

# Better Together for Public Education

## October 11, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order at 12:02

Roll Call: Laura Anderson, Sloan Bailey, Michael Futterman, Shelley Hamilton, Sheri Mowbray

Special Guest: Cathy Dominico, Capitol PFG Managing Partner

65% of Capitol PFG clients are CA school districts. One of the companies specialties is customized school district reorganization strategic planning.

Sheri reviewed BT4PE's goal to instigate community conversation about reorganizing southern Marin school districts. BT4PE suspects that reorganizing the TUHSD and its feeder school districts might reap the most benefits but needs assistance collecting and analyzing data before proceeding with possible recommendations.

Cathy outlined the two phases of a 10+ year reorganization process.

### **Phase I - primary focus**

**A)**Use the state's 9 criteria for school district reorganization as a guideline to conduct preliminary data collection and analysis. This would take approximately one year. Program-driven benefits, including cohesive curriculum and more programs available to students, will likely be the most convincing argument.

**B)**Based on data collected, where is buy-in (program enhancement, better trained job base), what are hot button issues (bonds and parcel taxes, local control, basic aid districts' enthusiasm), what are concerns (enrollment, community identity, diversity)? This will take at least one more year.

### **Phase II**

This phase, which could take another 10 years, incorporates the technical and legal processes (including retaining an attorney, formulating and campaigning for a petition, conducting public hearings, etc) associated with reorganizing districts.

### **Questions:**

Q: Sheri - Has reorganization law always been complex? Can it be simplified?

A: Not really. If a school district is opposed, it can claim the reorganization doesn't follow state's 9 criteria.

Q: Michael - Will data collected in 2022 be relevant 10 years later?

A: Process will require annual data updates on criteria #5 and #9.

Q: Sheri - Will data analysis include factors leading to switch from Basic Aid to LCFF?

A: Yes. Addressed in Phase IA) criteria #1 (enrollment)

Q: Shelley: Is there state level advocacy for reorganization given statewide declining enrollment?

A: There's a chance that state will fund schools differently in next 10 years.

Q:Sloan: Are there any examples of savings due to reorganization?

A: There are savings on overhead but overall insignificant difference.

Q: Laura how much do you charge for Phase IA?

A: \$45-\$50K..Available for Phase IB and Phase II, as well.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18