

From: Roskruge Parents <roskrugek8bilingualedmagnet@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 6, 2019 9:11 PM

To: adelitagrijalva@gmail.com <adelitagrijalva@gmail.com>; ms.sedgwick@gmail.com <ms.sedgwick@gmail.com>; markstegeman@gmail.com <markstegeman@gmail.com>; leila.counts@tusd1.org <leila.counts@tusd1.org>; kristel.foster@tusd1.org <kristel.foster@tusd1.org>; wdh@umd.edu <wdh@umd.edu>

Subject: Parents' Request to Retain Roskruge's K-8 Bilingual Magnet School Status and its K-5 Neighborhood Boundaries

Governing Board Members, Special Master Hawley, and Unitary Status Plan Implementation Committee:

We are a group of parents who have attempted to stay informed about the school our children attend: **Roskruge K-8 Bilingual Education Magnet School**. Information about the changes being made to the bilingual/dual language program, our school's magnet status, and our school's boundaries did not occur until the Roskruge PTA asked for a meeting in January 2019. Then we were bombarded with meetings that dealt with each issue separately (the dual language program, neighborhood boundaries, and magnet status). We heard the same information repeated at each Roskruge meeting by the TUSD attorney who facilitated the meetings and the various administrators who assisted him, although these individuals insisted that the issues were distinct.

Some of us attended the Boundary Committee meetings and were so happy to see that the majority of its members voted against removing the K-5 boundaries from Roskruge. Will their work and vote go ignored?

The information that was presented throughout all of the meetings was confusing and frustrating. Sometimes the individuals providing the information contradicted each other, which added more confusion.

Many of us have been treated with lack of respect and dignity because of our opposition to what is being recommended by the Administration. We have also seen others treated very poorly and disparaging remarks about individuals by the facilitator have been made once these individuals are not present. We all know this is unprofessional and it sends a message about how those who disagree with TUSD's position will be treated if they speak up. There were times that children/students were in attendance at these meetings. We are disappointed in the way that the issues involving OUR school have been handled. Our input was never valued (it was put down.) Some of us believe that teachers have been pitted against one another as well as against parents and even against students based on their lack of Spanish proficiency. The entire process has been divisive and it has weakened the school.

On our behalf, the attached letter requests that the Governing Board retain Roskruge as a magnet school and that the Roskruge K-5 neighborhood boundaries be retained as they exist.

Clear, honest, and dignified communication is needed at Roskruge and parents need to be engaged in the decisions impacting their children from the beginning and not after a consultant and a few administrators make all of the decisions.

As interested and engaged parents we hope that you will give our voice serious consideration. It has not been heard elsewhere in the District.

Sincerely,

Roskruge K-8 Bilingual Magnet School Parents

Tucson Unified School District Governing Board Members
1010 East 10th Street
Tucson, AZ

**RE: Roskruge Parents' Request to RETAIN Roskruge K-8
Magnet Bilingual School as a MAGNET School**

Dear TUSD Governing Board Members:

As parents of students attending Roskruge K-8 Bilingual Magnet School, this is to inform you of our very strong opposition to any Board action to remove the magnet status from Roskruge K-8 Bilingual Magnet School (Roskruge) and to request that the Board **RETAIN the school's classification as a magnet school**. We believe this is important in having the school stand out beyond its dual language instructional offerings and to support efforts in the school's integration. It is important for the Governing Board to recognize that a major draw to Roskruge is based on its magnet status, as is its dual language program. We know that one does not need to be sacrificed for the other. We have begun to see the elimination of the word "magnet" and we request that all signage, advertisement, stationery, TUSD webpage, posters, mascot art, etc., which references the school use the following: Roskruge **Magnet K-8 Bilingual School**.

The February 26, 2019 court order deferred to allow TUSD to determine whether to end Roskruge's magnet status, which means that **the destiny of Roskruge as a magnet school is in the policy hands of the Board**. The court order also references that the dual language instruction and magnet status can be at odds with each other. We strongly disagree with this position and believe that the Court has been gravely misinformed. It is magnet schools, such as Davis and Roskruge Bilingual Magnet Schools that have most fostered bilingual/dual language programs in TUSD and with appropriate effort, Roskruge should be integrated for both programmatic and desegregation reasons, as is now the case for Davis. To this point, the information and efforts to address integration have not been visible or known to Roskruge parents.

As Roskruge K-8 Bilingual Magnet School parents, we believe that it is important for Governing Board Members to be made aware about the confusion that we have experienced in dealing with the current threat of having the school's magnet status removed; the changes that have occurred in the dual language program/model at Roskruge; and the proposed changes to the school's boundary. There has been great frustration and disappointment over the manner that parents have received information about these very important issues. These issues were not requested to be placed on the Roskruge Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or Site Council agendas by the school's Principal, the only school organizations which give voice to parents. This indicates a lack of initiative in informing parents and places no value in our input.

During the December 2018 PTA meeting, those present were informed by the Roskruge Principal that the school was losing its magnet status and that it was a 'done deal.' However, it was not a formal discussion, since the item had not been placed on the agenda. It was during this same time period that an article appeared in the Arizona Daily Star on December 22, 2018 that informed many parents about the potential loss of our school's magnet status. Parents should not learn about critical issues pertaining to the school their children attend in these ways.

Many parents became aware of changes that were being made to the dual language program a few months into the first semester of the school year. This was mostly through what our children were sharing with us. In January the PTA felt compelled to request the Interim Director of the Language Acquisition Department to provide a presentation on the changes being made to the program and a meeting was scheduled on January 28, 2019 for her to do this. Had it not been for the initiation of parents in asking to become informed on the topic, it is not clear that it would have ever occurred.

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The PTA request spurred on a number of meetings addressing two topics: The Two-Way Dual Language (TWDL) model that is in the process of being implemented at the school and the District's proposed boundary change for Roskruge. As indicated, parents have just recently learned about these matters. Parents have had no input into the TWDL model and we have learned that while Roskruge teachers have been "informed" about the new TWDL model only two have had some input into the model. It is not clear that these teachers agree with the way the model has unfolded. For example, during the first semester some middle school students who are not yet proficient in Spanish were placed in full-Spanish immersion core classes. When effort was made by students and/or parents to transfer into other classes they were told by the administration that a transfer was not possible. Several students failed these classes and as we see it, were set up for failure. This change in the TWDL model came without notice to parents and obviously adversely harmed some students. The top-down approach that has been imposed at Roskruge works against the concept of parent engagement and involvement in the decision-making process impacting our children. We also believe that it is critical that there be buy-in by teachers, beyond a token level, by involving them in matters such as the development of a dual language model and its effective implementation.

Parents only learned about the District's recommendation to change the Roskruge boundary within the last several weeks. We were informed that Boundary Committee meetings would take place and have discovered that only two Roskruge parents serve on the Committee. Neither the PTA or Site Council were involved in recommending the designated parents. At least one meeting was held at the same time as the PTA meeting which prohibited some parents from attending. We oppose eliminating the currently designated neighborhood and recommend that the Roskruge boundary remain as it is presently. This is particularly true for the Old Pascua neighborhood which lost its neighborhood school nine years ago when Richey Elementary was closed. Repeating this action would go beyond showing a lack of respect for the community. Community Leaders have expressed their community's voice to retain Roskruge as their neighborhood school.

The topic of the school's magnet status has been discussed only as a result of responding to questions raised by those in attendance at either the dual-language model presentation meetings or at the Boundary Committee meetings. We believe that it has been a major mistake for TUSD to present information to parents (and teachers) in a way that attempts to detach issues that are actually merged together. This has resulted in a great deal of confusion which has resulted in even greater frustration. We have had more central administrators and legal counsel present at our meetings than we have ever experienced, yet the Magnet School Director has never been part of any meeting. This demonstrates how off-topic the issue of our school's magnet status has been. Nonetheless, imagine if anything near to this type of central administration staff involvement with Roskruge parents and teachers had occurred when the District was first informed that Roskruge was at risk of losing its magnet because of its lacking progress in the area of integration. Parents, and especially those of us who have had several children attend Roskruge, would have become much more engaged in promoting integration and would not have stood by for a full school year without first recognizing and then questioning why the magnet coordinator position was left vacant. If we had known about the school's magnet plan and its integration deficiencies, we would have demanded the hiring of a magnet coordinator early on in the school year- last school year and from our vantage point it was allowed remain vacant by all levels of the institution.

As the saying goes, information is power, and as you can detect, Roskruge parents have not been well informed or empowered. This confusing and frustration-filled situation should never be allowed to reoccur at any school.

Once again, we respectfully request that the Board do all within its Governing authority to **RETAIN the magnet status of Roskruge K-8 Bilingual MAGNET School and to also RETAIN its current designated neighborhood.**

Sincerely,

Roskruge K-8 Magnet Bilingual School Parents

Courtney Lavaty Courtney Lavaty 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

OCTAVIO BOJORQUEZ Octavio Bojorquez 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

DENISE J. TEJON Denise Tejon 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

Becky Mendibles Becky Mendibles 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

Rayna Ballesteros Rayna Ballesteros 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

Michelle Santa Cruz Michelle Santa Cruz 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

RODOLFO BALBUENA Rodolfo Balbuena 3/8/19

Print Name Signature Date

Dale Lopez Dale Lopez 3/23/19

Print Name Signature Date

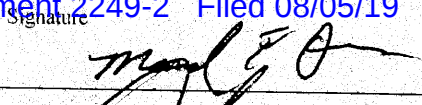
Anthony Delgado Anthony Delgado 3/23/19

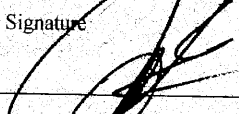
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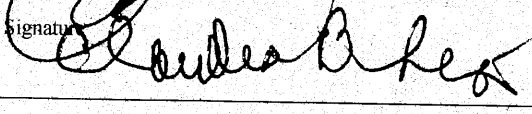
M. JESSIE LOPEZ M. Jessie Lopez 3/23/19

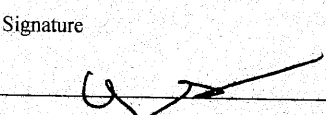
Print Name Signature Date


Ophelia M. Ochoa Ophelia M. Ochoa 3/27/19

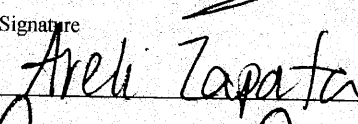
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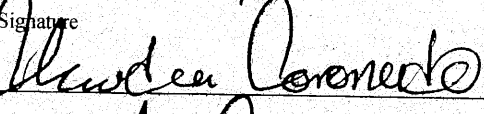
Print Name: Claudia A. Oros / Signature:  / Date: 3/28/19

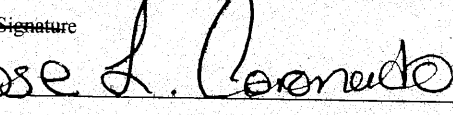
Print Name: Claudia B. Leon / Signature:  / Date: 3/27/19

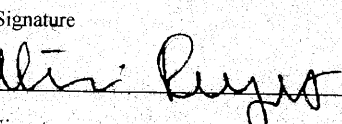
Print Name: Yvette Lee / Signature:  / Date: 3-27-19

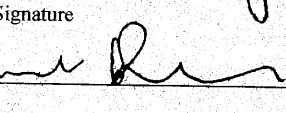
Print Name: Ricardo L. Gomez / Signature:  / Date: 3-27-19

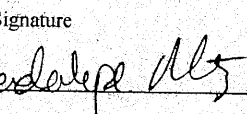
Print Name: Areli Zapata / Signature:  / Date: 4, 8-19

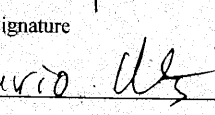
Print Name: Claudia Coronado / Signature:  / Date: 5, 2/19


Print Name: Jose L. Coronado / Signature:  / Date: 5, 2/19

Print Name: Celinis Reyes / Signature:  / Date: 5/8/19

Print Name: Dexter Duncan / Signature:  / Date: 5/8/19

Print Name: Guadalupe Martinez / Signature:  / Date: 5/9/19

Print Name: Mario Martinez / Signature:  / Date: 5/9/19

Print Name: Diane M. Gomez / Signature:  / Date: 5/9/19

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