

**SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION 14-18-19**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT DECLARING INTENT TO TRANSITION
FROM AT-LARGE TO TRUSTEE-AREA BOARD ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the City Charter, the Board of Education (“Board”) of Santa Cruz City Schools (District”) is elected “at-large,” meaning that each trustee is elected by voters of the entire District;

WHEREAS, trustees are elected in even-numbered years and serve staggered, four-year terms, such that the next election for three trustees is scheduled for November 2020, with the remaining four trustees scheduled for election in November 2022;

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2018, the District received correspondence asserting that the District’s current at-large elections violate the California Voting Rights Act (Elec. Code, § 14025, et seq.) (“CVRA”), and demanding that the District adopt “trustee-area” elections, where each trustee must reside within the designated trustee area boundary, and is elected only by the voters in that trustee area, or some other appropriate remedy;

WHEREAS, under the CVRA, at-large elections are impermissible if they result in racially polarized voting. Racially polarized voting is defined as “voting in which there is a difference . . . in the choice of candidates or other electoral choices that are preferred by voters in a protected class, and in the choice of candidates and electoral choices that are preferred by voters in the rest of the electorate” (Elec. Code, § 14026, subd. (e));

WHEREAS, the District denies that its current form of elections violate the CVRA, but believes that it is in the public interest to begin the process to transition from at-large to trustee-area elections;

WHEREAS, in 2016 the California Legislature amended Elections Code section 10010 to provide an updated process for school districts to transition from at-large to trustee-area elections;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subdivision (a)(1), the Board will hold a minimum of two public hearings prior to developing proposed trustee-area boundary maps;

WHEREAS, the District will hold a minimum of two additional public hearings to seek public input on the proposed trustee-area maps developed with assistance from a demographer (Elec. Code, § 10010, subd. (a)(2));

WHEREAS, the District will hold an additional public hearing before adopting a trustee-area map and submitting it to the Santa Cruz County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee”) for consideration;

WHEREAS, Education Code sections 5019 and 5030 authorize the County Committee, upon application of the District Board, to change the method of election of the Board from at-large to trustee-area;

WHEREAS, if the County Committee approves this request to change the method of electing trustees, Education Code section 5020 requires the County Committee's resolution of approval to be submitted to the electorate for its approval;

WHEREAS, in the alternative, the District may seek a waiver of this voter approval requirement from the State Board of Education, pursuant to Education Code sections 33050-33053;

WHEREAS, in addition to the above, in order to complete the transition to by-trustee area elections the City Charter must be amended;

WHEREAS, City Charter amendments require voter approval;

WHEREAS, a City Charter amendment may only be placed on the ballot by the City Council or by voter petition; and

WHEREAS, the Board understands that the process is complex, requires the approval of other public agencies and the electorate, and must be approached with care and careful consideration. However, the Board intends to implement trustee-area elections for the November 2020 election, to the extent legally permissible.

THEREFORE, the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz City Schools District hereby resolves as follows:

The above recitals are correct and true.

The District shall commence the process of transition to trustee-area elections, in full compliance with all appropriate procedures and policies provided in law, including, but not limited to, Education Code sections 5019, 5030, and 33050, et seq., and Elections Code sections 10010 and 14025, et seq.


The District Superintendent and/or her designee are hereby authorized to contact the appropriate City staff to request that the City Council consider placing a measure on the ballot to amend the City Charter to allow by-trustee area elections.

The District Superintendent and/or her designee are hereby authorized and directed to take any other actions necessary to affect the purposes of this resolution.

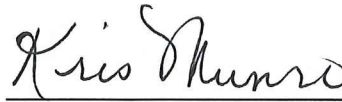
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz City Schools Board of Education, at a regular meeting of the Board of Education held January 16, 2018, by the following vote:

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0
Absent: 2
Abstain: 0

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the members of the Governing Board of Santa Cruz City Schools, at a public meeting of said Board held on January 16, 2018.



Deborah Tracy-Proulx, President
Board of Education



Kris Munro, Clerk
Board of Education