The public hearing began at 5:30 p.m. and was held at the Santa Clara Unified School District office.

The following County Committee members were present:

Nejleh Abed
Albert Beltran, Jr.
Frank Biehl
Javier Gonzalez
Teresa O’Neill

SCCOE staff present:

Suzanne Carrig

Committee Chair Frank Biehl reviewed the public hearing guidelines and speaking order. Suzanne Carrig reviewed the transfer request and the description of petition.

Petitioners

Mike O’Halloran, Chief Petitioner

See attachment

- Mr. O’Halloran stated that he is the representative for the group that is requesting the transfer.
- The property proposed for transfer is all within the city of Santa Clara all with 95050 ZIP code.
- Would like the area to be include all within the Santa Clara Unified School District.
- Want to sync community identity with the city of Santa Clara; do a lot with the city. Want the kids in the neighborhood to participate in youth programs in Santa Clara. Split between the communities affects the kids most.
- Minimize travel distances and make it safer for kids.
• Regarding the resolutions from affected districts that oppose the transfer request, two important issues to point out; 1) the transfer is not about property values and 2) it is not about the quality of the Campbell schools – they compare with Santa Clara schools. Mr. O’Halloran stated that both his kids attended Campbell schools. Also the school facilities are comparable.

• The main focus of the request is community identity and engagement – kids are missing out being part of the Santa Clara community. Ties to the community are beneficial for them but also to the overall community.

• ZIP code change a few years ago to a Santa Clara ZIP code -95050. Saw that our homes and APNs were Santa Clara and made the change.

• Many youth programs kids in area could be involved with but can’t because they are in the Campbell districts. Activities through Parks and Recreation, local library, youth sports, youth program grant at the new stadium.

• Friends are in the Campbell schools and therefore not a part of youth programs in Santa Clara such as little league.

• History of the area – there used to be Campbell schools close to the neighborhood but they all closed in the 1970’s and 1980’s.

• The area proposed for transfer was county land at one time and was annexed into the city of Santa Clara in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

• Residents receive the Santa Clara Unified district newsletter but never see anything from Campbell.

• Many residents work north of Campbell districts which creates backtracking in driving.

• Residents receive voting information regarding Santa Clara issues include the district parcel tax issues but they don’t receive anything from Campbell. Stadium measure was an issue – reflects the divide between the district and community.

• Main reasons behind the transfer are the community identity, travel, and safety.

**Nejleh Abed, County Committee Member**

Asked if the area adjacent to the area proposed for transfer and in San Jose Unified was the area the committee transferred a number of years ago.

Staff answered that it is not but that a few blocks over is the area that was transferred from Campbell to San Jose Unified.

**Javier Gonzalez, County Committee Member**

The students in the area proposed for transfer, they are not prohibited from participating in Santa Clara activities, libraries, etc. they just choose to use others because they want to go with their friends in Campbell.

**Mr. O’Halloran** responded that this was correct although there have been some questions regarding access if a student does not have their ID.
**Teresa O’Neill, County Committee Member**

Asked if any consideration was given to transferring or including the area on the other side of Saratoga Avenue – triangle shaped territory.

**Mr. O’Halloran** responded that there was a resident who stated they were in a similar predicament but that area was not considered as part of the current transfer area.

**Affected School Districts**

**Christine Koltermann, Board President, Santa Clara Unified School District**

Ms. Koltermann spoke on behalf of the Santa Clara Unified School District.
- The board voted to reject the staff resolution on a 6-1 vote.
- Board members live in Santa Clara and understand the petitioners’ situation. They view this as a way to right a wrong.
- Looked at this issue from the perspective of the children; the board sees that there is a safety issue.
- Board values having the school district boundaries aligned with the boundaries of the city.
- Santa Clara Unified is a basic aid district.
- Elementary students are bussed to Bowers elementary which is the closest school to the neighborhood as Westwood is full as are most of the district’s elementary schools.
- The district has been transparent with residents in the area proposed for transfer, letting them know that he district only busses for elementary school but not for middle or high school.
- Santa Clara Unified is in a period of residential growth; currently in negotiations with the state about acquiring the Agnews property for new schools to handle the new growth.
- Addition of students from the area proposed for transfer is small compared to the overall growth expected. District may need to reclaim schools that have been rented out.
- The district would welcome the students from the area.

**Member Abed**

Asked if there were any students on interdistrict transfer.

The answer was no as Santa Clara Unified is a basic aid district and does not accept interdistrict transfers. However, there are five families in the area proposed for transfer that are employed by the district and their children go to Santa Clara Unified schools.

**Member Abed** asked for a clarification of school attendance.

It was stated that residents of the area proposed for transfer would attend Buchser Middle School and Santa Clara High Schools. Middle School students could attend Cabrillo.
Member Javier Gonzalez
Discussion of the driving distance from transfer area to schools:
Bowers Elementary – 3.6 miles
Buchser MS – 2.4 miles
Santa Clara HS – 3.0 miles
Information provided by the Santa Clara Unified School District.

Patrick Gaffney, Superintendent, Campbell Union School District
Superintendent Gaffney made the following comments regarding the transfer request:
- He is familiar with the area as a superintendent and as resident.
- The CUHSD passed a resolution opposing the request.
- Concerned of the impact the transfer will have on the district.
- Concerned with the piecemeal approach of transfers.
- CUHSD serves multiple cities.
- Transfer could result in $800,000 annual impact on the district – criterion 9 financial impact on the district. Substantial impact to the district. There is a loss in state funding and the district is basic aid.
- There is a local control funding formula being proposed by the governor – question of how a traditional basic aid district will be affected.
- District sees it as a privilege to serve the students from this area.
- We hear the concerns of the petitioner regarding travel and safety.

Chair, Frank Biehl asked for a breakdown of revenue of the residential property and the commercial property that fronts Stevens Creek.

Jim Crawford, Deputy Superintendent, Campbell Union School District
Mr. Crawford made the following statements:
- Board passed a resolution in opposition of the request.
- Loss to the Campbell district would be $1.7 million.
- Two factors - basic aid which would be a $500,000 loss and the charter supplemental basic aid funds of $1.2 million. This transfer request would take the district out of basic aid and would result in a loss of those two pots of money.
- The Campbell School District offers transportation. Used to run double bus service but now there is only one trip in the morning. The district does operate its own busses.
- CUSD serves six municipalities which is common among school districts in the area.
Public Comments and Additional Questions

Ann Lino, Resident
- Has two children, four and seven years old.
- Attended SCUSD schools.
- Moved into the area in 2008 mainly because it was a community-based neighborhood.
- When son started school, reminded of how the time spent at school and the activities outside of school are linked.
- Work for Cisco and drive the opposite direction of CUSD.
- A lot of decisions are based on fiscal climate, but need to consider qualitative reasons – consider putting kids first.
- Think of the safety issues.

Chris Quenelle, Resident
- Support the transfer
- Daughter will start kindergarten in the fall.
- Use the city of Santa Clara resources – libraries, parks, etc.
- Get flyers for the SCUSD schools.
- Work in north Santa Clara and travel the opposite direction of Campbell schools.

Ray Hosler, Resident
- Support the transfer
- Discussed traffic patterns and travelling towards Campbell is difficult since there are many major roads to cross.
- Elementary school students have the longest commute to Campbell schools and it is much easier to travel to SCUSD schools.
- Feels more of a sense of community with Santa Clara.

Jozef Antolin, Resident
- Supports the transfer.
- Has a transfer to SCUSD because he is a teacher at Wilcox High School.
- Transfer may cause some financial changes with the affected districts but this area identifies with the city of Santa Clara.
- There is a mental change when you go the other direction, my family does not have any connection with Campbell.
- Schools in Campbell are not inferior, for us this is emotional.
- Asked the committee to consider allowing his neighbors to have the same privilege of sending kids to SCUSD.
Michelle Purviance, Resident
- President of the South of Forest Neighborhood Association.
- Mother of one year old twins.
- Supports the transfer.
- Wants to be with Santa Clara residents.
- Stated several reasons for the transfer – wants her children and others in the neighborhood to go to school and make friends with kids from Santa Clara, participate and benefit from youth activities in Santa Clara, have the option of safely walking or biking to school, be able to represent the middle school or high school at the youth commission, be recognized by the Santa Clara City Council for academic achievements like kids from SCUSD are, and to be part of the Santa Clara girl scouts.
- Live in one community but have to go to school in another community that is on the other side of a busy freeway.

Carolyn Schuk, Resident
- Supports the transfer.
- Has been a Santa Clara resident for 30 years.
- Reporter for the Santa Clara Weekly.
- Described the history of annexations into Santa Clara and of the area proposed for transfer.

Gilles Vrignaud, Parent/Resident
- Lives in Santa Clara – moved there from Canada. Surprised to find out his children would not attend school in Santa Clara.
- Lives 200 feet from the SCUSD boundary. Children were bussed to school in Los Gatos. About an hour and a half bus ride.
- This travel distance to Campbell schools robs kids of precious time – time with their community and time with their friends.
- There is a lot of talk about money but it’s also important to talk about the kids.

Joanne Anderson, Resident
- Supports the transfer.
- Worked in SCUSD for many years.
- Born and raised in Santa Clara.
- Impressed that SCUSD board said that it was first about the children.

County Committee members asked staff to include the first feasibility study in the final report and to also look into pedestrian accidents in the area.

The public hearing was closed at 6:30 p.m.