

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution #24-25.23**

**Resolution to Initiate a Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System
Commencing with the 2026 Governing Board Election**

WHEREAS, the National School District (“District”) Board of Trustees (“Board”) is keenly aware of the importance of maintaining a fair election system;

WHEREAS, the Board has always strived to listen to all voices in the community and represent all of our community;

WHEREAS, California Education Code sections 5019(a) & (c)(l) and 5030 authorizes the San Diego County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee”), upon application of a school district’s governing board, to change the method of election of governing board members in a school district under its jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the California Voting Rights Act (Elections Code §§ 14025 *et seq.*) (“CVRA”) prohibits the use of an “at-large” election system for governing board members of a school district if the “at-large” elections impair the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice, or its ability to influence the outcome of an election;

WHEREAS, Board Members of the District are currently elected using an “at-large” election system (i.e., election system in which registered voters of the entire jurisdiction elect candidates to the governing board);

WHEREAS, it is considered the view of the Board that starting with the 2026 Board elections, the public interest will be better served by election of its Board members using a “by-trustee area” election system (i.e., elections in which one candidate residing in each trustee area is elected by only the registered voters in that particular trustee area);

WHEREAS, in passing Senate Bill 442 (“SB 442”), effective January 1, 2022, school districts and community college districts may transition to by-trustee area elections upon approval by the county committee, without the need to seek voter approval or a waiver of the same from the State Board of Education in furtherance of the purposes of the CVRA;

WHEREAS, initiating the process to establish “by-trustee areas” elections will avoid costs associated with potentially defending a lawsuit based on the CVRA even if that lawsuit were to reach a settlement in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, the adoption of “by-trustee area” elections will not affect the terms of any sitting Board members, each of whom will serve out his or her current term; and

WHEREAS, the Board, cognizant of its need for fiscal responsibility, desires to implement this change in the manner of electing Board members in the most cost effective and efficient manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Board of the National School District does hereby resolve, order and determine as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board hereby determines that the trustee area boundary lines shall be developed in compliance with all applicable laws, including, but not limited to, Elections Code section 10010 and AB 764, and based on federal Census data and other acceptable data to provide for “by-trustee areas” elections commencing in 2026 and to transition from its current at large election system.
3. By this resolution, and pursuant to Education Code sections 5019(a) and 5030, the Board directs District staff, when appropriate, to transmit this resolution to the San Diego County Committee on School District Organization to apply to have the County Committee adopt a change in the method of electing members of the board from “at-large” elections [Education Code section 5030(a)] to “by-trustee area” elections [Education Code section 5030(b)] commencing with the 2026 Board elections.
4. Before submitting a final proposal to the County Committee for a trustee area plan using the federal Census data and additional acceptable data, in compliance with all applicable laws, multiple public hearings shall be scheduled to obtain public input on the draft proposals prepared.
5. Based on SB 442, the Board shall apply to the County Committee for establishment of trustee areas in a timely manner to have the 2026 elections for the Board conducted within the new trustee areas for the seats open for election at that time pursuant to Education Code section 5019(a) and without the need to seek voter approval or a waiver of the same from the State Board of Education in furtherance of the purposes of the CVRA pursuant to Education Code section 5020(a)(2).
6. The Superintendent, or her designee, shall send a copy of this resolution to the County Committee for action in accordance with law.
7. The Superintendent, or her designee, shall consult with legal counsel to resolve all legal issues necessary to give effect to this resolution.
8. The foregoing resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board on February 26, 2025 at a duly noticed meeting by the following vote:

AYES: Betancourt-Castañeda, Gates, López

NOES: Avalos, Sarmiento

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)ss
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO)

I, Barbara Avalos, Clerk of the Governing Board of the National School District, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted by the Board at a meeting thereof held on February 26, 2025, by a vote of 3 Ayes to 2 Noes.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand this 6 day of March, 2025.

Barbara Avalos
Clerk of the Governing Board