

Hollyglen Homeowners Association

Dedicated to Preserving the Quality of Life for Hollyglen residents

P.O. Box 1755, Hawthorne, CA 90251-1755

Email: HHABoard@hollyglen.info

Website: www.hollyglen.info

Phone: (310) 765-4802

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2007

7:00 pm at Dana School Cafeteria (135th & Aviation)

Join us for information and discussion on the following topics:

- **Dana School Construction: progress report and opening date**
- **Cabrillo School Rebuilding Plans**
Jake Stone, C.W. Driver Construction Management
- **School Bond Extension: Measure A, June 12 special election**
Tom Cox, Wiseburn School District
- **Wiseburn School District Unification: Preparation of EIR, letters of support**
Lydia Rodriguez, Chief Petitioner
- **New Hawthorne Trash Contract: Changes effective May 1**
City of Hawthorne Public Works, Allied Waste
- **Identity Theft and Fraud: How to avoid becoming a victim**
John Dixon, Hawthorne Police Department
- **Open Discussion, Q&A**

- **A special election will be held June 12, 2007** for voters to decide whether to extend the Wiseburn school bonds (Prop W and Measure E) approximately 10 years to provide funding to rebuild Cabrillo School. The Wiseburn School District's Measure "A" Factsheet is attached for your information.
- **The scoping phase of preparing an Environmental Impact Report for unifying the Wiseburn School District has begun.** This involves identifying environmental considerations and/or benefits that should be evaluated for building a high school within the Wiseburn School District. Any comments are due April 30 (see page 5 for more information). You can help by writing letters of support to the California Department of Education and State Board of Education to let them know this is important to our community (see sample letters on pages 2-4).
- **The City of Hawthorne approved a contract with a new trash hauler.** City staff and the new hauler will inform residents about changes in the city's trash and recycling services at the April 19 meeting. Information is also available on the City's website www.cityofhawthorne.com.
- **Did you know there are different types of identity theft?**
 - Drivers License - Social Security Number - Health Insurance - Credit Card - Criminal ActivityJohn Dixon from the Hawthorne Police Department will provide information at our April 19 meeting about Identify Theft and fraud, what you need to know to protect yourself, and what to do if it happens to you.

Letters of Support for Unifying the Wiseburn School District

In 2001, community volunteers collected signatures on a petition to convert the Wiseburn School District from an elementary (K-8) district into a unified (K-12) district. The petition was approved at the county level and the state level; however, the state rescinded its approval due to a lawsuit by the Centinela Valley Union High School District, and needs to evaluate the impacts of adding a high school to the Wiseburn District before the petition can be brought back to the Board for reconsideration.

Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report has been stalled for 2 years. The Chief Petitioners need the community to encourage the state to provide the funding needed to complete the EIR process and to move forward with Wiseburn's unification petition without further delays. Please take the time to send letters to the California Department of Education and the State Board of Education to let them know how important unifying our school district is to our community.

For additional information on the unification process, see the Citizens for a Wiseburn Unified School District website: www.geocities.com/unifywiseburn

Below is a list of addresses and several sample letters provided by the Chief Petitioners, or feel free to write your own letter.

Jack O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Donald G. Fisher
State Board of Education
2 Folsom Street, 15th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Copy to be sent to:

Kenneth Noonan
State Board President
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Ruth E. Green
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Joe Nuñez
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Ruth Bloom
State Board Vice President
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Johnathan Xavier Williams
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Alan Bersin
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Dr. David P. Lopez
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Yvonne Chan
State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, California 95814

Or you can call the State Board of Education at
(916) 319-0827

Sample Letter 1

Date:

Honorable Jack O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Education
1430 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Funding for Wiseburn School District Unification Environmental Impact Report

Dear Superintendent O'Connell:

I am a parent living in the Wiseburn School District. We have been trying to unify our school district for the past 6 years. We request the State Board of Education allocate the funding necessary to move speedily forward with preparing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which has stalled our unification effort. The Wiseburn community put forth a tremendous amount of effort and hard work to get our petition to the State level. Our unification petition was presented before the State Board of Education on September 9, 2004 and was approved by a 9 out of 10 vote (the 10th vote was not cast due to an absence). Unfortunately, that approval was ripped away from our community and our children as the result of a lawsuit over the inadequacy of the environmental impact study. I'm sure you can appreciate the frustration and utter disappointment we felt and continue to feel with this seemingly never-ending wait. We were assured by many that the State would do everything they could to expedite the required EIR. We put our faith in the system and patiently waited for this to happen. It's now been over two years since our approval was rescinded and the EIR process is just now starting!

We are still anxious to secure a better education for our children by having them attend a Wiseburn Unified School District High School. Centinela Valley Union High School District does not provide good quality education, which is reflected in their schools' continued poor performance on standardized tests. Centinela Valley used our \$59 million dollar Measure C bond money to build a cafeteria, renovate the athletic fields and tracks, and build a performing arts center instead of renovating classrooms, fixing plumbing problems and building a better library for our children's education as promised. Centinela has mismanaged our tax dollars for years at the cost of our children's education.

This is why we encourage the State Board of Education to provide the support and funding necessary to expedite the EIR and put Wiseburn's petition to become a unified school district back on the agenda for approval as quickly as possible. The Wiseburn Community has waited long enough for the chance to vote on unifying our school district so that our children can receive the education they deserve. Please help us give our children a brighter future. We have patiently waited six long years.

Sincerely,

Your name here
Address
City, State Zip

Sample Letter 2

Date:

Honorable Jack O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Education
1430 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Funding for Wiseburn School District Unification Environmental Impact Report

Dear Superintendent O'Connell:

I am a parent living in the Wiseburn School District. In 2001, 28% of the voters in our community signed a petition to unify our school district. The LA County Committee approved Wiseburn's petition in 2002, and the State Board of Education also approved our petition in 2004. Unfortunately, a lawsuit resulted in the State Board's approval being rescinded and the stalling of our petition until an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared.

We encourage the State Board to provide the funding necessary to complete the EIR process as quickly as possible so that our petition can move forward for approval by the State Board and ultimately the voters of the Wiseburn School District. It has been 6 long years since we began our quest. Our goal in unifying the Wiseburn School District is to provide a better high school education for our children.

Our present high school arrangement with the Centinela Valley Union High School District is inadequate. Centinela Valley does not provide good quality education, and spends taxpayer's money on lawsuits rather than improving test scores. Centinela Valley High Schools have ranked very low (1 out of 10) on the State Academic Performance Index for the past 6 years. Wiseburn Schools on the other hand have ranked very high (between 7 and 9). Sending children from the effective learning environment and academic curriculum of Wiseburn Schools to Centinela Valley schools is a step in the wrong direction. What ends up happening instead is families move to other school districts with better high schools, and our children don't get to attend high school with the friends they have grown up with.

We would like the California Department of Education to move quickly in completing the EIR and presenting our petition to become a unified school district to the State Board of Education for approval. The Wiseburn Community deserves the opportunity to vote on unifying our school district so that our children can receive the education that they deserve. Please help us give our children a brighter future. We have patiently waited six long years.

Sincerely,

*Your name here
Address
City, State Zip*

Sample Letter 3

Date:

*Honorable Jack O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Education
1430 "N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814*

Subject: Funding for Wiseburn School District Unification Environmental Impact Report

Dear Superintendent O'Connell:

I am a parent living in the Wiseburn School District. It has been 6 long years since we began our quest to unify the Wiseburn School District to provide a better high school education for our children. We would like the State Board of Education to allocate the funding necessary to expedite the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that is needed to move forward with our unification petition.

Our current high school arrangement with the Centinela Valley Union High School District is inadequate. Centinela does not provide good quality education and a secure learning environment for our children. Not only do Centinela's high schools continue to perform poorly on state standardized tests, but they have also had problems with violence on their campuses. A good high school experience and learning environment is critical to prepare students for college and a successful career.

We encourage the State Board of Education to provide the support and funding necessary to move quickly in granting the Wiseburn Community the opportunity to vote on our school district unification, so that our children can receive the education that they deserve. Please help us give our children a brighter future. We have patiently waited six long years.

Sincerely,

*Your name here
Address
City, State Zip*

Wiseburn Unification Status

Source: Citizens for a Wiseburn Unified School District website: www.geocities.com/unifywiseburn

Terry Hayes and Associates (TAHA) has begun the EIR process. We are currently in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) public scoping meeting phase. This is where TAHA and the Department of General Services explains to the community about the EIR process and allows the community to comment publicly. Please send your comments to the Department of General Services explaining your thoughts on how a new high school in Wiseburn will NOT negatively affect our environment or how it may have a positive effect on the environment. The comment period has been extended to April 30. You can submit your comments using one of the following methods below:

1. E-mail to wiseburn@webtaha.com
2. Fax letter to: 310-839-4201
3. Write letter to:
Ms Jane Hershberger, Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of General Services
Environmental Services Section
707 Third Street, Suite 3-400
West Sacramento, CA 95605-2811

The Notice of Preparation is posted at <http://webtaha.com/FTP/Formation.of.Wiseburn.Initial.Study.pdf>.

Wiseburn School Construction Facts and Figures

The information below on costs and timelines for rebuilding Dana and Cabrillo schools was provided by the Wiseburn School District. Representatives from the School District and the Construction Management firm, C.W. Driver will discuss these topics in more detail at the April 19 Hollyglen Homeowners Association meeting and answer questions from residents.

Construction of the New Dana School

- District has received \$5.7 million in state matching funds for Dana, in addition to \$2.6 million received for Anza and Burnett.
- Construction costs (including change orders) are under budget
- Construction is ahead of schedule, and the school is scheduled to open this September
- Tours of the new school for community members will begin in May

Rebuilding of Cabrillo School (facing 135th street)

- District has received approval to build from the Department of the State Architect
- District expects to receive \$4 million in State matching funds (if Measure A is approved)
- Construction (demolition, etc.) will begin this summer, if Measure A is approved
- Construction is expected to be completed by the fall of 2008 (if Measure A is approved and construction starts this summer)
- The current Dana construction management team will transition to the Cabrillo project if construction starts this summer

Measure A (Special Election on June 12th) will:

- Build a new Cabrillo Elementary School to replace the nearly 60-year old facility and provide all Wiseburn students with modern school facilities
- Qualify the District for \$4 million in State matching funds
- Require a taxpayers' oversight committee and annual audits
- Not increase annual tax rates (extends the existing voter approved tax rate from the year 2026 to 2036)

(See attached Measure A Factsheet for more information.)

Coming Events

April 22 – City of Hawthorne Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Hawthorne Memorial Center

May 17 – Hawthorne President’s Council Community BBQ Dinner at the Hawthorne Memorial Center
 - Fundraiser for the Hawthorne Police K-9 Program
 - Dinner served from 5:00 – 7:00pm (\$5.00 adults, \$2.50 children)
 - Raffle prizes until 8:00pm

Wiseburn Library Events: Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Public Library and the Friends of the Hawthorne Libraries. All programs are free and open to everyone.

April 21	10:00am	Story Writing contest awards presentations. Illustrated stories written by local children will be read aloud.
May 12	10:00am	The Magic of Tony Daniels returns to enthrall and amaze!
May 23	3:30 pm	Stephen Heneger tells stories of Urban Folklore to chill and thrill.
June 9	10:00am	Miss Bits’n’Bobs brings to life another interactive fairy tale.

About the Hollyglen Homeowners Association

The Hollyglen Homeowners Association is a volunteer organization that monitors what’s going on in and around our neighborhood and keeps Hollyglen residents informed. The Association holds General Membership (Community) meetings at least once per quarter as well as hosts an annual summer BBQ. Membership is open to all Hollyglen residents, whether you own or rent your home. Membership dues are \$10 per family per calendar year, and are used to pay Association expenses such as printing the Hollyglen Homeowners Association Newsletter, insurance for our community meetings at Dana School, P.O. Box and voicemail fees, corporation fees, etc. Only paid members can vote on HHA business. If you would like more information, please contact us at (310) 765-4802, send an email to HHABoard@hollyglen.info, or see the Association’s website: www.hollyglen.info.

Thank you to all the volunteers who deliver newsletters to your doorstep, and who serve on the Association’s Board of Officers.

2007 HHA Board of Officers:

President: Cindy Parsons	Secretary: Carla Cooper	Trustee: Mary Franklin
1st Vice President: Betty Anderson	Treasurer: Daniel Juarez	Trustee: Sue Gabriele
2nd Vice President: Dennis Wild		Trustee: Cherise Harris

Welcome Wagon: Sandy Hobbs and Carol Wilbanks

HHA Website: Jeff & Lisa Davidson

Hollyglen Homeowners Association Membership Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Please bring this membership form and a check for \$10 payable to “Hollyglen Homeowners Association” to the upcoming community meeting or mail to Hollyglen Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 1755, Hawthorne CA 90251-1755.

- I am willing to help deliver Homeowners Association newsletters on my street.
- I am interested in participating on the Homeowners Association Board or Committees

WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE "A" FACT SHEET

An election will be held in Wiseburn School District on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 and the District wants to make sure all voters have the facts. Wiseburn School District has provided K-8 education to the children of our neighborhoods for over 100 years. Over the last decade, student test scores have steadily increased. Our schools have received distinction and been named California Distinguished Schools and a "National School to Watch". After careful study and consideration, the School Board has placed Measure "A" on the June 12 ballot. The following are some commonly asked questions and their answers.

Q. What is Measure "A"?

- A.** Measure "A" is a General Obligation Bond Program that would authorize \$32.6 million in bonds for the Wiseburn School District. Specifically, the measure will:
- build a new Cabrillo Elementary School to replace the nearly 60-year old facility and provide all our students with the same high quality education
 - qualify the District for \$4 million in State matching funds
 - require annual audits and a taxpayers' oversight committee

Q. Why is Measure "A" needed?

- A.** Due to record inflation in construction costs, the District has not been able to rebuild Cabrillo Elementary School to replace the nearly 60 year old facility. We now need to make sure our children have the same high quality schools and classrooms.

Q. Didn't the District already pass a bond?

- A.** Voters in the District overwhelmingly approved school improvement measures in 1997 and 2000. Due to record inflation in construction costs over the last five years, those funds were only sufficient to rebuild Anza, renovate Burnett, and build a new Dana. Anza and Burnett have been completed and Dana will open this fall.

Q. Why did construction costs rise so much?

- A.** Construction costs are higher because there is an increased demand (particularly in China) for raw materials, especially steel, concrete and asphalt. Natural disasters in the U.S. (e.g., hurricanes), have also driven up demand for raw materials and labor. Housing market conditions have also driven up demand for construction services, especially for reputable, experienced firms who do quality work. Schools must also comply with a special set of enhanced building codes related to safety and the ability to withstand seismic shocks.

Q. How would the students benefit from Measure "A"?

- A.** Measure "A" will provide the necessary funding to rebuild Cabrillo Elementary School, which is almost 60 years old, and make sure all of our students have the same high quality schools and classrooms. A local measure will also make the District eligible to receive an estimated \$4 million in State-matching funds to help pay for these projects.

Q. How would the community benefit from Measure "A"?

- A.** A local funding measure would provide modern classrooms and a healthy, safe learning environment for all students in the District. The students would have the tools they need to develop into productive citizens. Safe and secure schools mean more focused and higher achieving students, which leads to a more desirable community and improved property values for all residents.

(OVER)

Q. What safeguards exist for taxpayers?

A. Measure “A” requires a taxpayers' oversight committee be created to ensure that funds are used only for voter-approved projects and not for administration or overhead. Additional safeguards include annual financial audits of monies raised for school improvements.

Q. What happens if Measure “A” fails?

A. Construction of Cabrillo Elementary would be further delayed, and the need to bring all of our schools up to the same high quality will continue to escalate with time. Continued deterioration of our classrooms and school facilities will result in more costly repairs in the future. Unless the District is able to qualify with its local share, the \$4 million in State funds would be allocated to neighboring districts or other districts throughout the State that do have the local match requirement.

Q. What can the District do with the bond money?

A. Under State Law, bond money can only be used to acquire, construct, or improve school facilities. All bond proceeds would be used locally in the District to make improvements to our schools and cannot be taken away by the State.

Q. What will Measure “A” cost taxpayers and how will it be assessed?

A. The current voter-approved annual tax rate in the District of \$62 per \$100,000 of assessed value of property is scheduled to end in 2026. Measure “A” would raise \$32.6 million by extending that voter-approved rate for 10 additional years. In addition, since large commercial and industrial properties comprise much of the value in the District, they would pay 80% of the cost of the project.

Q. What is assessed value and how is it different from market value?

A. Assessed valuation is the value placed on property by the County pursuant to Proposition 13 and is typically much lower than the market value for which a property may be sold.

Q. What about using lottery money for these projects?

A. Lottery money makes up less than 2% of the school district’s budget and can only be used for specific programs. By law, lottery money cannot be used for construction or repairs of school facilities.

Q. I don’t have kids in school, how would this Measure affect me?

A. Securing a local source of funding may have lasting, positive benefits to our community. It would maintain our schools as a center point of our community, improve the education provided to the children of our community, and improve the value of our homes.

Q. Who can vote on Measure “A”?

A. All the registered voters who live within the boundaries of the Wiseburn School District are eligible to vote on Measure “A”. Election Day is June 12, 2007.