

Additional Background Information - Item 12.5 (July 13, 2021)

Stakeholder brought a motion to MVCC which was referred to the MVCC Education Arts and Culture Committee. EA&C arranged for LAUSD local board member Nick Melvoin, Richland ES Principal Gerard Granade, stakeholder Karin Logan (see her email motion to the EA&C committee dated 5/08/2021) and other interested parties to discuss rationale for redistricting local Richland students to Nora Sterry ES rather than another MV school.

Summary of discussion:

Our school board member, Nick Melvoin, explained LAUSD's enrollment has dropped to approx. 450,000 students. They are working hard to develop and offer programs that the public wants and this French immersion program is one of them (similar to the Mandarin Immersion program at Broadway ES in Venice).

The Richland Principal, Mr Granade, explained when he came to the school shortly before September, 2013, the enrollment was declining. For whatever reason local children were not coming to Richland and it was in danger of closing. So...the principal talked with the current parents and came up with the idea of a French Immersion Program. It has been so successful that it has taken over the whole school and there are plans to expand though grade 8. They plan to add 150 middle school seats. When asked how many out of district students attend this school the response was about 60% are on permits. The major draw of students is coming from the private French school on Overland (Le Lycee Francais De Los Angeles).

Because of demand and lack of local interest, future local students were redistricted to Nora Sterry ES, 1730 Corinth Ave 90025 (1 block west of Sawtelle, between Iowa and Nebraska)

Stakeholders felt it was unreasonable to take away their local school and redistrict to another school 2 miles away outside of MV. People buying into the area are told their local school is Richland. There was no notice to the neighborhood or the local NA about losing this local school or any discussion on which of the other MV schools locals could go to. There was some back and forth about dedicated spaces in MV schools (Mar Vista or Clover) but no promises.

The issue of a commuter school, Mandarin Immersion, has come up before in Z6 and was successfully defeated by the parents of Mark Twain MS, Beethoven ES and the surrounding neighbors. This new school would have brought another approx. 400 extra cars 2x/day on already F rated streets in a residential neighborhood. This school is also approx. 60% out of district/on permit students per LAUSD. Local students could only enter the school in kindergarten or if fluent at grade level in Mandarin.

Homeowners have provided the tax dollars to build schools throughout LA to relieve overcrowding, so students do not have to be bussed outside of their neighborhood.

(<https://www.laschools.org/bond/faq> (list of school bonds))

Mar Vista residents deserve to keep their local schools as local. They should not be turned into commuter schools bringing traffic and pollution into residential areas. At the very least our MV residents should be able to attend the nearest local MV school, not by permission or by permit, but with guaranteed spaces reserved for them.