

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Trustee Areas Community Engagement Update
September 20, 2019

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District (“MDUSD” or “School District”) has been engaged in the process of transition from at-large to by-area elections for members of its Governing Board. As part of this process, MDUSD and its consultant, Cooperative Strategies, have been engaged in a process to solicit input from the community on draft scenarios developed for these voting areas.

On August 14, the initial scenarios—Red, Blue, and Green—were posted on the MDUSD website in advance of the first seven community meetings that occurred from August 21, 2019 through August 29, 2019. Based on the comments received at those meetings, two additional scenarios—Purple and Pink—were developed and posted to the School District’s website on September 10, 2019 in advance of a community input meeting at Meadow Homes Elementary School on September 11, 2019. Following that meeting modifications were made to Scenario Purple that resulted in a new scenario—Purple A—that was posted to the MDUSD website on September 13, 2019.

Over the course of the eight community input meetings, a total of 105 people attended the meetings based on the sign-in sheets that were at each meeting. The table below identifies the number of participants who signed in at each meeting.

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
8/21/2019	Loma Vista Adult School	11
8/21/2019	Willow Creek Center	5
8/21/2019	Pleasant Hill Middle School	10
8/22/2019	Foothill Middle School	9
8/22/2019	Pine Hollow Middle School	8
8/29/2019	District Office	7
8/29/2019	Riverview Middle School	5
9/11/2019	Meadow Home Elementary	50

Participants received an overview of the process and scenarios prior to opening up for questions and discussion in the group setting. At each meeting, participants were asked to provide written comments so that those could be shared with the Board. Those comments, along with emailed comments that were sent through the School District's website, are included in the pages that follow. Since most of the comments were received prior to the release of Scenarios Purple, Pink, and Purple A, any tallies of preferences for a particular scenario may not be conclusive given the additional scenarios that were prepared as a result of the initial feedback.

Beyond the written comments, the general themes of the verbal comments from the seven initial meetings—which led to the creation of the three additional scenarios—can be summarized as follows:

- Preference for keeping the Monument Corridor in one trustee area as opposed to dividing across multiple areas and linking that area to areas of North Concord as opposed to the areas of Walnut Creek as identified in Scenario Green
- Preference for keeping Pleasant Hill from being divided north-south
- Preference for not using Clayton Valley Road as a dividing line with a suggestion of using Ygnacio Valley Road as dividing line instead
- Some discussion of equalizing the number of schools in each area where possible

Below and on the following pages, please find all the written comments received at the meetings as well as comments received via email.

August 21, 2019 – Loma Vista Adult School

1. Include Mt. Diablo High and Ygnacio Valley High in the same area.
2. Green Map trustee 3 south boundary stop at treat or water canal – expand trustee to highway 4 and Port Chicago.
3. We attached map suggestions for Area 3. We would like to see it covering more of the densely Latino populated areas.
4. The proposed trustee area will keep the Concord Latino area in one area with its own representation. Two incumbents living close together in W.C. will /may be forced into the same area. Clayton should end up with one area.

5. See attached map. Start with precincts. Expand monument area to include 1 precinct south by Fair Oaks and Mohr Lane then go north to include Holbrook and Hillcrest and Sun Terrace. Shift Bay Point into Pacheco. Shift Pleasant Hill into Walnut Creek. Allow population to vary by 10%.

August 21, 2019 – Pleasant Hill Middle School

1. Please expect a letter from League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley (LWVDV) stating our own position on district elections, which was developed by LWV California.
2. Look initially at what high school feeder pattern areas look like.
3. Please consider keeping the voting lines along feeder patterns and don't split towns. People in Pleasant Hill are also very concerned that some of these maps will lead to changing the feeder patterns (think gray area).
4. In looking at the maps, my immediate concern would be feeder patterns broken up and that the district would then re-draw the lines of school attendance based on those lines.

August 22, 2019 – Pine Hollow Middle School

1. I like a scenario in which the minority and the city of Concord are represented well. I believe Scenario Green does that.
2. I think the boundaries must be diverse in nature. Making sure that board members have a diverse view and understand district's points of view.
3. I am concerned if we create trustee areas that encompass only one or a couple of cities with similar demographics, that it may create an equity issue for our districts, so I like Red.
4. Trustee area Red looks more racially balanced than the other scenarios.

August 29, 2019 – District Office Board Room

1. I like the focus on each map that Bay Point has its area, so they are guaranteed an opportunity to elect their own trustee. I like the concept of boundaries that have a more compact area unlike Green. I like the concept of mixing the boundaries where there is more cross-conversation of neighborhoods. I vote for Blue map. I live in the Woodlands.

2. I would like to see the scenarios overlap communities like in Red – I will keep reviewing all maps to get a better feel for all. Thank you!
3. We want the districts new to show a diversity of socio-economic backgrounds of students. Not just a Pleasant Hill or Walnut Creek only as an example.
4. It is important to me that each trustee area represents a diverse population. I do not want to see very homogenous groupings. For example, I would like to see “communities of interest” represented in more than one trustee area, rather than contained in one area. Using the Monument Corridor as an example, Scenario Blue has 3 trustees touching that area. By contrast, Scenario Green has it completely in one trustee area. For the Monument Corridor area, I prefer Scenario Blue.

August 29, 2019 – Riverview Middle School

1. I like Scenario Blue because it keeps the Mt. Diablo feeder pattern as a trustee area.
2. It’s important to have a rep that understands the community. Scenario Red has two very different communities (Bay Point and Concord). That could be good, but they really need to understand the community/culture.

September 11, 2019 – Meadow Homes ES

1. I’m really concerned about the divisions; I want my community to be really represented and take into consideration when it comes to our needs. We need representation, we need to have representatives who understand, but most importantly a representative who cares about our needs and the divisions can help or affect negatively who represents us. Also, I don’t think it is fair that the voters who may not have kids in the school anymore, choose who the representatives are. It should be the parents, it’s just fair.
2. Feeder schools should be within the boundaries. What the community values to within the community should be considered more heavily than forums to discuss already determined options – where was input prior? I would like to know if the existing board requested this change to be explored and how much money is this district paying for this process. Who has the final say in the board’s new areas? I sure hope it is not the board. If paying for this process takes money from our schools, will it be replaced?

3. We need visibility and representation in the school district. None of these proposals reflect the Monument Community. You all must consider that the voters being placed within the Monument schools do not represent the Monument. That is the main concern with the proposals. Thank you.
4. Thank you for the information. I would like you to provide all of the information regarding the maps in detail and I would like the schools to give better information to the parents about future meetings on time. I would like to know the benefits to the students in making these divisions and if the representatives that are elected, know the communities they could represent. Explain the election process. Can the presenter speak louder?
5. My suggestion is that Concord is kept together as much as possible because the needs are very great for our community and students. We need a representative from this community who knows what we need, to walk through our schools and we also want them to show us larger and more specific graphics to understand how everything works. We want to know where they put the funding to cover all these expenses.
6. My suggestion is that Concord is kept together as much as possible because the needs of our student community is great, different and specific so we need a representative from this specific community. We would like more visual representation so we can understand how all this works. Concord United please. Thank you.
7. I would like these divisions to be made in a manner where my four children have the benefits they need and are heard. I think it would be fair if the voters elect representatives for the districts if not, the parents. Thank you.
8. Thank you for the opportunity. My comment is that you have equality in the district of Concord, like the surrounding cities for a better education for our children. I would like for them to elect a representative from Concord who knows the needs of our schools equally.
9. Of all the suggestions, none are good for the needs of the Latino community We need representation in our community. Even though we are not citizens we would like to be able to vote because we have children that attend the school. Thank you.

10. As a parent, I would like for my opinion to matter when it comes to decisions, we don't have the right to vote but I'm hoping this will change and that our opinion will matter. I am a parent and my vote counts. Thank you.
11. The decisions that are being made do not benefit the schools of Concord and don't reflect the needs of our schools and students. We would like to have a representative from our city that understands our needs and allows us to vote even if we are not citizens, we know that since we pay taxes we have the right to support our children and have the right to vote. Thank you.
12. It is illogical that only people who can vote are able to do so. I believe that everything would be fairer if those who voted were the parents of the children the candidates are going to represent. I understand that at this moment this may not be possible, but it would be fair for this process to be more effective. Only the parents of the students should have the right to choose who will bring their voice and that of their children to the school district.

MDUSD Website Emails

1. The scenario blue looks least gerrymandered even with the population variance. I prefer it. Select a new trustee if need be, but don't gerrymander a map just for one person's sake.
2. I think the green area map is the most diverse and inclusive map. I think it is the most fair and balanced representation that there is.
3. The blue map is the best in my opinion for proper representation. The green map takes a small amount of the Hidden Valley community, between Arnold drive and Midhill, and puts it in with Concord. That neighborhood has a lot more commonalities with the area surrounding HVE. It seems most logical to keep high school attendance areas together.
4. No on green!!! Red and Blue both have benefits. Either will work for me. Red seems to be divided more by school communities and feeder schools, while blue seems to provide a better economic spread of wealth.
5. Makes more sense to have feeder schools and their high school and middle school together
6. Green map, please. Most closely aligns my neighborhood with similar areas.
7. I don't really like any of them but if I had to pick between the 3 of them, I would pick the Green Scenario.

8. After reviewing the three proposed By-Trustee Area maps, I believe that the Green Map would provide the best representation for MDUSD. As a family that has attended and lived in various areas of the MDUSD boundaries, I think it is important that each district accurately represent its residents as well as our geographic area as a whole. I believe that having schools at similar socioeconomic levels represented in a district will allow for the needs of those students to be heard more, rather than be overshadowed by potentially more affluent schools, whose parents are able to devote more time to public service, and therefore advocate more for their own students' needs.
9. I prefer Green, with a second choice of blue.
10. Thank you for the presentation at Willow Creek on 21 August 2019 concerning the Mount Diablo Unified School District Conceptual Trustee Areas. I would like to make the following observations:
 - a. Scenario Red Area 1 splits the city of Clayton and combines two of its neighborhoods north of Oakhurst Drive with the Bay Point/Pittsburg areas approximately eight miles away. This seems to be counter to concept of compactness. Socially, many people in Clayton hold an animosity toward the Pittsburg/Bay Point area and wrongly believe it is the source of all crime in Clayton. Trustee Areas 3 and 4 split the Monument Corridor/ Four Corners neighborhoods which weaken the underrepresented populations there while attaching areas of more economically advanced and politically active sections of Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. I believe Scenario Red results in disenfranchisement of underrepresented ethnic and lower economic populations of Concord. Additionally, the splitting of Pleasant Hill, North and South in Areas 2 and 3, will reopen feelings against the District rooted in the closing of Pleasant Hill High School in the 1970's. (I know it was over forty years ago, but many of the residents hold this resentment. It was used effectively in 1998 to lead a revolt against the District and have a College Park Principal removed.) The City of Pleasant Hill has a strong Education Committee which has an impact far greater than their population.
 - b. Scenario Green Area 5 maintains the integrity of Clayton and combines it with a more natural socio-economic area of concord north of Clayton Road. The Pittsburg homes South of Highway 4 are still geographically

detached but tends to connect through Baily Road. Anecdotal information indicates students and parents see a greater connection to Concord high than Mt. Diablo High from this area. Although Area 2 is compact and will make most residents of the area happy, Areas 1 and 3 again weaken the underrepresented area in the Monument Corridor. At our session a suggestion for area three was put forth that seemed to create a desirable outcome for that population was put forth.

- c. Borders Suggested: Area 3 Highway 4 from Highway 680 to port Chicago Highway, Port Chicago Highway from Highway 4 to Clayton Road. Bart Tracks from Clayton Road to Oak Grove Road, Oak Grove Road to Treat Blvd, Treat to Bancroft, Bancroft to Mayhew, and Mayhew to Highway 680, Highway 680 to Highway 4. Area 2 would be North of Oak Park and West of Highway 680 to include Martinez and Pacheco. Area 4 would now include former Area 2 South of Oak Park combined with former Area 3 South of Treat and with Area 4 South of Ygnacio Valley Road terminating at the Crystal Ranch Neighborhood. Area 1 would need to pick up population, and Pittsburg South of Highway 4, and/or the City of Concord bounded by Willow Pass Road, Farm Bureau Road Clayton to Babel Land, and Babel Lane to Cowell ending at Monument Blvd. are logical. Area 5 could expand across Clayton Road and North of Ygnacio Valley Road as needed to balance population.
 - d. Scenario Blue Areas 2, 3 and 4 all divide the monument Corridor/four Corners neighborhoods and compound the sins of Red and Green. Again, the area of this Area 3 South of Oak Park, Mayhew and Treat could combine with Area 5 that would be ended after Crystal Ranch neighborhood to the East. Clayton and Clayton Highlands would be combined with Area 4 in the City of Concord. Using the boundaries suggested for Scenario Green (above) Area 1 Pittsburg, Bay Point and some North Concord. Area 2 North Pleasant Hill, Martinez, and Pacheco. Area 3 Walnut Creek and South Pleasant Hill, Area 4 Concord Monument and some of North Concord. Area 5 Clayton and South Concord.
11. Thank you for hosting the MDUSD community meeting at Foothill Middle School last week. It was a shame that more people could not attend. I'm afraid not many in the community are aware that this change is happening. I

appreciated your articulate explanations of the process and reasons behind this transition. I also appreciated that you seemed to have listened to other communities who were concerned about staying intact for the purpose of electing a trustee. I think that those of us who are citizens of both MDUSD and the City of Walnut Creek, feel the same way about our community. Please see the attached Comment Form and Map to understand a possible proposal that would remedy this concern.

12. I think the green area map is the most diverse and inclusive map. I think it is the most fair and balanced representation that there is.
13. Vote for Blue.
14. I vote for Blue.
15. I prefer the red model.
16. Prefer Green districts.
17. The plans presented are terrible! I don't approve of splitting out the feeder schools from their anchor high school. I think it causes mismatch of priorities and misalignment of the represented area. I think the representatives should be elected to represent the area feeding each high school in the district.
18. Nothing is great, but red is the most fair option for Holbrook.
19. The remapping of trustee areas is so random and is in complete opposition of the intent of change - which is to provide a local voice. Trustee areas should be aligned to include geographical feeder area for each high school and its feeder schools.
20. Our family would like to see the Trustee Area Pink Map choice.
21. If the 3 maps are the only options, I support the Green scenario and am strongly opposed to the Red and Blue scenarios. I, and so many of my neighbors and residents of Pleasant Hill, should be allowed to vote for the board member that is going to represent the schools that our children attend. I do not understand why on two of the maps, I would not be able to vote for the person who represents the concerns of College Park High School - MY concerns. I would like to know that the trustee for my area is interested and willing to pursue the betterment of the schools that my children will be attending and if I am not even allowed to vote for the trustee who serves over the schools that my child attends that is ridiculous. I urge you to go with the Green scenario and help serve the needs of each community. I should be allowed to vote for the

person who is going to be making decisions related to the schools that my children attend. As a side note, this has been very poorly publicized as I would guess the majority of the public who does not have children currently attending MDUSD schools probably knows nothing about this initiative or the fact that in the future they may not be able to vote for the board members that will represent the schools in their area. Thank you for your consideration.

22. I like the blue scenario, as it appears to involve a more equitable distribution for the area I live in (the other scenarios seem to be divided a bit more along "have" and "have not" lines).
23. I prefer the Green map. I like the way it keeps Pleasant Hill together as a community (my children attended Pleasant Hill schools for part of their school years). I like the way it keeps Mt Diablo HS connected to its feeder area in East County. I like using Clayton Road as a dividing point through Concord but keeping Clayton together. People care about neighborhoods even if school attendance areas don't exactly match and this map is best for that. Keeping Monument area together is also good.
24. I like the Red map. It gives the people in North Concord a voice.
25. I am against this transition.
26. The green map scenario is the closest to the way I think the boundaries should be drawn. Each area covers the home high school(s) and feeder school based on an address. The only exception I see and would recommend changing is the small portion of the yellow (area 1) between Contra Costa Blvd & 680, should be green (area 2). The residents on these streets in Pleasant Hill go to College Park.