

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO
THE LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

SUBJECT: SOMOS LAUSD: Declaring Los Angeles Unified School District’s Opposition to Migrant Youth Detention Facilities in Our Communities (Res-027-19/20) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

DATE NOTICED: 01-14-20

PRESENTED FOR ACTION: 01-14-20

PRESENTED BY: Ms. Gonez, Mr. Melvoin,
Ms. Goldberg

MOVED/SECONDED BY: Ms. Gonez /
Mr. Melvoin

MOTION:

RESOLUTION: x

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District proudly serves an incredibly diverse population of over 600,000 students and their families, including 92 languages spoken and over 130 different nationalities;

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District has repeatedly affirmed its support for our immigrant students and families and the assets they bring to our schools, including through Demanding Action on DREAMs Deferred: Finding a Permanent Resolution for Undocumented Youth and Temporary Protected Status Beneficiaries (Res-029-18/19), Putting Kids First Means Keeping Families Together (Res-001- 18/19), Declaring March as Immigrant Student, Family, and District Staff Month (Res-025-17/18), and Reaffirmation of Los Angeles Unified School District Schools as Safe Zones for Families Threatened by Immigration Enforcement (Res-093-16/17);

Whereas, The We Are One LA Unified campaign was created to affirm that our schools are safe and welcoming places for immigrant families and to provide resources to help ensure their success, including particular supports for undocumented students and students from mixed-status families;

Whereas, The District welcomed approximately 13,000 newcomer students in the 2018-19 school year and will serve approximately 17,000 newcomers in the 2019-20 school year, ensuring they are provided the additional supports they need to be successful in school, college, career and life;

Whereas, All children, regardless of their immigration status, are afforded certain unalienable rights under the U.S. Constitution, including the right to access a free public education (Plyler v. Doe, 1984);

Whereas, Due to the actions of the federal government under the Trump Administration, nearly 70,000 migrant children were held in government custody in 2019, an increase of 42 percent compared to the previous year (Associated Press, 2019);

Whereas, The median length of detention for children is 154 days, more than five months, and some children have been in detention as long as a year; and children have systematically been separated from their families, causing potential long-lasting detrimental effects, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (March 2017);

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Whereas, The United States is the only country in the United Nations body to have not ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child (September 1990), and The United Nations Human Rights Office reported that the Trump administration’s current “zero tolerance” practice of family separation “amounts to arbitrary and unlawful interference in family life, and is a serious violation of the rights of the child” (June 2018);

Whereas, VisionQuest, a for-profit private corporation with a history of allegations of mistreatment of detained children dating back to the 1980s (Newsweek, November 2019), has petitioned the City of Los Angeles to approve the development of a facility in Arleta in the East San Fernando Valley to house detained unaccompanied minors facing immigration proceedings; and

Whereas, The detention of migrant children has no place in the communities of Los Angeles; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District categorically opposes VisionQuest’s proposal to open and operate a migrant youth detention center in Arleta, as well as any other immigrant youth detention center within the District’s attendance boundaries, as it is antithetical to the District’s core purpose of creating safe spaces for learning where student diversity is celebrated and an inherent part of achieving a 21st century education; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent is directed to formally share the District’s categorical opposition to VisionQuest’s proposal (PAR-2019-5710-CM) with the City of Los Angeles City Clerk’s Office and Los Angeles Planning and Zoning Department.

| | <u>AYES</u> | <u>NOES</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Ms. Garcia | X | | | |
| Ms. Goldberg | X | | | |
| Ms. Gonez | X | | | |
| Dr. McKenna | X | | | |
| Mr. Melvoin | X | | | |
| Mr. Schmerelson | X | | | |
| Dr. Vladovic | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

ACTION: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE