



COTATI-ROHNERT PARK
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

Transition to a New System of Electing Board of Trustee Members

January 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to encourage your participation in an important process led by the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Starting on December 19, 2019, the District initiated the process of transitioning the method by which Governing Board members are elected. Under the current "at-large" system, all registered voters in the District's boundaries can vote for candidates for Board member seats. Under the new proposed system, candidates will be elected by "trustee areas." This means only voters within a given trustee area can vote for candidates who reside within that same area. The intent of this proposed system is to offer greater opportunities for Board representation for candidates that might not otherwise be elected under an at-large system.

Transitioning to this new system requires the Board to hold public hearings on proposed trustee area boundaries (or maps) prior to asking the Sonoma County Committee on School District Organization to approve the change. If the Committee approves the change, "by-trustee" area voting would be held starting with the 2020 general election, on *Tuesday, November 3, 2020*.

Before the District prepares and presents draft map options, the law requires the District to hold two public hearings to solicit comments and feedback regarding potential trustee areas. Thereafter, the District will be hosting a series of public hearings regarding the map options, once created. **The dates/times and locations of the upcoming public hearings are shown on the reverse side of this letter.** You are invited to attend as many as you would like. If you cannot attend a hearing or meeting and wish to review and/or comment regarding potential trustee areas as well as on the proposed "trustee area" maps, once created, please do not hesitate to submit your comments and feedback to the email address below. Following the initial public hearings, the proposed maps will be created and posted on the District's web site, www.crpUSD.org.

You may email any comments or questions to my attention at michael_watenpaugh@crpusd.org. You may also comment by telephone at (707) 792-4722. I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Watenpaugh
Interim Superintendent

Public Hearings (Prior to Creation of Map Options)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 <i>Public Hearing</i>	District Office - Board Room 7165 Burton Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 <i>Public Hearing</i>	District Office - Board Room 7165 Burton Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928	6:00 p.m.

Public Hearings (After Creation of Map Options)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 <i>Public Hearing</i>	District Office - Board Room 7165 Burton Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 27, 2020 <i>Public Hearing</i>	District Office - Board Room 7165 Burton Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 <i>Public Hearing</i>	District Office - Board Room 7165 Burton Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928	6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Board vote on trustee area boundaries to follow third Public Hearing: On March 10, 2020, in the District Office - Board Room located at 7165 Burton Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 at 6:00 p.m.