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.)
- **January 12, 2022:** Ponderosa ES (8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.)
- **January 13, 2022:** Revere ES (9:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.)
- **January 14, 2022:** Roosevelt ES (8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.)
- **January 19, 2022:** Mann ES (8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.)

We will provide ongoing updates on the process for adjusting trustee area boundaries on the District website.

Regardless of the scenario redistricting outcome that will take place in July 2022, please note that all our Board members will continue to support the wellbeing and academic success of all our Anaheim Elementary students.

If you have any questions, please contact Jesse Chavarria at (714) 517-7537.

Sincerely,
Dr. Christopher Downing
Superintendent