

RESOLUTION NO. 19-086

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF CATSKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE APPROVAL BY THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVING THE CO-LOCATION OF A PRIVATE CHARTER SCHOOL ON THEIR CAMPUS

WHEREAS, Proposition 39, The Smaller Classes, Safer Schools and Financial Accountability Act of 2000 (“Prop. 39”) is a state law passed by California voters in 2000, which requires school districts to make facilities (including both classroom and non-classroom spaces) available to public charter schools serving students who reside in the district; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 39 amended Section 47614 of the California Education Code, which declared the intent of the people that public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils, including those in charter schools; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of Prop. 39, each school district must make available, to each eligible charter school operating in the district, facilities sufficient for the charter school to accommodate all of its in-district students in conditions reasonably equivalent to those in which the students would be accommodated if they were attending other public schools of the district; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD”) determined that Prop. 39 established that charter school students that live within LAUSD boundaries are entitled to space at the LAUSD district schools they would have otherwise attended; and, that all Los Angeles County residents, including parents of charter school students, pay rent/property taxes that go towards LAUSD facilities; and, therefore, charter schools’ in-district students are legally entitled to space on LAUSD campuses; and

WHEREAS, each year LAUSD must undergo a space identification process to meet Proposition 39 facilities requests submitted by charter schools; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 LAUSD received a proposal from GANAS Academy to co-locate on the campus of Catskill Elementary School in the City of Carson, and teachers at Catskill Elementary School were notified of the request on December 13, 2018 under the provisions of Prop. 39; and

WHEREAS, Catskill Elementary School has served students in Carson for 71 years as a public school; and

WHEREAS, under Section 47614 and its own policies LAUSD offered GANAS Academy the Catskill Elementary School site on February 26; and

WHEREAS, Catskill Elementary School currently has 522 students, 30% of whom are English Language Learners and 90% of whom qualify for Federal Title 1 funding, and the parents and teachers at Catskill Elementary School believe the co-location of a private Charter School will destabilize the learning environment of a demographically challenged but improving school; and

WHEREAS, the parents and teachers at Catskill Elementary School believe the facilities analysis of the school conducted by LAUSD, which determined sufficient unutilized or underutilized classrooms, is flawed, as these rooms contribute to the enrichment of the school as computer or science labs, are used for mental health services or interventions, and as art spaces, and the co-location of a private Charter School will contribute to loss or diminishment of these services and denigrate the resources and facilities, and produce a negative effect on the quality of education of Catskill Elementary School students, and ultimately a decline in enrollment; and

WHEREAS, a decline in enrollment at Catskill Elementary School could result in the further loss of teachers, Federal Title 1 funding, and other LAUSD resources; and

WHEREAS, LAUSD has received thousands of signatures from the Carson community opposing this action, and parents and teachers have petitioned the City on behalf of students at Catskill Elementary School for support of their position prior to the May 1, 2019 deadline for GANAS Academy to accept the LAUSD offer of the facility and entering into an agreement for the space.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Carson, California supports the parents, teachers and students of Catskill Elementary School in their opposition to LAUSD's decision to co-locate GANAS Academy, a private charter school, on their campus.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 26th day of April 2019.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sunny K. Soltani, City Attorney