

To: WCCUSD School Board Trustees:
Valerie Cuevas, Board President
Mister Phillips, Board Clerk
Elizabeth Block, Board Member
Madeline Kronenberg, Board Member
Tom Panas, Board Member

March 21, 2018

CC: Matthew Duffy, Superintendent

This letter is in support of West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) establishing trustee area elections and of having Superintendent Duffy seek a waiver of the election requirement.

We urge the school board to vote in favor of Action Items G.1., G.2., G.3., and G.4. on the WCCUSD March 21, 2018 agenda.

The California Legislature passed the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA)* after it was established that “at-large” elections diluted the votes of minorities.

The school board does not represent our diverse and large district. There have been only two Latino/Hispanic school board members who have served on the WCCUSD school board in a district that has over a 50% Latino/Hispanic student enrollment. Additionally, there have been only six African American school board members. Currently three of the five school board members are from a more affluent area and in the same city, El Cerrito, in a large district that includes many cities and unincorporated areas.

There are potentially significant financial costs to the district for litigating to retain at-large positions, (see item G.1)** There is a great urgency for the WCCUSD school board to approve Trustee Area Elections and to authorize the Superintendent to seek a waiver. Further delays will increase legal costs that will be paid from the General Fund. This adversely effects educational funding for our students and teachers.

Please vote in favor of Action Items G.1., G.2., G.3., and G.4. on the WCCUSD March 21, 2018 agenda.

Endorsed by:

Miriam Wong, The Latina Center Executive Director

WCC PARENTS COUNCIL Steering Committee

*Alex Beltran
Erin Harvey Moody
Ada Bustamante*

*Anthony Caro, Citizens Power Network Executive Director,
Community Advocate and WCC School Board Candidate*

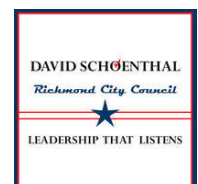
Tamisha Walker, Safe Return Project Executive Director

*David Schoenthal, Parent, Community Advocate and
Richmond City Council Candidate*

*Mayra Diaz, Executive Director
Generacion Visión para el Futuro - Vision for the Future*

SFER Action Network - West Contra Costa

Linda Ruiz Lozito, Parent, Education Advocate



* AB-182 California Voting Rights Act of 2001

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB182

** <https://westcontracosta.agendaonline.net/public/Meeting.aspx?AgencyID=211&MeetingID=60077&AgencyTypeID=1&IsArchived=False>

G.1. Reconsideration of the Matter of Trustee Area Elections

Financial Impact:

Possible significant financial costs to the district for legal costs and possible legal settlement.

G.2. Resolution No. 64-1718: Intent To Transition From At-Large To Trustee-Area Board Elections

G.3. Public Hearing To Seek Input Regarding a Waiver from the State Board of Education

G.4. Adoption of a Resolution No. 68-1718 Authorizing the Superintendent to Seek a Waiver of the Election Requirement Provided in Education Code section 5020.

Sent via e-mail and hand delivered hard copies to WCCUSD Board