



Santa Barbara SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Date: March 24, 2009
To: Board of Education
From: J. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent
Subject: Discussion on Possible Name Change for the Santa Barbara High School District

Conference Agenda

Background

The board of education heard a proposal on renaming the high school district at the January 27, 2009 board meeting. There are two issues involved:

- The name should convey inclusion of the other south coast communities so that the public recognizes (e.g. on ballot initiatives) that the district includes communities from Goleta through Montecito.
- The name should convey inclusion of junior high students, not just grades 9-12.

Issue

The district is a joint resolution district combining both the elementary and high school districts under the title "Santa Barbara School Districts." Most of our recognition and correspondence is under the broader, frequently used title, "Santa Barbara School Districts." Technical titles for the elementary and high school districts are also used in specific areas such as CBEDs data, state testing, property ownership, and ballot initiatives involving property taxes (e.g. bond levies and parcel taxes).

Most districts in the state (and our county) are configured as elementary districts with grades K-8, high school districts with grades 9-12, or unified districts. This adds to the confusion about our districts. In addition, only a handful of districts across the state combine an elementary district (Santa Barbara Elementary District is just one of five elementary feeder districts) with the larger high school district under a common administration and a common board. The configuration provides considerable articulation between what might otherwise be separate elementary and high school districts and it saves considerable administrative expenses that might otherwise be duplicated for separate elementary and high school districts. But, it is poorly understood by the general public. More descriptive titling for the high school district may be an advantage to the district.

Plan

Santa Barbara School Districts will benefit from a more descriptive title for the high school district. I am recommending that the name be changed to something more descriptive such as the following:

- Santa Barbara, Goleta, Montecito Secondary School District
- Santa Barbara South Coast Secondary School District
- Santa Barbara Area Secondary School District
- Greater Santa Barbara Secondary School District