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## **Los Altos School District Presents Enrollment Growth Findings from Community Forums**

Residents favor a variety of actions to address enrollment growth challenges facing the Los Altos School District, according to a report presented Monday night to the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees.

“Existing Los Altos School District facilities are not sufficient to address future enrollment,” LASD Superintendent Jeff Baier said. “Voters approved Measure N in November for just this reason, but Measure N can only be successful if our plan has wide community buy-in. That is why we are using community input to help inform our decision.”

An in-person forum in April attracted more than 100 participants and allowed LASD to build and refine various scenarios for the community to analyze and consider in June, during a series of online forums that attracted more than 100 more voices.

“Our collaborative process allowed Los Altos School District to engage with the community in innovative ways and ensure all ideas to address enrollment growth challenges are considered by as many members of the community as possible,” said Laura Richardson, Vice President of Conteneo, the company that designed and implemented the forums. “Community members found that no single action can solve this complicated problem, but rather found that a variety of actions must be used in concert.”

Conteneo’s structured forums enabled participants to explore the potential strengths of three strategies, 14 actions and their drawbacks, and to work with their fellow participants to identify common ground on the best paths for LASD to move forward.

In addition to purchasing land within LASD boundaries of sufficient size to build a new school, supported actions include:

- Collaborating with a city or municipality within the school district to build a new school on public land that is large enough to house a school and located in a desirable area
- Reconfiguring existing junior high schools to a middle school model

- Relocating District Offices currently at Covington
- Adjusting attendance area boundaries in order to rebalance student populations

The forums are the latest step in a lengthy public engagement process LASD undertook starting more than a year ago.

In 2013, a Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force consisting of parents, educators, district staff, and community leaders from three cities in the district, was charged with understanding the student capacity challenges, examining the impacts of growth on the current and future education of the Community's children, and discussing the challenges of a long-term plan. The SEGTF recommended that the district pursue two additional school sites.

A diverse, 26-member volunteer Facilities Master Plan Committee of parents, teachers, and principals from all public schools, as well as community leaders and city representatives, was formed in 2014 and still has a critical role to play. The FMPC will help LASD consider all community feedback before the Board of Trustees makes final decisions on how to spend Measure N funds on land or facilities to best address our critical enrollment growth challenges.

"We appreciate our community's involvement and commitment to helping us find a long-term solution for our enrollment growth. All feedback from this representative cross-section of the community gives our Board and the FMPC the information we need to finalize our plan to address enrollment growth," said LASD Board President Steve Taglio.

#### About Los Altos School District

Los Altos School District operates seven elementary and two junior high schools and is a top-rated school district in the State of California. LASD serves 4,700 K-8 students from portions of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View and Palo Alto. All nine schools in the district have been California Distinguished Schools and/or National Blue Ribbon Schools. LASD is nationally recognized for its many educational innovations and awards. To learn more, visit [www.lasdschools.org](http://www.lasdschools.org). For information about enrollment growth, facilities planning and Measure N, including reports and minutes, click on the big blue "Master Facilities Plan" button.

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