

**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
RAMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-19-18

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MAP OF PROPOSED TRUSTEE AREAS, AND RECOMMENDING
THAT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
APPROVE AND ESTABLISH TRUSTEE AREAS FROM WHICH RAMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE ELECTED IN A BY-TRUSTEE AREA ELECTION
PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the Ramona Unified School District (“District”) currently has no trustee areas, wherein each of the five members of the District’s Governing Board (“Board”) must reside within the boundaries of the District but not within any specific geographical sub-region of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District currently uses an at-large system of electing its Board members, wherein all voters in the District elect each member of the Board; and

WHEREAS, at-large electoral systems such as that used by the District are subject to challenge under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, codified at sections 14025-14032 of the California Elections Code (“CVRA”); and

WHEREAS, by-trustee area electoral systems are not vulnerable to challenge under the CVRA; and

WHEREAS, in a by-trustee area system of election, candidates for the Board must reside within a specific geographic subarea of the District, called a trustee area, and candidates are elected only by the voters of that trustee area; and

WHEREAS, the District has been threatened with litigation in the event that the Board does not agree to an election of its Board Members by-trustee area elections; and the Board, as guardians of public funds, believe that there is no other choice but to capitulate to the demand for Board elections to be determined using by-trustee areas; and

WHEREAS, given the potential financial and other consequences of a legal challenge under the CVRA to the District’s current election system, the Board recognizes its fiduciary responsibility to guard public funds and agrees to this process despite serious reservations on its impact to the district at large and considers it prudent to initiate the process to transition to a by-trustee area system of election; and

WHEREAS, the Board took action at its special meeting on September 10, 2018 announcing its decision to change its election methodology from an at-large system to a by-trustee areas method of election as described in Education Code section 5030(b) commencing with the November 2020 Board election; and

WHEREAS, one method of transitioning from an at-large electoral system to a by-trustee area electoral system is for the Board to petition the San Diego County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee”), by resolution, to initiate the transition under California Education Code section 5019(c)(1); and

WHEREAS, the County Committee has indicated that it will initiate this process on behalf of the District at the District’s request, and will consider any recommendation on specific trustee areas made by the District; and

WHEREAS, District staff and consultants have prepared Draft trustee area maps (the “Draft Maps”). Prior to the preparation and presentation of the Draft Maps, the Board held public hearings on October 8, 2018 and October 11, 2018, to allow for public input on the conversion and how to draw draft trustee area maps; and

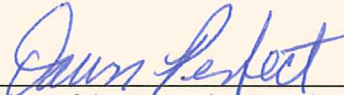
WHEREAS, the Draft Maps were made available to the public on October 22, 2018, a presentation and public hearings were held November 1, 2018 and November 15, 2018 to obtain feedback on the Draft Maps, and information regarding the Draft Maps was and is posted online on the District's website; and

WHEREAS, the Board has conducted an additional public hearing on December 11, 2018 prior to consideration, discussion, and action on this Resolution, and has received and considered any and all public input and comment on: 1) the Draft Maps; 2) the proposal to transition to establishing trustee areas; and 3) the proposal to adopt a by-trustee area system of election; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Governing Team of the Ramona Unified School District as follows:

1. That the above recitals are true and correct.
2. That based upon its review of the public input and comment on the Draft Maps, its proposal to transition to establishing trustee areas, and its proposal to adopt a by-trustee area system of election, as well as input from staff and consultants, the Board hereby adopts and recommends Draft Map "Orange" to the County Committee for its consideration. A true and correct copy of the Draft Map "Orange" is attached as Exhibit A.
3. That this Resolution shall serve as the District's petition to the County Committee pursuant to Education Code section 5019(c)(1), the Board hereby proposes and requests that the County Committee approve the establishment of trustee areas as defined in Exhibit A, and approves the adoption of the method of electing Board members specified in Education Code section 5030(b), whereby candidates for the Board must reside within a trustee area, and candidates are elected only by the voters of that trustee area, effective with the November, 2020 regular election of District Board members.
4. That the Superintendent and/or her designee take all actions necessary to notify the Committee of the Board's determination forthwith and provide whatever assistance may be required by the Committee to complete the process.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED THIS 21 day of December, 2018.

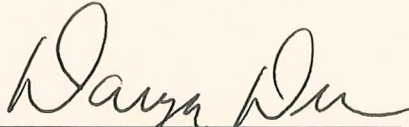


President of the Governing Board
Ramona Unified School District

CERTIFICATION

I, Daryn Drum, Clerk of the Governing Board of the Ramona Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of said District at a meeting of said Board held on the 20th day of December, 2018 and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

- Ayes:
- Noes:
- Abstain:
- Absent:



Clerk of the Governing Board
Ramona Unified School District