

# VENTURA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

## SPECIAL MEETING

**Monday, January 6, 2020, 4:00 p.m.**

*Santa Paula Unified School District  
141 S. Steckel Drive, Santa Paula, CA 93060*

### MINUTES

*The Secretary to the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization will preside over the meeting until the Chair has been elected.*

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Misty Key, Secretary to the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization, at 4:00 p.m. at the Santa Paula Unified School District, Glen City School, 141 S. Steckel Drive, Santa Paula, CA 93060.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Key led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Introduction of County Committee Members**

The following members of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization were in attendance:

*Kathi Smith, representing Supervisorial District # 1  
Patricia Phelps, representing Supervisorial District # 2  
Barbara Wagner, representing Supervisorial District # 3  
Robert Perez, representing Supervisorial District # 4  
Rob Collins, representing Supervisorial District # 4  
Richard Canady, representing Supervisorial District # 5  
Charles Weis, representing Supervisorial District # 5  
Ramon Flores, Member-at-Large*

The following members were absent:

*Mindee Stekkinger, representing Supervisorial District # 1  
Denise Helfstein, representing Supervisorial District # 2  
Terri Lisagor, representing Supervisorial District # 3*

Also, in attendance:

*Misty Key, Secretary to the VCCSDO, and Associate Superintendent,  
Fiscal and Administrative Services, Ventura County Office of Education  
Dr. Ed Cora, Superintendent, Santa Paula Unified School District  
Larry Ferchaw, Cooperative Strategies, LLC  
David Soldani, Attorney, Santa Paula Unified School District  
Sheri Staszewski, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Santa Paula Unified  
School District  
Jeri Mead, Board Vice-President, Santa Paula Unified School District  
Michelle Kolbeck, Board Clerk, Santa Paula Unified School District*

Marisela Garcia, Executive Assistant, Santa Paula Unified School District  
Hazel Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant, Santa Paula Unified School District  
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant, Ventura County Office of Education

**4. Organizational - Election of Officers:**

Misty Key stated that the first order of business was to elect the officers of the County Committee. Ms. Key asked if there were any nominations or volunteers to serve as the Chair of the County Committee. Patricia Phelps made a motion to nominate Charles Weis as Chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ramon Flores. Charles Weis accepted the nomination. Ms. Key asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>NOES</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>	X			
<i>Rob Collins</i>	X			
<i>Richard Canady</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>				X
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>				X
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>				X

Motion passed unanimously. Newly elected Chairperson Charles Weis assumed leadership of the meeting. Chairperson Charles Weis asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. A motion was made by Barbara Wagner to nominate Robert Perez as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ramon Flores. Robert Perez accepted the nomination.

Vote for Robert Perez to be Vice-Chair:

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>NOES</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>	X			
<i>Rob Collins</i>	X			
<i>Richard Canady</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>				X
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>				X
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>				X

**5. Public Comments**

Chairperson Charles Weis asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

**6. Review and Approve minutes: September 4, 2019**

Patricia Phelps made a motion to approve the September 4, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert Perez.

**7. Information about Santa Paula Unified School District's Desired Change in Election**

Dr. Cora welcomed and thanked the County Committee members. Dr. Cora introduced the following people from the Santa Paula Unified School District: Jeri Mead, Board Vice-President, Michelle Kolbeck, Board Clerk, Sheri Staszewski, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Marisela Garcia, Executive Assistant and Hazel Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant. Dr. Cora shared that the Santa Paula Unified School District has a declining enrollment. They have just under 5000 students. They have been working hard to make the change from an at-large election method to a by-trustee area election method.

Larry Ferchaw explained the Santa Paula Unified School District undertook the process voluntarily of changing from an at-large election method to a by-trustee area election method to comply with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). As of the 2010 Census there is a population of 31,924. The Hispanic/Latino population is the largest group and is just under 78%, the White population is 20% and the rest of the populations are just under a percentage point. Mr. Ferchaw said that they also looked at the citizen voting age population. The Hispanic/Latino population is just under 66% the largest within the district. The White population just under 30% and the Asian population being the next largest protected class is at 1.90%.

Mr. Ferchaw gave an overview of the trustee area process:

- March 13, 2019, Board meeting: First pre-map public hearing and presentation
- April 10, 2019, Board meeting: Second pre-map public hearing
- June 12, 2019, Board meeting: Presentation on initial trustee area scenarios
- August 20, 2019, Community input meeting at 6 p.m. at Glen City School, Santa Paula
- August 28, 2019, Community input meeting at 6 p.m. at Barbara Webster School, Santa Paula
- October 9, 2019, Board meeting: Public Hearing #1 on trustee area scenarios  
Public Hearing on general waiver request  
Board Approval on general waiver request
- November 13, 2019, Board Meeting: Public Hearing #2 on trustee area scenarios  
Board Section of trustee area map  
Board Approval of change in election method
- January 2020, County Committee on School District Organization holds a public hearing and considers approval of change in election method and trustee area map
- February 2020, State Board of Education meeting: Waiver application consideration
- February 2020, Cooperative Strategies sends final trustee area map to the County Registrar of Voters
- November 2020, first election held utilizing trustee areas

David Soldani thanked the County Committee. He shared that Santa Paula Unified School District was proactive and took the steps on their own initiative to change to a by-trustee area election method without receiving any demand letter. They were able to move deliberately at a pace that would enable them to involve members of their community to a much greater extent had they received a letter and been subject to the short 90-day window of time.

Santa Paula Unified School District held all the required public hearings and interactions with the public. They provided appropriate and timely notice. They did everything that was required under the law. Mr. Soldani checked on the State Board agenda meeting for January and Santa Paula's

Waiver application Consideration is on the agenda, it's on the consent calendar and is recommended for approval.

Mr. Soldani explained the considerations in trustee areas:

- Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants
- Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- Compact and contiguous, as much as possible
- Respect communities of interest, as much as possible
- Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible
- Respect incumbency, if possible
- Other local considerations (i.e., school boundaries, locations of school sites)

Mr. Ferchaw gave an overview of the community outreach:

#### Community

- Information provided to bargaining units and advisory committees
- Public notices and newspaper articles
- Community input meetings were held to explain the transition process
- Opportunities for community to submit map ideas and dividing lines

#### Electronic Communication

- Promoted on the Santa Paula USD website with maps and presentations on website

Mr. Ferchaw shared that on the November 13, 2019 Board meeting, following the required public hearings on the maps and deliberation by the Board members, the Santa Paula Unified School District Board approved the following:

- Selection of scenario 2
- Approval of Resolution No. 2019-20:04 to be forwarded to the County Committee on School District Organization

Mr. Ferchaw explained the proposed trustee areas (Scenario 2) – Demographics.

Robert Perez asked how the Spanish speaking residents were notified of the process of changing from an at-large election method to a by-trustee area election process? Who attended the meetings and how many people showed up?

Mr. Ferchaw answered that there was a translator at every Board meeting. Dr. Cora said the meetings were not well attended. They presented the information and did everything they needed to do. They posted the meetings and provided translation. He explained that it's not a very clear understandable process, whether it's in Santa Paula USD or any other school district. They had six individuals attend the meeting at the Barbara Webster School. The meetings were live streamed and available to everyone.

Mr. Soldani explained that this process does not bring people out in numbers. This issue relates more to candidates. The folks most interested are current Board members and potential future Board members because it doesn't impact the education programs or the students attending schools. They did everything they were required to do under the law and even went beyond that in doing outreach to help people understand the process.

Chairperson Charles Weis mentioned that Santa Paula would have to redo this process after the 2020 Census. Mr. Soldani said they are required to take the new data that's released in the spring

of 2021 and look at what they've done, compare information and if there are deviations that are out of alignment, they will have to make adjustments to the boundaries.

Barbara Wagner asked if there are trainings available for school Board members to understand what the process is and isn't and what's the best way to represent all kids and represent their area. Mr. Soldani said the California School Boards Association (CSBA), puts on Board Governance workshops and trainings. Mr. Soldani's law firm also provides trainings on this issue.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING:**

Chairperson Charles Weis opened the public hearing at 4:26 p.m. on the Santa Paula Unified School District's desired change in election process from an at-large electoral process to a by-trustee area election process, pursuant to Education Code Section §5019(c)(1) and request that the State Board of Education waive the election requirements of Education Code Sections §5020 and §5030 in order to ensure the timely adoption of trustee areas and the District's transition from its current at-large electoral process to a by-trustee area election.

Michelle Kolbeck shared that she has been on the Santa Paula USD School Board for twenty-one years and she lives in the predominant Hispanic area. She has been to many meetings with Spanish speaking parents who are very active in their community. They're very concerned about this changing the method of election. The concern of the Spanish speaking parents is that you get someone who just represents that area. The parents feel that Ms. Kolbeck represents them very well in the predominate Hispanic community.

Chairperson Charles Weis closed the public hearing at 4:29 p.m.

**9. Discussion and Action:**

A motion was made by Richard Canady to adopt County Committee resolution 20-01 approving the establishment of trustee areas and changing the method of election to a by-trustee area election process in the Santa Paula Unified School District. Motion was seconded by Dr. Ramon Flores.

Chairperson Charles Weis took roll call vote to approve the County Committee Resolution 20-01. Motion passed unanimously.

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>NOES</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>	X			
<i>Rob Collins</i>	X			
<i>Richard Canady</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>				X
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>				X
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>				X

**10. Information on future meetings:**

Misty Key shared that ten out of the twenty LEA's are now a by-trustee area. There will be a few more LEA's changing to a by-trustee area election process once the 2020 Census is available. A few LEA's have taken action to finish the process once their Census data is available.

**11. Adjournment**

Chairperson Charles Weis adjourned the meeting at 4:31p.m.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NUMBER 20-01**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS AND CHANGING THE METHOD OF ELECTION TO A BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTION PROCESS IN THE SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS,** a proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process was presented to the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee”) by the Board of Education (“Board”) of the Santa Paula Unified School District; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of the Santa Paula Unified School District has adopted a resolution declaring its intent to seek a waiver of the election requirements from the State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS,** Education Code section §5019(c)(1) provides that a proposal to establish trustee areas may be initiated by resolution of the governing board of a district; and

**WHEREAS,** Education Code section §5019(c)(2) further provides that when a proposal is made by a governing board of a district to establish trustee areas, the county committee on school district organization shall call and conduct at least one hearing in the district on the matter; and

**WHEREAS,** Education Code section §5030 provides that whenever trustee areas are established in a district, provisions shall be made for one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members; and

**WHEREAS,** Education Code section §5020 provides that a resolution of a county committee on school district organization approving a proposal to establish trustee areas, and to adopt one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members specified in Education Code section §5030, shall constitute an order of election which shall be presented to the electors of the district not later than the next succeeding election for members of the governing board; and

**WHEREAS,** the County Committee met on January 6, 2020, to consider the proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process in the Santa Paula Unified School District; and

**WHEREAS,** the County Committee meeting on January 6, 2020, took place within the boundaries of the Santa Paula Unified School District, and the meeting included a public hearing in accordance with Education Code section §5019(c); and

**WHEREAS,** by Resolution Number 2019-20:04, the Board of the Santa Paula Unified School District determined that an at-large method of election could be subject to legal challenge under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 and adopted a by-trustee area electoral system for consideration by the County Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** by Resolution Number 2019-20:04, the Board of the Santa Paula Unified School District declared its intent to request that the State Board of Education waive the election requirements of Education Code section §5020 and §5030 in order to ensure the timely adoption of trustee areas and the district’s transition from its current at-large electoral process; and

**WHEREAS**, having consideration of the proposal of the Board of the Santa Paula Unified School District to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process as set forth in its Resolution Number 2019-20:06, as well as public comments, the County Committee recommends approval of the proposal of the Board of the Santa Paula Unified School District;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Committee hereby finds the foregoing recitals to be true and correct; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the County Committee hereby establishes trustee election areas within the Santa Paula Unified School District as set forth in the District's Resolution Numbers 2019-20:06 and 2019-20:04; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the County Committee hereby adopts, as the method of election governing board members to the Board of Education of the Santa Paula Unified School District, that method of election specified in Education Code section §5030(b), which provides one or more members residing in each trustee area be elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area; and

**BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED** that this action of the County Committee establishing trustee election areas and adopting one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members specified in Education Code section §5030 shall not be deemed to constitute an order of election if the State Board of Education grants the district's waiver and if such waiver is granted, trustee area elections shall be commenced effective the next succeeding Board member election in November 2020.

I, Misty Key, Secretary to the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization, hereby certify, in the County of Ventura, State of California, that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by said County Committee at a special meeting thereof held on the 6th day of January 2020, and passed by a vote of:

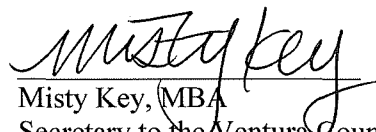
**AYES: 8**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**NOES: 0**

**ABSENT: 3**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.



Misty Key, MBA  
Secretary to the Ventura County Committee  
on School District Organization



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION 2018:19-15**

**RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCESS OF  
ESTABLISHING TRUSTEE AREAS AND  
ELECTIONS BY-TRUSTEE AREAS**

WHEREAS, the Santa Paula Unified School District ("District") currently uses an at-large system of electing the members of its Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that under state law an at-large method of election may be deemed to impair the ability of some voters to elect candidates of their choice or to influence the outcome of elections and, therefore, may be subject to challenge under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, California Elections Code §§ 14025, *et seq.* ("CVRA"); and

WHEREAS, the District has decided to initiate the process of establishing trustee areas and changing the method of electing members of the Board, in order to ensure compliance with the CVRA or, at minimum, avoid the potential for costly litigation under the CVRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends to initiate a very deliberate, careful, and public process for establishing trustee areas, and for changing the method of electing members of the Board, to take effect commencing with the November, 2020 election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby finds the foregoing recitals to be true and correct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent or his designee to immediately initiate the legal and regulatory process to establish trustee areas within the District, as provided in Education Code section 5019, in sufficient time for trustee areas to be established for the November, 2020 election of members of the Board; and

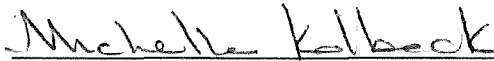
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent or his designee to collaborate with a demographer, to prepare draft by-trustee area map scenarios for review and input by the Board and members of the public at upcoming meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent or his designee to initiate the legal and regulatory process of changing the method of electing members of the Board, from the current at-large system whereby each member of the Board is elected by the registered voters of the entire District (Education Code section 5030(a)), to a method which provides that Board members residing in each trustee area will be elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area (Education Code 5030(b)), in sufficient time for the new method of electing members of the Board to be in place for the November, 2020 election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent or his designee to initiate processes for establishing trustee areas and changing the method of electing members of the Board that are inclusive, thoughtful, and public, providing for and encouraging significant input on the issues the Board and County Committee on School District Organization will address from all interested citizens and interest groups; and

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the Superintendent or his designee is authorized to initiate the legal and regulatory process to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education, of the requirements of Education Code section 5020 and related statutes, so that action of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization establishing trustee election areas and adopting one of the alternative methods of electing Board members specified in Education Code section 5030 does not constitute an order of election.


ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

  
Michelle Kolbeck, President  
Board of Education  
Santa Paula Unified School District

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Christina Urias, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Santa Paula Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of said District at a meeting of said Board held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 5  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

  
Christina Urias, Clerk  
Board of Education  
Santa Paula Unified School District

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-20:04**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
THE SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS AND ADOPTION OF A "BY-TRUSTEE AREA"  
ELECTION PROCESS BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS  
AS SET FORTH IN EDUCATION CODE SECTIONS 5019, 5020, 5021 AND 5030**

WHEREAS, the Santa Paula Unified School District ("District") currently uses an at-large system of electing its governing board members; and

WHEREAS, at-large electoral systems such as the District's are subject to challenge under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, codified at sections 14025–14032 of the California Elections Code ("CVRA"); and

WHEREAS, "by-trustee area" electoral systems are not vulnerable to challenge under the CVRA; and

WHEREAS, in a by-trustee area system of election, candidates for the District's governing board (the "Board") must reside within a specific geographic subarea of the District called a "trustee area" and candidates are elected only by the voters of that trustee area; and

WHEREAS, one method of transitioning from an at-large electoral system to a by-trustee area electoral system is for the school district board of trustees to petition the local county committee on school district organization by resolution to initiate the transition under California Education Code section 5019(c)(1); and

WHEREAS, the District will adopt a by-trustee area election map and its governing board will vote to change from an at-large election method to a by-trustee area election method; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Education Code section 5020 and related sections, the establishment of trustee areas and adoption of a by-trustee area election process must be put to a vote by the electors of the District; and

WHEREAS, to avoid the cost, expense and uncertainty inherent in conducting a districtwide vote on the issue, the District is seeking a waiver of this election requirement from the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, in order to complete the transition in a timely manner and to guarantee that the new by-trustee area process will be in place in time to elect new governing board members at the Board's next regularly-scheduled election, the District must obtain a waiver of the election process of Education Code sections 5019, 5020, 5021 and 5030 from the State Board of Education; and



WHEREAS, Education Code section 33050 *et seq.* allows the governing board of a school district to request the State Board of Education to waive all or part of any section of the Education Code or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education that implements a provision of the Education Code, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, Education Code section 5020 and related sections are not listed as exceptions in Education Code section 33050 *et seq.* and can thus be waived; and

WHEREAS, to obtain a waiver, the District must comply with Education Code and California Department of Education and State Board of Education regulations; and

WHEREAS, the District must consult with all collective bargaining units; and

WHEREAS, the District must consult with any advisory and other committees or councils with an interest in the waiver; and

WHEREAS, the District must conduct a properly noticed public hearing, at which time the public may testify on the merits of obtaining a waiver from the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the District must submit a complete General Waiver Request form to the California Department of Education; and

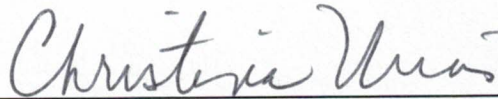
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Santa Paula Unified School District as follows:

1. That the above recitals are true and correct.
2. That the Board hereby declares the Board's intention to seek a waiver of Education Code section 5020 and portions of related sections pertaining to the requirement that the establishment of trustee areas and adoption of a by-trustee area election process must be put to a vote by the electors of the District.
3. That the District has consulted all collective bargaining units, made every effort to include them as a participant in the waiver process and shall note the collective bargaining units' position regarding the waiver in the District's General Waiver Request.
4. That the District has consulted all committees and councils with an interest in the waiver, and shall note the position of such groups regarding the waiver in the District's General Waiver Request.
5. That the District distributed a notice specifically inviting public testimony regarding the waiver, and said notice was printed in a newspaper of general circulation and included the date, time, location and subject of the hearing and posted such notices at every school site in the District and in more than three other public locations in the District.

6. That on October 9, 2019, the District conducted a properly noticed public hearing held during a board meeting at which time the public was able to testify on the waiver proposal.

7. That the District's Superintendent and/or his designee, is authorized and directed to submit a General Waiver Request to the California Department of Education, seeking a waiver of the requirement that the establishment of trustee areas and adoption of a by-trustee area election process must be put to a vote by the electors of the District under Education Code section 5020 and related sections in order to insure the timely adoption of the District's trustee areas and the District's transition from its current at-large electoral process to a by-trustee area electoral process.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 9th day of October, 2019.



Cristina Urias, President  
Board of Trustees  
Santa Paula Unified School District

I, Jeri Mead, Clerk of the Governing Board of the Santa Paula Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Governing Board of said District at a meeting of said Board held on the 9th day of October, 2019, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0



Jeri Mead, Clerk  
Board of Trustees  
Santa Paula Unified School District



**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-20:06**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOMMENDING  
THAT THE VENTURA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATION APPROVE AND ESTABLISH TRUSTEE AREAS  
FROM WHICH THE SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TRUSTEES WILL BE ELECTED  
IN A BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTION PROCESS**

WHEREAS, The Santa Paula Unified School District ("District") currently uses an at-large system of electing members of its Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, At-large electoral systems such as the Districts are subject to challenge under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, codified at sections 14025 - 14032 of the California Elections Code ("CVRA"); and

WHEREAS, By-trustee area electoral systems are not vulnerable to challenge under the CVRA; and

WHEREAS, In a by-trustee area system of election, candidates for the District's Board of Education (the "Board") must reside within a specific geographic subarea of the District called a "trustee area" and candidates are elected only by the voters of that trustee area; and

WHEREAS, One method of transitioning from an at-large electoral system to a by trustee area electoral system is for the school district board of education to petition the local county committee on school district organization by resolution to initiate the transition under California Education Code section 5019(c)(1); and

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization ("Committee") has indicated that it will initiate this process on behalf of the District at the District's request, and will consider any recommendation on specific trustee areas made by the District; and

WHEREAS, District held two public hearings on March 13, 2019 and April 10, 2019 to receive public input on drafting trustee area map plans ("Plans") and thereafter, District consultants created four (4) draft map plans that were circulated for public review at community forums held August 20, 2019, and August 28, 2019; and online on the District's website; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, the District held properly noticed public hearings regarding the proposed trustee area plans on October 9, 2019 and November 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered all public input and comment on the Plans; and

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted Plan Two and hereby recommends Plan Two to the Committee for its consideration based upon the findings, analysis and recommendations contained

in the report attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A"; and NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Santa Paula Unified School District as follows:

1. That the above recitals are true and correct.
2. That the Board has adopted Plan Two and recommends Plan Two to the Committee for consideration and adoption.
3. That the Superintendent and/or his designee take all actions necessary to notify the Committee of the Board's determination forthwith and provide whatever assistance may be required by the Committee to complete the process.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019.

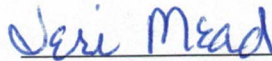


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Ms. Christina Urias  
Board President  
Santa Paula Unified School District

I, Jeri Mead, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Santa Paula Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of said District at a meeting of said Board held on the 13th day of November, 2019, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 5  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0



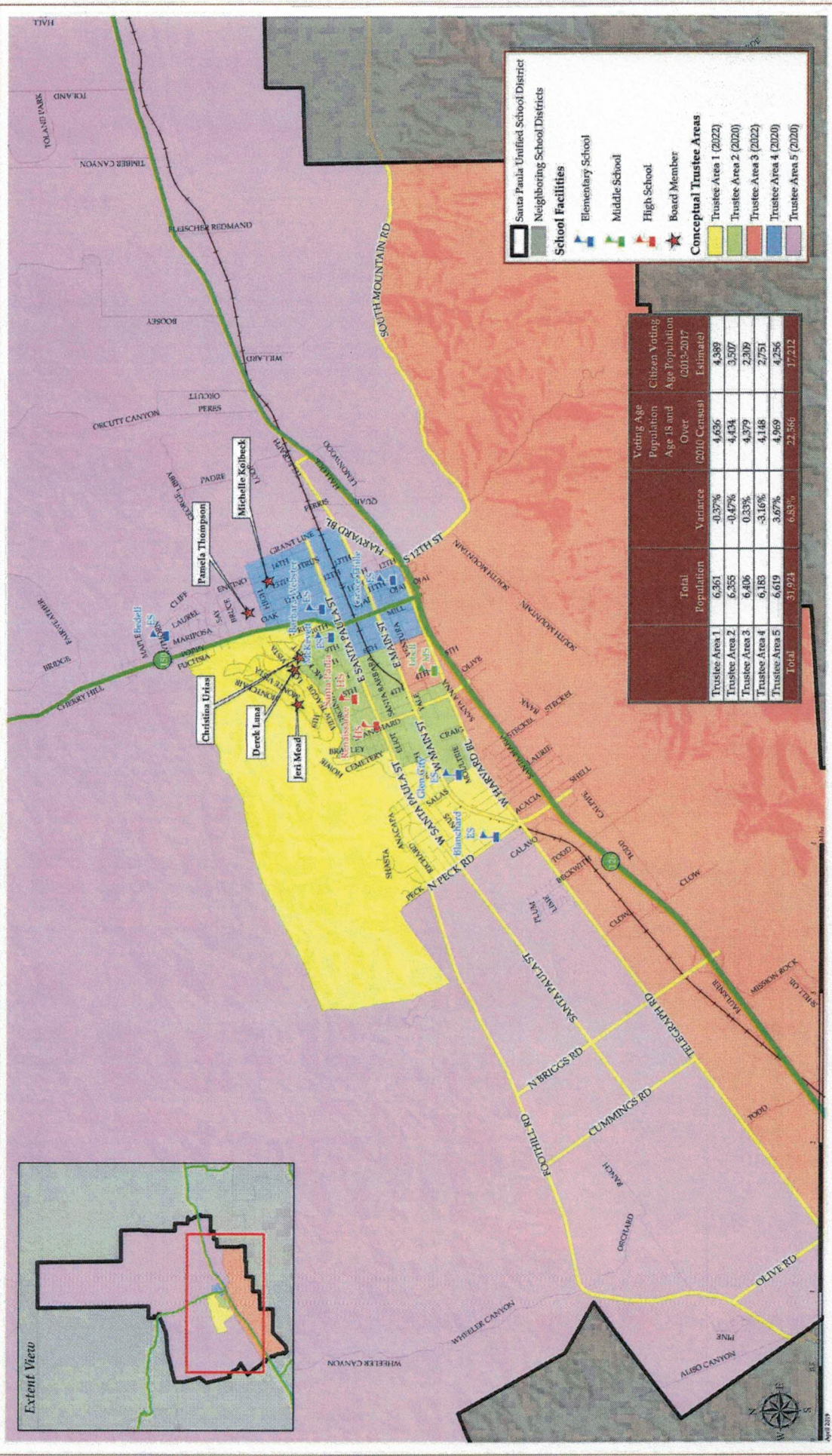
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Mrs. Jeri Mead  
Board Clerk  
Santa Paula Unified School District



# SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CONCEPTUAL TRUSTEES AREAS - SCENARIO 2







**SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Established 2013*

# **ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS AND BY- AREA METHOD OF ELECTION**

Presentation to the Ventura County  
Committee on School District Organization  
January 6, 2020

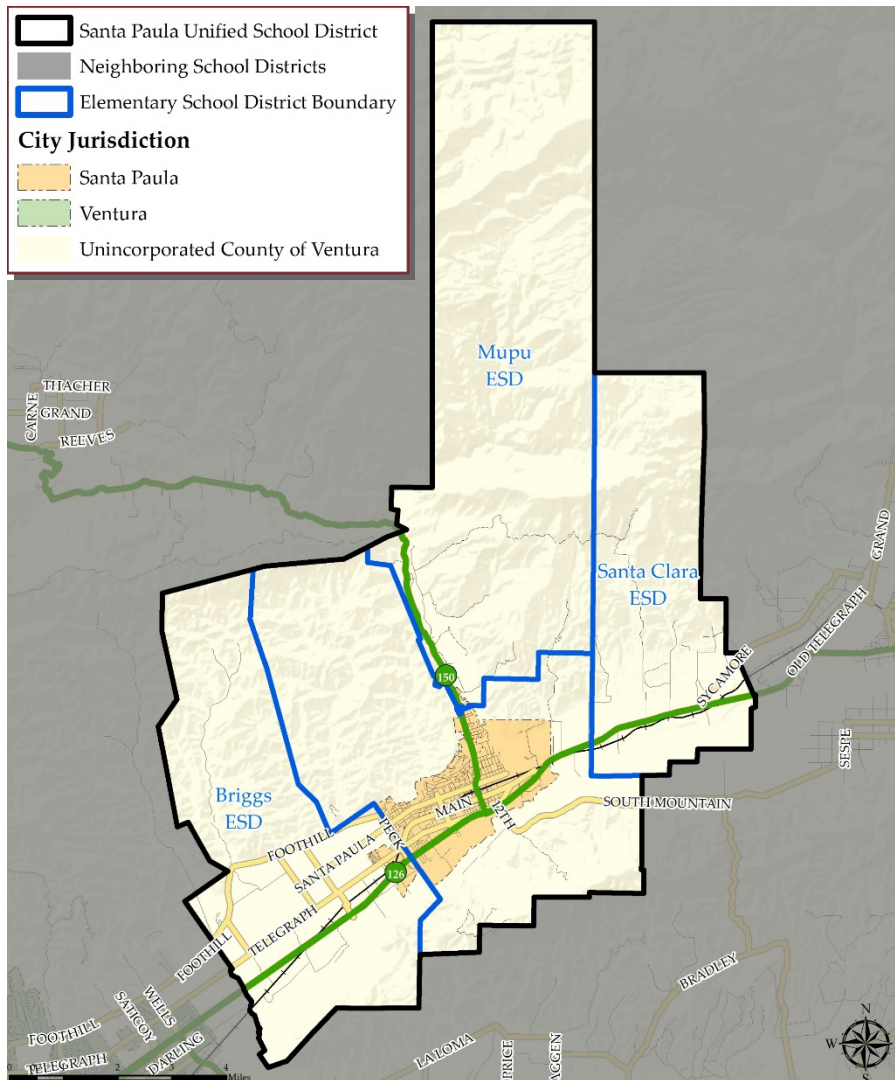


## About Us

- Santa Paula Unified School District serves 5,270 students in school year 2018/2019 across 9 sites within the City of Santa Paula and the surrounding unincorporated portions of Ventura County
- School District undertook the transition from at-large method of election to the by-area method of election voluntarily and engaged in an open process to create voting areas that ensured fair representation for all residents



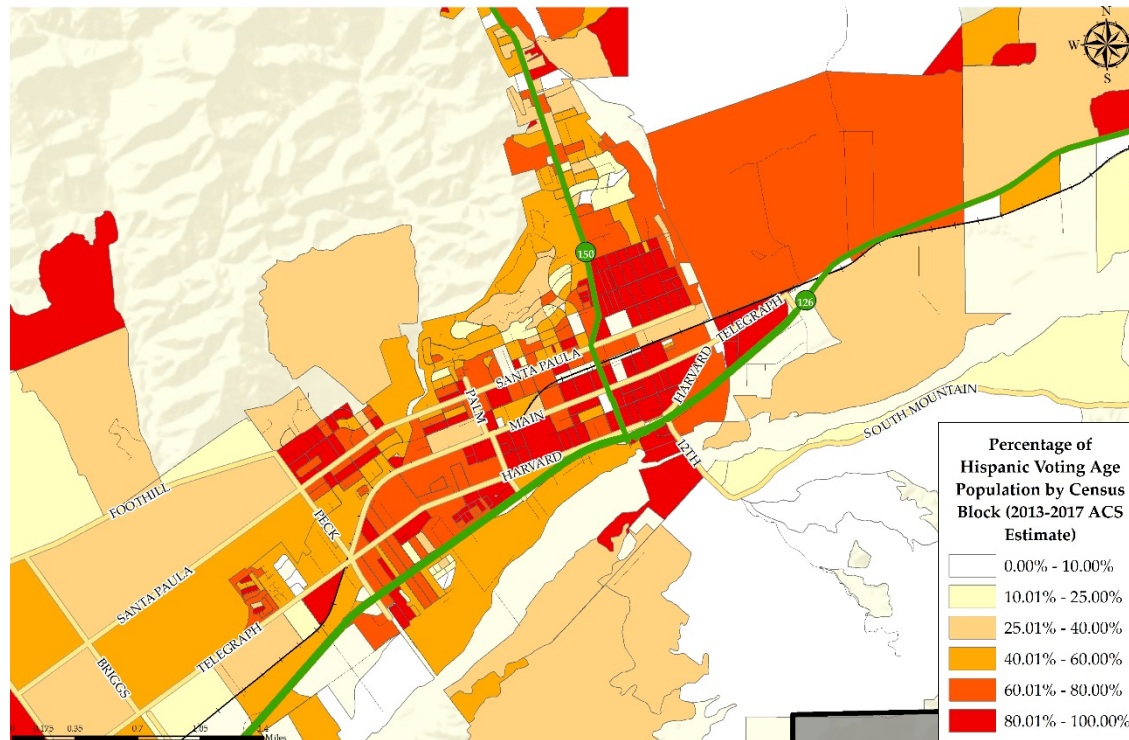
# District Demographics – 2010 Census Data



Population	Total Population		Age 18 and over	
	Total	%	Total	%
Hispanic/Latino	24,871	77.91%	16,525	73.23%
White	6,401	20.05%	5,539	24.55%
Black/ African American	98	0.31%	79	0.35%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	114	0.36%	86	0.38%
Asian	204	0.64%	186	0.82%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	15	0.05%	10	0.04%
Other	24	0.08%	15	0.07%
Two or More Races	197	0.62%	126	0.56%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>31,924</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## District Demographics – Citizen Voting Age Population Estimates



Population	2013-2017 CVAP	
	Total	%
Hispanic/Latino	11,024	65.93%
White	5,005	29.93%
Black/ African American	56	0.33%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	65	0.39%
Asian	318	1.90%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	0.00%
Two or More Races	252	1.51%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>16,720</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# Trustee Area Process

Date	Activity
March 13, 2019	Board Meeting: First Pre-Map Public Hearing and Presentation
April 10, 2019	Board Meeting: Second Pre-Map Public Hearing
June 12, 2019	Board Meeting: Presentation of Initial Trustee Area Scenarios
August 20, 2019	Community Input Meeting at 6 p.m. at Glen City School
August 28, 2019	Community Input Meeting at 6 p.m. at Barbara Webster School
October 9, 2019	Board Meeting: Public Hearing #1 on Trustee Area Scenarios Public Hearing on General Waiver Request Board Approval of General Waiver Request
November 13, 2019	Board Meeting: Public Hearing #2 on Trustee Area Scenarios Board Section of Trustee Area Map Board Approval of Change in Election Method
January 2019	County Committee on School District Organization Holds a Public Hearing and Considers Approval of Change in Election Method and Trustee Area Map
February 2020	State Board of Education Meeting; Waiver Application Consideration
February 2020	Cooperative Strategies sends Final Trustee area Map to the County Registrar of Voters
November 2020	First Election Held Utilizing Trustee Areas



# Compliance with Section 10010 of the Elections Code

“(a) A political subdivision that changes from an at-large method of election to a district-based election, or that establishes district-based elections, shall do all of the following before a public hearing at which the governing body of the political subdivision votes to approve or defeat an ordinance establishing district-based elections:

(1) Before drawing a draft map or maps of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the political subdivision shall hold at least two public hearings over a period of no more than 30 days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts. Before these hearings, the political subdivision may conduct outreach to the public, including to non-English-speaking communities, to explain the districting process and to encourage public participation.”

**The two public hearings occurred on March 13, 2019 and April 10, 2109. All hearings were properly noticed in advance.**

“(2) After all draft maps are drawn, the political subdivision shall publish and make available for release at least one draft map and, if members of the governing body of the political subdivision will be elected in their districts at different times to provide for staggered terms of office, the potential sequence of the elections. The political subdivision shall also hold at least two additional hearings over a period of no more than 45 days, at which the public is invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map or maps and the proposed sequence of elections, if applicable. The first version of a draft map shall be published at least seven days before consideration at a hearing. If a draft map is revised at or following a hearing, it shall be published and made available to the public for at least seven days before being adopted.”

**The District held two (2) such hearings on October 9, 2019, November 13, 2019, prior to adopting the final map scenario. All maps were posted at least seven (7) days prior to consideration and all public hearings were properly noticed in advance.**





## Considerations in Trustee Areas



Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants



Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible



Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act



Respect incumbency, if possible



Compact and contiguous, as much as possible



Other local considerations (i.e., school boundaries, locations of school sites)

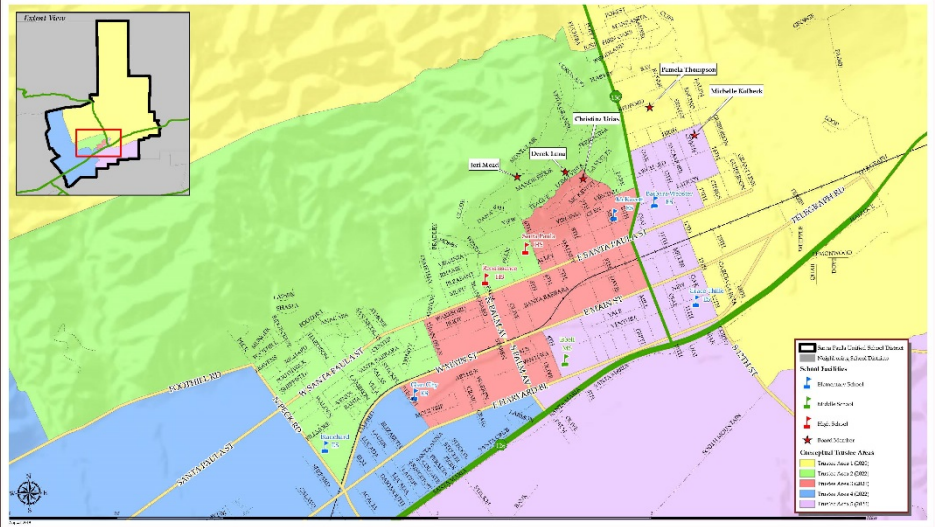


Respect communities of interest, as much as possible

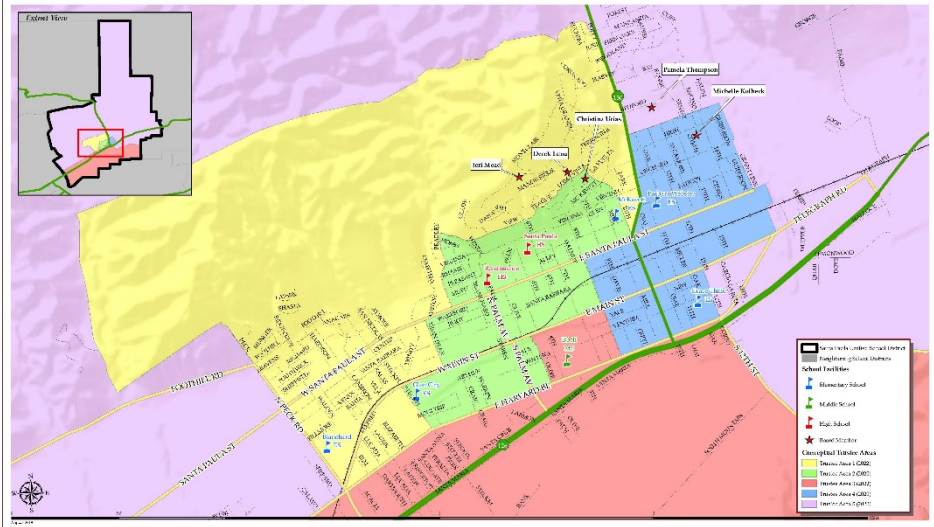


# Conceptual Trustee Scenarios - Trustee Area Process

SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT      CONCEPTUAL TRUSTEE AREAS - SCENARIO 1



SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT      CONCEPTUAL TRUSTEE AREAS - SCENARIO 2







# Community Outreach

## *Community*

- » Information provided to bargaining units and advisory committees
- » Public notices and newspaper articles
- » Community input meetings were held to explain the transition process
- » Opportunities for community to submit map ideas and dividing lines

## *Electronic Communication*

- » Promoted on Santa Paula USD website with maps and presentations on website



[Return to Headlines](#)

### Establishment of Trustee Areas

Welcome to the Santa Paula Unified School District

#### Establishment of Trustee Areas

The Santa Paula Unified School District ("District") Board of Trustees is in the process of changing from at-large elections to by-trustee area elections for members of the Governing Board. If approved, the change will go into effect starting with the November 2020 elections for the Board of Trustees. Currently, the District's five-member Board of Trustees is elected by voters across the entire District. Starting with the elections in November 2020, members of the Board of Trustees would only be elected by voters who reside in the areas that Board members are elected from. For more information please see the attached documents and maps.



[Click Here for Map with Scenario One](#)



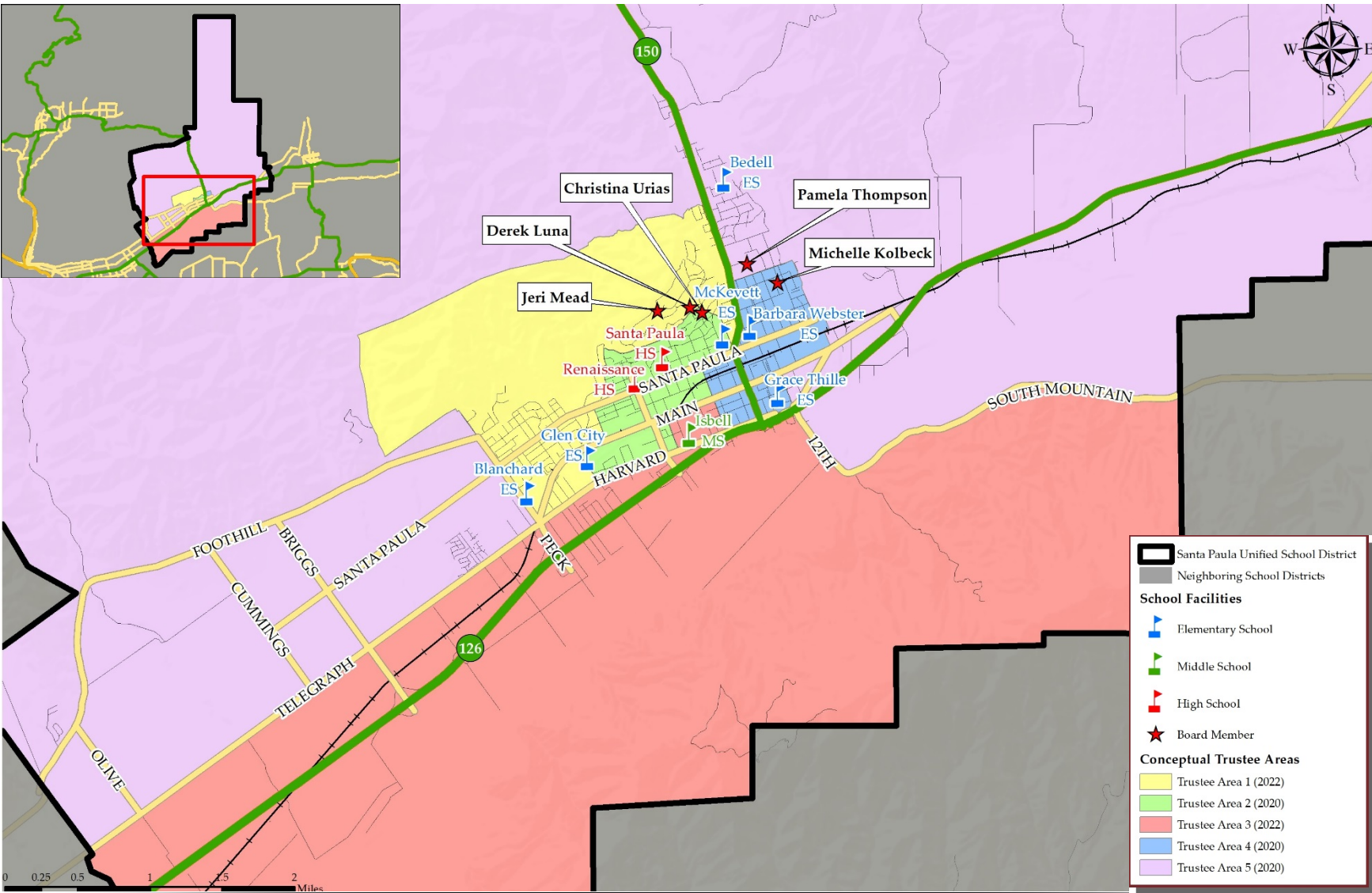


## November 13, 2019 Board Meeting

- ✓ Following the required public hearings on the maps and deliberation by the Board members, the Santa Paula Unified School District Board approved the following:
  - Selection of Scenario 2
  - Approval of Resolution No. 2019-20:04 to be forwarded to the County Committee on School District Organization



# Selection of Scenario 2





## Proposed Trustee Areas (Scenario 2) - Demographics

Trustee Area	Trustee Area 1		Trustee Area 2		Trustee Area 3		Trustee Area 4		Trustee Area 5	
TP* vs. CVAP**	TP	CVAP	TP	CVAP	TP	CVAP	TP	CVAP	TP	CVAP
Population	6,361	4,389	6,355	3,507	6,406	2,309	6,183	2,751	6,619	4,256
Population Variance	-24	947	-30	65	21	-1,133	-202	-691	234	814
	-0.37%	27.50%	-0.47%	1.88%	0.33%	-32.92%	-3.16%	-20.08%	3.67%	23.63%
Hispanic/Latino	4,609	2,780	4,987	2,489	5,335	1,605	5,840	2,499	4,100	2,288
	72.46%	63.34%	78.47%	70.97%	83.28%	69.51%	94.45%	90.84%	61.94%	53.76%
White	1,603	1,387	1,235	942	945	563	268	184	2,350	1,725
	25.20%	31.60%	19.43%	26.86%	14.75%	24.38%	4.33%	6.69%	35.50%	40.53%
Black/African American	20	12	27	24	10	12	13	18	28	15
	0.31%	0.27%	0.42%	0.68%	0.16%	0.52%	0.21%	0.65%	0.42%	0.35%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	20	2	35	8	17	5	23	0	19	34
	0.31%	0.05%	0.55%	0.23%	0.27%	0.22%	0.37%	0.00%	0.29%	0.80%
Asian	60	84	31	18	54	61	11	8	48	102
	0.94%	1.91%	0.49%	0.51%	0.84%	2.64%	0.18%	0.29%	0.73%	2.40%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	2	0	1	0	1	0	9	0	2	0
	0.03%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.15%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%
Other	3	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	12	0
	0.05%	0.00%	0.06%	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.18%	0.00%
Two or More Races	44	124	35	26	41	63	17	42	60	92
	0.69%	2.83%	0.55%	0.74%	0.64%	2.73%	0.27%	1.53%	0.91%	2.16%

\*TP: Total Population

\*\*CVAP: Citizen Voting Age Population



## Summary

- ✓ Board has undertaken a very deliberate and methodical process in considering and adopting the change in election method before you tonight.
- ✓ Board engaged in a transparent process
- ✓ Included opportunities for community input to the process and to the maps considered by the Board
- ✓ Respectfully request that the County Committee approve the Board's resolution seeking to establish trustee boundaries and to permit a by-trustee area voting method



# QUESTIONS