The following are correspondence received from residents between 04-24-19 and 05-16-19
April 24, 2019

Allison Deegan, Ed. D.
Regionalized Business Services Coordinator
Business Advisory Services
Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway
Downey, CA 90242

Dear Ms Deegan,

On behalf of my wife Alma and myself this note is to inform you we are in favor of and support the Petition of the Sagebrush area to move the proposed territory transfer to the city of La Canada Flintridge school district border.

One City- One School District

Unite La Canada Flintridge!

Thank you for listening to concerned La Canada Flintridge Citizens

Francisco J Medina & Alma R Medina
2215 San Gorgonio Rd
La Canada Flintridge, CA
91011
Allison Deegan, Ed.D.
Regionalized Business Services Coordinator
Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway
Downey, CA 90242

Subject: Support for GUSD/LCUSD Territory Transfer

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for taking the time to allow the Sagebrush residents the opportunity to voice our support for the transfer to La Canada schools. Ours is a story of three generations who have been affected by the lack of continuity in the community: my brothers and I, my two daughters and now my grandchildren. There are many reasons for this transfer but I will focus only on the community, friendship and family, which I feel are the most important to the children and their personal success.

I am someone who personally experienced living in the Sagebrush area as a child and raised my children in the Sagebrush area as well. I witnessed the bifurcation of not only family but friends, sports teammates, Boy Scout troop buddies and so on.

When I was a child in 5th grade my family moved to the La Canada Sagebrush area from La Canada and La Canada Schools. Much to my family’s surprise, our new home in La Canada Sagebrush area required us to change school districts and attend Glendale schools; therefore, we were all uprooted from the La Canada school district at that time. Two of the three boys graduated from Crescenta Valley. After a few years, my parents moved two blocks east to a larger home and my younger brother had to switch school districts once again. He eventually graduated from La Canada High School. Ironically, all our homes were located in the City of La Canada, yet we children wound up changing school districts multiple times. In addition, the different district schedules prevented us from enjoying our time off during the holidays and school breaks with our cousins and long-time friends from La Canada. Personally, I resented having to leave my La Canada friends and looking back, I held that resentment until my high school graduation.

Everyone agrees that the Glendale schools are exceptional and both of my daughters attended and graduated from Crescenta Valley High School. They also earned scholarships to play sports at UC Irvine and UCLA and received their teaching degrees from UC Irvine as well. But both daughters received cross-town social pressure from their classmates who could not understand why they lived in La Canada but attended schools in La Crescenta.

Times change, but one constant remains; it is long overdue for the children of La Canada to attend La Canada schools so they can develop, create life-long friends, and feel the comforting sense of family and community that we all wish we had had.

Please help us finally achieve this goal.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Bart Reinhard- Sagebrush Resident
From: Farrokh Shoar <fshoar08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:04 PM
To: Deegan_Allison <Deegan_Allison@lacoe.edu>
Cc: nick@krpartnergroup.com; nalni@lasiewicz.com
Subject: Support for GUSD/LCUSD Territory Transfer

Dear Allison,

Greeting! I am a long time resident of the Sagebrush Territory of La Canada Flintridge. I support the Sagebrush Territory Transfer for the reasons stated in the Petition for a Territory Transfer and more.

Although, both of my daughters are in college at the time of this writing they both attended Mountain Ave. elementary school as well as LCUSD during their k-12 years. My daughters, wife and I believed both districts were fine and provided outstanding learning opportunities for my daughters. Although, Yasmin and Sara both assimilated in the LCUSD community after transferring out of GUSD (employment based transfer - I was a JPLer) and were accepted with their peers eventually, nonetheless throughout the time they had to endure explaining themselves for having gone to Mountain Ave. elementary instead of one of the three LCUSD’s time and again. They had to endure community identity confusion unnecessarily, i.e. living in La Canada, but going to the school district different than their own. They didn't get to enjoy the natural involvement in LCF activities, events, organizations, and civic life.

The efforts of uniting the residents of Sagebrush Territory of La Canada with LCUSD has been drawn for too long unnecessarily. It is my hope that this time the LACOE respect the long time wishes of the La Canadians and finally grant this territory transfer.

I thank you and the committee in advance for your understanding and support of this request.

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Warm Regards,

Farrokh Shoar
Professor of Electronic Technology & CIS
L.A. Trade Tech College
To: LA County Committee on School District Organization  
From: Christina Tusan (Territory Resident & Parent)  
Date: May 15, 2019  
Re: LCUSD/GUSD Territory Transfer Petition – High School Rankings & Differences

I am a Sagebrush resident and parent of children who once attended GUSD schools and now attend LCUSD schools. I recently read an article regarding the US News & World Report ranking of public high schools in the US which prompted me to write this letter.

These rankings were summarized by the local Outlook newspaper in its May 2, 2019 edition that I have included with this letter. Compare GUSD’s four high schools with that of LCUSD’s lone high school which ranked 3rd in LA County (13th in the state) among non-charter/magnet high schools. LCUSD’s superintendent responded to the article and hit the perfect note by saying,

"[LCHS’s ranking] is reflective – in part – of our priorities, namely to ensure that we remain a high-performing high school, but that we continue to develop programs to support students and staff wellness, resiliency and empathy, all with a climate of care and respect ... recognition like we just received in the US News & World Report rankings is a community effort involving the commitment of all stakeholders."

Is it any wonder that Sagebrush residents would prefer the educational experience driven by their community’s input to LCUSD priorities? That’s why they voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Territory transfer in GUSD’s 2014 survey of Sagebrush residents.

I’m not writing to disparage GUSD schools but I do note that GUSD has repeatedly used the argument that they see no educational reason for this transfer, as if to imply that their schools offer a similar educational experience to their students versus what LCUSD offers its students.

It seems to me that there are significant and demonstrable differences between the educational environment a student would experience at GUSD versus LCUSD schools.

U.S. News 2019 High School Rankings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LCUSD</th>
<th>GUSD</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Glendale HS</td>
<td>Hoover HS</td>
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<td>California Ranking</td>
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<td>California Ranking - Non Charter/Magnet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student: Teacher Ratio</td>
<td>24:1</td>
<td>25:1</td>
<td>27:1</td>
<td>23:1</td>
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Thank you for your attention and I hope you vote to approve the transfer.
LCHS Improves in ‘Best High Schools’ Rankings

By Camila Castellanos
The Outlook

It will come as no surprise to those familiar with La Cañada High School, but U.S. News & World Report has once again named LCHS as one of the best in the state and nation, according to the publication’s 2019 Best High Schools Rankings list.

U.S. News rated LCHS at No. 26 in California and No. 218 in the nation, compared to its position at 39th in the state and 249th in the nation in the 2018 rankings. The evaluations continually measure performance on state-required tests and how well schools prepare students for college.

See LCHS, page 22

STATE’S TOP-RANKED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS*

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<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>SCHOOL (CITY)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Whitney High School (Cerritos)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oxford Academy (Cypress)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lowell High School (San Francisco)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy (Wilmington)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Gunn High School (Palo Alto)</td>
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<td>Cupertino High School (Cupertino)</td>
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<td><strong>LA CAÑADA HIGH SCHOOL (LCF)</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Palo Alto High School (Palo Alto)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Crescenta Valley High School (La Crescenta)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Select non-magnet, non-charter schools
Source: U.S. News & World Report: Best High Schools
Other nearby schools that placed in the publication’s top 100 in the state include San Marino High School at No. 48, South Pasadena High School at No. 87 and Crescenta Valley High School at No. 89. The first- and second-ranked schools in the state, respectively, are Whitney High School in Pasadena and Oxford Academy in Cypress.

According to the publication, its 2019 rankings take a holistic approach to evaluating schools by looking at six factors: college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates. Specifically, college readiness measures participation and performance on AP and IB exams.

It gave LCHS an “overall scorecard” of 93.74, with 78% of students taking at least one AP exam, 69% of the test-takers passing at least one AP exam, 78% proficient in math, 86% proficient in reading, and an overall graduation rate of 96%. The school marked an average student-to-teacher ratio of 24:1.

La Canada Unified School District Superintendent Wendy Sinnett noted that while rankings accolades are always nice to receive, the district strives to embody more than numbers on a chart.

“I am very pleased with these outstanding rankings which recognize the stellar efforts of students, teachers and staff in the teaching and learning process at LCHS,” Sinnett said. “Even more important, though, is that it is reflective—In part—of our priorities, namely to ensure that we remain a high-performing high school, but that we continue to develop programs to support student and staff wellness, resiliency and empathy, all within a climate of care and respect. We have much work to do, but I am very proud of LCHS and know that recognition like we just received in the U.S. News & World Report rankings is a community effort involving the commitment of all stakeholders.”

This year, the publication undertook a new methodology, assigning weights to the six factors and then producing an overall score on which the ranking is based—compared with the previous methodology, which involved a four-step process in which the final step used college readiness as the sole basis to determine a school’s numerical rank.

“We enhanced the methodology to provide an even more comprehensive ranking that is easier to understand and, therefore, more useful to parents and educators,” said Robert Nourse, chief data strategist at U.S. News. “Now, each school’s score correlates to its national percentile—a school with a score of 70% in the 70th percentile and ranks higher than 70% of schools. Going forward, this methodology will allow for intuitive comparisons of a school’s performance year to year.”

U.S. News also said it revamped its annual education rankings to provide the most comprehensive evaluation of America’s public high schools ever, numerically ranking more than 17,300 schools nationwide—up from last year’s 2,700 schools. The publication teamed with RTI International, a nonprofit social science research firm. The U.S. News rankings include data on more than 25,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

“Our mission with the Best High Schools rankings has always been to educate families about the schools in their district,” said Anita Narayan, managing editor of education at U.S. News. “By evaluating more schools than ever before, the new edition expands that focus so all communities can see which schools in their area are successfully serving their students—including historically underserved populations.”

For more information, visit usnews.com/education,