

NENC Education Committee Meeting Minutes January 6, 2021

1. **Call to Order.** 5:04
2. **Roll Call and determination of a quorum. Members of the committee: Adam Brown (Alternate), Rafael De La Rosa, Anthony Forsmark, Joe Kozul, Betsy Manchester, Christopher Meredith, Carl Petersen (Chair).**

De La Rosa, Manchester, Meredith, and Petersen were present.

The following six items were from the November 2020 agenda. Due to a Zoom glitch, the public was unable to participate in the meeting so they needed to be heard again. The minutes from the November meeting can be found at https://nenc-la.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/EducationM_2020-11-04.pdf.

3. **Approve Minutes from the October 2020 meeting. Can be found at <https://bit.ly/37V26vH>.**

Manchester moved to approve, Meredith seconded. Passed 4-0-0

4. **Update on call for a moratorium on new PROP-39 co-locations of charter schools on public school campuses during the COVID-19 crisis and motion from this committee.**
5. **Status of payments on bills sent by LAUSD to charter schools for Prop-39 co-locations where the actual number of students was less than the charter school estimated.**
6. **Discuss LAUSD's Grab and Go program and Board Member Scott Schmerelson's request that the City of Los Angeles reimburse the school district for meals served to adults as part of this program including related motion passed by this committee.**
7. **Update on NPG requested by Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action.**
8. **Update on NPG requested by Darby Avenue Elementary PTA.**
9. **Discussion on the results of yesterday's (November 3, 2020) election.**

10. **Approve Minutes from the December 2020 meeting. Can be found at <https://bit.ly/3o3FKgD>.**

Meredith moved to approve, De La Rosa seconded. Passed 4-0-0

11. **Public Comments from stakeholders for non-agenda items.**

There was no comment from the one member of the public who was present.

12. **Comments/Reports from Representatives of Public Officials: LAUSD BD 3 (Tara Vahdani).**

Tare Vahdani let us know in advance that she would not be able to attend.

13. Update and discussion on the motion sent to the NENC Board: “The NENC is concerned about the harm being caused to LAUSD students by charter schools improperly using the PROP-39 colocation process and urge the City of Los Angeles to do everything possible to assist the LAUSD in recouping funds owed to them and to identify fraud.”
<https://bit.ly/3mX6gqV>

The NENC board passed the motion unanimously. A letter has been sent to the HENPAR committee of the Los Angeles City Council. No reply has been received.

14. Discuss LAUSD’s Grab and Go program and Board Member Scott Schmerelson’s request that the City of Los Angeles reimburse the school district for meals served to adults as part of this program.

No update has been provided.

15. Discuss the possibility of encouraging an NPG to provide sports equipment as part of the Grab and Go program.

Tabled until a future meeting.

16. Update on NPG requested by Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action.

The NPG is ready to be submitted for funding.

17. Update on updated NPG requested by Darby Avenue Elementary PTA.

The NENC Board approved the updated NPG. The funding request form is in the process of being completed.

18. Discussion about LAUSD Board President Kelly Gonez’s decision to turn down Board Member Scott Schmerelson’s request to reinstate Parent Engagement and Special Education Committees.

Committees were suspended when the district declared an emergency due to COVID-19 in March.

One of the first actions by newly-elected Board President Kelly Gonez was to announce that this suspension would continue.

In response, Scott Schmerelson asked for the two committees that he chairs, Special Education and Parent Engagement, to be reinstated. Ms. Gonez turned down this request saying that staff is too busy to contribute to these meetings.

19. Consider forwarding the following motion to be sent to the NENC Board: “The NENC encourages the City of Los Angeles to request that the LAUSD encourage stakeholder participation by reinstating the Parent Engagement and Special Education Committees.”

Manchester moved to approve, Meredith seconded. Passed 4-0-0

20. Set date and location for the next meeting and receive ideas for future agenda items.

February 3 at 5:00

21. Adjournment 5:25

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
California

Executive Committee

Glenn Bailey — President
Don Dwigins — 1st VP
Ken Ross — 2nd VP
Stephanie Mills — Secretary
Mike Kaiser — Treasurer



Board Members

Philip Dagort
Anthony Forsmark
Carl Petersen
(vacant) — Business/Employee
Rafael De La Rosa — Appointed CSUN Faculty/Staff
Sahara Damon — Appointed CSUN Student
(vacant) — Appointed Youth
Alternates: Christopher Meredith, (2 vacant)

Judy Diamond
Barry Goldberg
Lisa Zaroff



Northridge East Neighborhood Council
Making Northridge a Better Place to Live, Work, Play and Learn

December 21, 2020

Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, and River Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: The NENC requests that the City Of Los Angeles assist the LAUSD in recouping funds owed to them and to identify fraud in the Proposition 39 co-location program.

Members of the HENPAR Committee:

Under Proposition 39, charter schools in California have the right to demand space on public school campuses. The amount of space that they receive is based on the number of students that the charter claims have a “meaningful interest” in attending the charter school during the following academic year. The district must then spend bond funds preparing the space and turn it over to the charter school in time for them to start the new school year.

In the event that a charter school requests more space than it actually needs, state law specifies a formula to determine a penalty that must be paid. This is meant to compensate the district for the space lost for use by public school students and the costs borne by districts to prepare space that was not needed.

As shown in the attached spreadsheet, the LAUSD has sent invoices totaling \$14,253,674.08 to cover over-allocation penalties. Of this amount, only \$2,817,905.27 had been paid as of November 4, 2020, leaving a balance due of \$11,435,768.81. As an example, the New Heights Charter School has been sent invoices totaling \$1,046,783.96 covering four years of over-allocations. None of this has been paid and at a recent LAUSD Board meeting the founder and Executive Director of the school stated that she was “not going to comply and pay”.

It appears that one of the reasons that charter schools have been subjected to such high penalties is that they have included children on their list of prospective students who did not have a “meaningful interest” in attending their schools. For example, the principal at one of the Citizens of the World charter schools [posted a message on Facebook](#) that asked parents to put their children’s name on the list but assured them that doing so would “not impact your family’s plans for what school you would like to attend or currently attend.” The process was referred to as “a fun game schools get to play each year.”

Over the past four years, Citizens of the World charter schools have been billed \$1,052,428.70 in over-allocation fees. As of November 4, 2020, they had a balance due of \$955,737.12.

On December 16, 2020, the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) expressed concern about the harm being caused to LAUSD students by charter schools improperly using the Proposition 39 co-location process. The board voted unanimously to urge the City of Los Angeles to do everything possible to assist the LAUSD in recouping funds owed to them and to identify fraud.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this information or about our request.

Thank You,

Carl Petersen
Chairperson, NENC Education Committee
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carlpetersennenc@gmail.com

CC Mitch O'Farrell, LA City Council Member
Curren D. Price, Jr., LA City Council Member
Eric Villanueva, Legislative Assistant for the HENPAR Committee
John Lee, LA City Council Member
Nithya Raman, LA City Council Member
Scott M. Schmerelson, LAUSD Board Member