

Joint Board and Youth and Adult Education Committee Education Town Hall Agenda

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

First segment of the meeting – 6-7pm (77 attendees)

1. Call to Order – Lallah Rowe, Chair
 - a) Lallah Rowe, Chery Schimdt, Karen Moran, Ed Babakhian
2. Opening Comments by Chair; purpose of Youth and Adult Education Committee and proposed ST Neighborhood Youth Council
3. Discussion of Mt. Gleason/NVMI co-location (approximately 77 attendees):
 - a) Parents and educators from Mt Gleason and North Valley Military Institute (NVMI) spoke about the desire to not co-locate with no one feeling that co-location was a desirable outcome.
 - b) Valley Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (VOCES) Magnet School (formerly took Sun Valley High School) does not want any co-location either, per one parent.
 - c) A participant felt that emailing objections to Prop 39 and co-locating would not be effective.
 - d) A participant from Mt. Gleason voiced that all schools all want their own campus and that an offer from LAUSD will be made to NVMI and NVMI has the right to reject the offer. A response from NVMI (Cpt Pulos) was that NVMI cannot reject a (final) offer because if they refuse, they will have no campus at all. In concept, if charter school doesn't take final offer, there is no alternative on the table.
 - e) NVMI has made several counter proposals which have all been rejected by Kelly Gonez. The belief is that Ms. Gonez does not want them in her district. (Note: Kelly Gonez is a member of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) representing Board District 6, which encompasses most of the East San Fernando Valley.)
 - f) Another option, if possible, is to find an alternate space for NVMI but this would have to happen quickly because a final offer is imminent (May 1). Cpt. Pulos commented that NVMI would need a conditional use permit; they have been looking for 8 years and have the funding to do it, but every proposal shut down by LAUSD.
 - g) A participant made a comment that the Armenian learning initiative would not be able to go forward which would be a loss to the community.
 - h) Representatives from the office of the LA Board of Education, Esmeralda Marcial and Oswaldo Bonilla, stated that State law has to be followed. Mr. Bonilla showed a video explaining how Prop 39 works and Charter School rules. Mr. Bonilla stated that it is a

deliberate process, with an offer sent out February 1 and the final offer sent April 1. He cannot speak for recommendations but would bring feedback to Ms. Gonez, their supervisor.

- i) Communications can be sent to Prop39@lausd.net

Second segment of the meeting - 7pm (59 attendees)

4. Opening Comments by Chair: Purpose of this part of the meeting is to find out how we can help our schools. The Education committee is here to assist community members to create, provide, and promote educational opportunities for students in ST, working with entities to pull together resources, and includes adults and life skills education as well as young members. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 6pm, link at STNC.org calendar. Lallah's email is: writetolrowe@yahoo.com
5. Presentations from School Principals
 - a) Schools included Pinewood Elementary (Principal Jessica Trejo); Apperson Elementary (Principal Rene Chavez); Plainview Academic Charter Academy (Principal Mr. Johnson); Verdugo Hills High School (Principal Arturo Barcenas); Mount Lukens High School (Principal Debra Jelin);
6. Presentations from the Sunland Tujunga Community of Schools
 - a) Carmina Nacorda, Administrator, presented an overview of what her department provided for the 11 schools and more than 4,000 students served.
7. Presentation from School Board President Kelly Gonez
 - a) President of the Board of Education, Kelly Gonez provided an overview of the LAUSD and her district.
8. Questions and Answers
 - a) Most all questions were addressed to Ms. Gonez expressing concerns about the co-location of NVMI and Mt. Gleason.
 - b) Ms. Gonez and her support team stated that NVMI does not have to accept an offer, they have full control and there is always the opportunity to work out options with the co-host school; her board cannot intervene. Mr. Bonilla: administrative issues are handled through administrative channels. Parents have their options to take their students to district, private or community schools.
 - c) Question from one participant concerned VOCES indicating enrollment will be growing and wanted to know what the penalty was if VOCES does not grow to the level (ABA) they are allotted? Mr. Bonilla's answer: The District will assess over-allocation penalties and pursue the penalties at the end of the year.
 - d) Question from a participant who is a staff member at NVMI and a parent: Every year NVMI is in the same position trying to re-locate their school. Why not stay at the same location? Mr. Bonilla: It's a yearly process done every year so both schools can be assessed as school populations change.
 - e) Question from a participant to Ms. Gonez: Do we reach out to Superintendent's office with parent's consensus signatures? Answer from Ms. Gonez: The Board gives

delegative authority to the Superintendent to make decisions. Collection of individuals in the district that make the recommendation and send to Superintendent, but the Superintendent makes the decision. Prop 39 is a legal obligation.

- f) General question: What can we do to help local schools more? From Carmina Nacorda: In our Community of Schools, we have partners (e.g. the YMCA, and many others, where we meet Quarterly. The STNC is welcomed to be part of this collaborative effort and Ms. Nacorda will reach out after the meeting to provide information.
9. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
- a) There are other meetings of interest on the STNC.org Calendar web-site
 - b) Reminder that there is a Wild-Fire Town Hall (zoom) meeting the following night (2-24-2022)