

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE SANTA RITA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 19.08.10**

**Resolution to Initiate a Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System Commencing with
the 2022 Governing Board Election**

WHEREAS, California Education Code sections 5019 and 5030 authorize the Monterey 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 (“CVRA”) disfavors the use of an “at-large” election system for governing board members of a school district if “at-large” elections may 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 Santa Rita Union School District (“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 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, because the data from the 2020 decennial federal census will not be released until 2021, after the 2020 election, if the District were to transition to “by-trustee” area elections in time for the 2020 election, it would be relying on data from the 2010 decennial federal census as a basis for drawing trustee area maps, which would not provide the most updated and reliable data about the demographics of the District;

WHEREAS, implementing the change to “by-trustee area” voting in 2022 instead of 2020 will eliminate the cost of some demographic services and the time and expense of two districting processes in two years, one for November 2020 using 2010 census data and a new process for November 2022 after the decennial 2020 census; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby resolves, orders and determines as follows:


1. The above recitals are true and correct;
2. Trustee area boundary lines shall be developed based on the most updated federal decennial census data following its release in 2021 to provide for “by-trustee areas” elections to be implemented in the 2022 and 2024 election cycles;

3. By this resolution and pursuant to Education Code sections 5019, 5030 and other applicable provisions of law, the Board directs District staff to transmit this resolution to the County Committee to apply to have the County Committee adopt a change in the method of electing members of the Board from “at-large” elections to “by-trustee area” elections commencing with the 2022 Board elections;
4. Before submitting a final proposal to the County Committee for trustee area maps using the federal census data, multiple public hearings held in accordance with Elections Code section 10010 shall be scheduled to obtain public input on the draft proposals;
5. The Board shall apply to the County Committee for establishment of trustee areas pursuant to Education Code section 5019 in a timely manner to have the 2022 elections for the Board conducted within the new trustee areas;
6. The Superintendent, or designee, is hereby directed to prepare additional Board resolutions and documents, as needed, to meet all applicable legal requirements in a timely manner, and to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education of the election requirement imposed by Education Code section 5020;
7. The Superintendent, or designee, shall consult with legal counsel to take all steps necessary to implement and give effect to this resolution; and
8. The foregoing resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board on August 28, 2019, at a duly noticed meeting by the following vote:

AYES:	<u>5</u>
NOES:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>

I, Diego Jacob Sandoval, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Rita Union School District, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted by the Board at a lawfully called meeting held on August 28, 2019, by a vote of 5 to 0.



 Diego Jacob Sandoval,
 Clerk, Board of Trustees