

A HISTORY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN LOS ALTOS HILLS

Public Education Committee
Los Altos Hills
September 1, 2004

A. Public Schools Serving Los Altos Hills

1. School District Boundaries and Attendance Areas

The Town of Los Altos Hills (LAH or The Town) is divided among three school districts. The northwestern part of town is served by the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) for grades Kindergarten through high school (K-12). The central, eastern and southern parts of town are served by the Los Altos School District (LASD) for grades K-8, and by the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District (MVLA) for grades 9-12. The line dividing LAH between PAUSD and LASD/MVLA was drawn in 1956 soon after LAH incorporated, and has remained unchanged since its inception. None of the three districts (PAUSD, LASD or MVLA) operates a school within LAH boundaries. LAH is one of only two cities on the peninsula without a public school in town.

Each of these school districts is further divided into “attendance areas” which identify the specific schools to be attended by children within that area. Within PAUSD, the attendance area for northwestern LAH identifies Nixon Elementary School (K-5), Terman Middle School (6-8) and Gunn High School (9-12).¹ Within LASD/MVLA, there are two attendance areas defined for LAH: the northern attendance area is served by Covington Elementary, Egan Junior High and Los Altos High Schools; the southern attendance area is served by Loyola Elementary, Blach Junior High and Mountain View High Schools. The grades served by the LASD/MVLA schools are K-6 for elementary, 7-8 for junior high and 9-12 for senior high.²

¹ See http://www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/parents/schools_sites/index.shtml for PAUSD attendance area maps. Note that not all children attend the school designated for their attendance area. For example, several LAH students in PAUSD who would have attended Nixon Elementary School were overflowed to Briones Elementary. In addition, LAH students in PAUSD may apply by lottery to attend one of PAUSD’s “choice schools” offering specialized instruction such as structured learning, developmental education and Spanish immersion. www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/parents/programs/choice_schools.shtml

² See http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/PDF_Files/Boundaries_2003.pdf for the LASD attendance area map for grades K-8. The Mountain View High School website contains an attendance area map at <http://mvhs.ca.campusgrid.net/home/Attendance+Boundaries+Map/boundary.pdf>. The Los Altos High School website (www.la.mvla.net) does not appear to have an attendance area map. The MVLA District’s website at www.mvla.net contains a street index finder to determine attendance areas within MVLA. The drop-down menu in the street finder tool, however, does not include Los Altos Hills; thus, LAH residents cannot use MVLA’s website to determine which high school serves them.

2. School District Funding

Under California law, property taxes are one source of funding that supports the school district(s) serving a municipality. Under the current structure, there are two types of school districts: Revenue Limit and Basic Aid.³ The types of districts are often confused with each other due to their titles. It is helpful when using these terms to visualize a bucket. The top of the bucket is the designated revenue limit for the school district. All of the property taxes received from properties within the school district go into the bucket. If the bucket is not full, the State of California “tops it off” and the district becomes known as a Revenue Limit district. If the bucket overflows, the district is allowed to keep all of the revenue, and it is known as a Basic Aid (a more apt name might be “super-revenue”) district. A district’s designation can change from year to year. Of about 1,000 state school districts, approximately 60 are Basic Aid districts.⁴ The LASD is currently a Revenue Limit district; the PAUSD and MVLA district are Basic Aid districts

The revenue limit is defined as the amount of general purpose funding that a school district receives per student, which is based upon its Average Daily Attendance (ADA) expressed in a complex formula that takes into account school type (elementary, high or unified), school size, historical spending patterns, and many other variables.⁵ The revenue limit for a district is determined by multiplying the ADA for that district by the dollars per student that the state has agreed to guarantee for each student in that district.

In addition, school districts receive parcel taxes which directly fund the district. For example, PAUSD currently receives a yearly parcel tax of \$293 per parcel⁶; a measure is on the November 2004 ballot to increase that parcel tax to \$521 per year for a period of 8 years.⁷ LASD receives a \$597 yearly tax per parcel, a tax which was passed by voters in the November 2002 general election.⁸ These funds are generated by “taxable parcels,” and are not connected to the district’s ADA.

Bond measures can also be enacted, generally for capital improvements. An example is the 1995 bond measure passed within PAUSD for its “Building for Excellence” program. Another example is the 1998 bond measure proposed by LASD and approved by the electorate with 75% of the votes. This measure was a \$95 million

³ In the past, school districts received \$120 per student per year from the state, an amount that was referred to as “basic aid,” not to be confused with the “Basic Aid District” term used today. See www.edsource.org/edu_fin_basicaidfund.cfm.

⁴ See www.edsource.org/edu_fin_basicaidfund.cfm.

⁵ See http://www.edsource.org/edu_fin_revenue_limits.cfm, and www.edsource.org/edu_fin_basicaid.cfm.

⁶ See www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/community/fees/parcel_tax.shtml.

⁷ See www.quality-schools.org

⁸ See www.smartvoter.org/2002/11/05/ca/scl/meas/H/

school construction bond to raise money to repair and renovate LASD's schools.⁹ After passage of the bond measure, the district chose Bullis-Purissima Elementary School as the first school to be renovated, with a construction budget of \$7,055,008.¹⁰ To date, those renovations have not occurred.

In terms of dollars spent per public school student, LAH residents pay 1.7 to 2.6 times more per year than do their neighbors in Los Altos, Mountain View or Palo Alto. This is both because average property values are higher in Los Altos Hills than in neighboring towns, and also because the percentage of LAH children attending public school is approximately 60% compared to 90% in California¹¹, resulting in proportionally fewer LAH children in public school. The following table illustrates these cost differences:

Tax Dollars Paid Per Student¹²:

School District	LAH Students		Non-LAH Students	
	Number	Tax \$\$	Number	Tax \$\$
LASD (K-8) ¹³	373	\$12,736	3,627	\$5,607
MVLA (9-12) ¹⁴	152	\$20,127	3,286	\$7,689
LASD + MVLA (K-12)	525	\$14,876	6,913	\$6,597
PAUSD (K-12) ¹⁵	418	\$12,615	9,964	\$7,467

⁹ See http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/fin_measure_h.htm. See also, "Los Altos primary schools win big with overwhelming passage of bond measure," *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 51, No. 44, November 2, 1998. **Please note: citations to newspaper articles throughout this document do not include independent verification of primary sources.**

¹⁰ Los Altos School District, Facilities Master Plan Implementation, March 15, 1999; Los Altos School District Board Financial Report, January 10, 2003.

¹¹ California Department of Education, Factbook 2003, April 7, 2004.

¹² This table includes the \$597 per parcel tax for LASD (Total from LAH: \$1,098,480) and the \$293 per parcel tax for PAUSD (Total from LAH: \$354,237).

¹³ Based on LASD 2003-2004 Budget and 2% State contribution to the revenue limit: 98% of the LASD revenue limit revenue (\$18,186,188) = \$17,822,464. Minus LAH School District Property Taxes (\$3,651,902) = \$14,170,562. Divided by Total Students (4000) - LAH students (373) or 3,627 results in \$3,907. The LAH parcel tax contribution is the LAH portion (1,098,480) divided by the number of LAH students (373) equals \$2,945. The non-LAH parcel tax contribution is the total parcel tax revenue (\$7,262,600) minus the LAH portion (\$1,098,480) or \$6,164,120 divided by the total students (4000) minus LAH students (373) or 3,627 resulting in \$1,700.

¹⁴ Based on MVLA 2003-2004 First Interim Report: School District Property Taxes (\$28,325,344) minus LAH School District Property Taxes (\$3,059,281) = \$25,266,063. Divided by Total Students (3,438) minus LAH students (152) or 3,286 is \$7,689. MVLA does not have a parcel tax.

¹⁵ Based on PAUSD 2003-2004 Budget: School District Property Taxes (\$74,174,000) - LAH School District Property Taxes (\$4,919,060) = \$69,254,940. Divided by Total Students (10,382) - LAH Students

In summary, LAH residents pay far more for public education than do their neighbors in Los Altos, Palo Alto and Mountain View, yet LAH has no public school operating within its boundaries. In addition, LAH residents do not serve on any of these school boards. Moreover, because LAH registered voters are outnumbered ten to one in the LASD, and about twenty to one in PAUSD and MVLA¹⁶, LAH is unlikely to be able to elect a representative onto any school board currently serving our community.

B. Private Schools in Los Altos Hills

Although LAH has no public school in operation, there are two private schools operating within LAH town boundaries. Pinewood School is a secular private school serving grades 7-12, located at 26800 Fremont Road. Approximately 43 LAH students attend this school, out of a total of 300 students.¹⁷ Pinewood leases the site from PAUSD for about \$965,000 per year¹⁸, and renewed its lease in 2003 for 20 years¹⁹ with a bilateral escape clause after 12 years.²⁰ Pinewood has also recently purchased the former Winbigler site one block from the former Bullis-Purissima School. Pinewood has publicly announced its intention to seek from the Town a General Plan amendment and conditional use permit to operate a private high school at this location. At the time that this report was prepared, no formal project application has been submitted to the Town. However, Pinewood officials have met with Town staff and neighboring property owners to discuss their proposal

Saint Nicholas Elementary School is a private Catholic school for grades K-8 located at 12816 South El Monte Avenue. Approximately 46 LAH students attend St. Nicholas, out of a total of 296 students.²¹

A third private school, Waldorf School of the Peninsula (Waldorf), while not technically within LAH town boundaries is within the LAH “sphere of influence” located

(418) or 9,964 is \$6,951. The non-LAH parcel tax contribution is the total parcel tax revenue (\$5,500,000) minus the LAH portion (\$354,237) or \$5,145,763 divided by the total students (10382) minus LAH students (418) or 9,964 resulting in \$516. The LAH parcel tax contribution is the LAH portion (\$354,237) divided by the number of LAH students (418) resulting in \$847.

¹⁶ Telephone conference with Shannon Bushey, Election Division Coordinator, Registrar of Voters, Santa Clara County, May 27, 2004.

¹⁷ Pinewood 7-12 Student Directory, 2003/4; see also http://www.pinewood.edu/upper/upper_index.htm.

¹⁸ Palo Alto Unified School District Board Meeting, Minutes for Regular Meeting of September 24, 2002..

¹⁹ Id.; see also “Small School Preps Students for the Big League,” *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 56, No. 10, March 5, 2003.

²⁰ Telephone conference with Bob Golton, Deputy Superintendent of PAUSD, July 2004.

²¹ St. Nicholas K-8 Student Directory, 2003/4.

in the unincorporated county area adjacent to LAH.²² Waldorf is secular, serves grades K-8 and is located at 11311 Mora Drive, a former public school site leased from LASD. Students from all over the peninsula and south bay attend these private schools, including students who live in LAH.²³

C. History of Public Schools Within LAH²⁴

1. Purissima School

The first school in LAH was the original Purissima School, a one-room building dating from the early 1900s. LASD purchased the school site from PAUSD in 1948 and operated a one-room school there until 1952. LASD sold the Purissima site in 1952 and the former school became a church, St. Luke's Chapel of the Hills. After this school closed, there were no schools built in LAH until the early 1960s. In 1958 and 1959, approximately 600 LAH students were being bussed to schools in Los Altos.

In 1960-61, LASD built a new Purissima Hills School in the vicinity of Elena Road and what is now Green Hills Court. As district-wide enrollment declined, LASD closed the new Purissima School in 1976. The school buildings were subsequently demolished and private homes now exist on the land.

2. Fremont Hills Elementary School

In the early 1960s, PAUSD opened Fremont Hills Elementary School located at 26800 Fremont Road. PAUSD bought the land in 1956 shortly after LAH was incorporated and started building the campus in 1957.²⁵

PAUSD closed Fremont Hills in 1976 because of low student enrollment.²⁶ Within a year thereafter, PAUSD leased the site to a private school,²⁷ Pinewood School, the current occupant.

²² Los Altos Hills comprises "8.4 square miles in area. An additional 5.8 square miles of unincorporated land adjacent to the Town's boundaries have been designated by the County of Santa Clara as being within Los Altos Hills' 'sphere of influence,' and may be subject to Town guidelines or annexation." www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

²³ District enrollment records show that 60% of school children in LAH attend public schools, a very low number considering California's average public school attendance is 90%. California Department of Education, Factbook 2003, April 7, 2004.

²⁴ Unless otherwise noted, all facts in this section were taken from Liewer, Richard W., *The Historical Development of the Los Altos Elementary School District: 1909-1964*, July 20, 1976, unpublished manuscript at Los Altos History Museum.

²⁵ Telephone interview with PAUSD, July 13, 2004.

²⁶ Id.

3. Eastbrook School

In 1960-61, LASD built Eastbrook School for grades K-6 at 11311 Mora Drive. While not technically within LAH boundaries, the Eastbrook site is in LAH's sphere of influence and served LAH students south of Magdalena Avenue.

In 1978, LASD closed Eastbrook. In 1986, LASD sold Eastbrook's playing fields to developers and in 1995 leased the school buildings to Waldorf²⁸, which currently operates a private school on the site. Students formerly attending Eastbrook were moved to Loyola Elementary School on Berry Avenue in Los Altos. The Loyola attendance area continues to serve students in the former Eastbrook attendance area of LAH.

Parents must drive their children to Loyola, as LASD no longer provides bussing for any of its students. The main traffic route to Loyola from LAH is Magdalena Avenue which crosses Foothill Expressway to become Springer Road. Because of the heavy school traffic along this route, the corridor has been designated a "Safe Routes to School" project by Los Altos in hopes of receiving state grants to improve safety features of the streets around Loyola.²⁹

4. Bullis-Purissima Elementary School

The Bullis-Purissima Elementary School site located at 25890 Fremont Road was donated to LASD in 1956 by private landowners.³⁰ At that time, the school site was referred to as West Fremont K-6 School.³¹ In 1962, LASD completed construction of a school on the site. The school was named Bullis in a student contest in 1962 to honor Gardner Bullis, the City Attorney of Los Altos and a leading proponent of incorporation of the town of LAH. The school's name was changed to Bullis-Purissima after Purissima School closed in 1976.

On February 10, 2003, LASD announced at a Board Meeting that it would close Bullis at the end of the 2003 school year.³² At the same meeting, LASD decided to reopen the former Covington school site in Los Altos as an elementary school.³³ Two

²⁷ Id., see also http://www.pinewood.edu/upper/who/who_indx.htm.

²⁸ See www.waldorfpenninsula.org.

²⁹ "Sizing up schools traffic," *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 57, No. 12, March 24, 2004.

³⁰ Grant Deed of Victor and Jennie Magrin and Andrew and Madelyn Gawley to LASD; Santa Clara County Records.

³¹ From Los Altos Hills town archives.

³² Los Altos School District, Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 10, 2003 ; see also, "District Changes Ahead," *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 56, No. 8, February 19, 2003.

³³ Los Altos School District, Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 10, 2003.

LASD Board Members have stated publicly that they want to use Bullis as a “revenue generating site”³⁴ and LASD has leased a portion of the Bullis site to LAH for interim government offices while the new town hall is being built.³⁵ In addition, LASD will use two classrooms to operate a special services pre-school for autistic children for the 2004/5 school year.³⁶ LASD is seeking a tenant for the remaining unoccupied portion of the Bullis site.

The former Bullis attendance area consisted of a large section of LAH as well as an area in Los Altos that is sometimes referred to as “West Los Altos” in the vicinity of Orange Avenue and University Avenue in Los Altos, west of Foothill Expressway and north of El Monte Avenue. After the school closed, the former Bullis attendance area was merged with the newly reopened Covington attendance area. Former Bullis students who either walked or biked to school on town pathways now are driven by their parents to Covington in Los Altos. In March 2004, a Los Altos city traffic engineer found that three intersections LAH residents may or must traverse en route to Covington are among the top five intersections for school-route traffic accidents -- Foothill Expressway at El Monte Avenue, Foothill at San Antonio Road and Foothill at Edith Avenue.³⁷

Shortly before its announcement to close Bullis in February 2003, LASD mounted a campaign in support of a parcel tax increase appearing on the November 2002 ballot. The referendum was not LASD’s first attempt to increase the parcel tax -- in April 2002, the same measure (called Measure A then³⁸) failed in a special election. When it was proposed again in November as Measure H, it was clear that LAH votes would be instrumental for its passage with a two-thirds vote. When Measure H passed in the fall of 2002 with more than 70% of the vote, LAH residents, voting in support of the measure, had effectively consented to more than doubling their parcel taxes.³⁹ Measure H

³⁴ See, e.g., Santa Clara County League of Women Voters, Candidates Answer Questions on the Issues: Board Members Los Altos School District, November 4, 2003 Election, Answer from Bill Cooper “[t]he Bullis site should provide as much revenue to the district as possible”; Answer from Margot Harrigan “[The best use of Bullis is] . . . to lease the site in order to provide additional revenue to the district.” www.smartvoter.org/2003/11/04/ca/scl/race/3590/questions.html

³⁵ The LAH Town Council is paying \$96,000 for a lease from June 1, 2004 through July 31, 2005. Joint Use and Lease Agreement between the Los Altos School District and the Town of Los Altos Hills, signed May 1, 2004, as relayed to the PEC by Karen Jost, Los Altos Hills City Clerk.

³⁶ Los Altos School District, *Frequent Flyer*, May 20, 2004.

³⁷ “Sizing up schools traffic,” *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 57, No. 12, March 24, 2004.

³⁸ See the 2002 campaign website for Measure A, at <http://209.221.152.251/klass/welcome2.html>. The “Town of Los Altos Hills” is included on the website’s list of endorsements.

³⁹ Parcel taxes within LASD before Measure H took effect were \$264 per parcel; after Measure H, parcel taxes increased to \$597 per parcel. See www.smartvoter.org/2002/11/05/ca/scl/meas/H/. Measure H provides LASD with about \$6 million per year in revenue. See “Schools Near Filing Deadline for New Tax,” *The Mountain View Voice*, November 7, 2003.

promised “neighborhood schools”⁴⁰ implying that Bullis – the only neighborhood school in all of LAH -- would be kept open.⁴¹

The closure of Bullis is the origin of a private citizens’ campaign carrying the slogan “Got Milked?”⁴² The mascot for this campaign is a cow, and explains why there are hand-painted wooden cows posted on private property of several LAH residents.

Whether Bullis will ever be reopened as a public school is speculative. In May 2004, an LASD Board Member speaking on his own behalf suggested to the then-mayor of LAH that Bullis may be reopened as a public school within the district if funds could be identified to fund its reopening.⁴³ That Board Member estimated it will cost approximately \$750,000 to \$1 million annually to reopen Bullis as a full-service school.⁴⁴ “The formation of a Bullis School Foundation along with financial assistance from [LASD] and the Town was mentioned as possible funding solutions.”⁴⁵

5. Bullis Charter School

In response to the closure of Bullis, Bullis parents formed a charter school with the goal of returning a school to their neighborhood and to the town. The Bullis Charter School (BCS) was granted a three-year charter by the Santa Clara County Board of Education on September 3, 2003,⁴⁶ after first being denied a charter by LASD in May 2003.⁴⁷ After first denying the charter school’s petition, then unsuccessfully opposing the petition to the County, LASD denied BCS the use of the Bullis school site (the charter

⁴⁰ The Measure H parcel tax proposal stated in part: “To hire, train, retain teachers, provide competitive teacher salaries, fund school libraries, purchase textbooks, preserve science classes/modern labs, **maintain neighborhood schools** and small class size, protect junior high electives like music, foreign language, computer classes, and balance the educational program, shall Los Altos School District increase its existing parcel tax and annual appropriations limit by \$333/parcel beginning July 1, 2003, with independent citizens' oversight of expenditures and exemptions for parcels owned/occupied by person 65 years/older?” See League of Women Voters website: <http://www.smartvoter.org/2002/11/05/ca/scl/meas/H/>.

⁴¹ Id., see also interview with Craig Jones, President of BCS, *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 56, No. 20, 5/14/03.

⁴² “Vandals are probably not in cow-hoots with any school group, sheriff’s office says,” *Los Altos Town Crier*, Vol. 58, No. 4, January 28, 2004; “LA Hills artwork stolen, vandalized,” *The Talon Online*, Vol. XIX, Issue 8, June 4, 2004; see also www.lahcows.org.

⁴³ Meeting Minutes, Town of Los Altos Hills City Council Special Meeting, June 2, 2004, at p. 6.

⁴⁴ Id.

⁴⁵ Id.

⁴⁶ Santa Clara County Board of Education, Minutes of Regular Meeting #1027, September 3, 2003, <http://www.sccoe.k12.ca.us/supandboard/agendaminutes/2003/07-16-03minutes.htm>

⁴⁷ Santa Clara County Board of Education, Minutes of Regular Meeting #1025, July 16, 2003, <http://www.sccoe.org/supandboard/agendaminutes/2003/09-03-03minutes.htm>

school's preferred site per the Education Code) and instead offered the use of portable buildings at Egan Camp School in Los Altos, several miles from LAH. In April 2004, BCS accepted the offer of Egan portables "under duress" in light of the need for a location to open the school for its students in the fall of 2004.⁴⁸ At the same time, BCS sought an injunction in court to prevent LASD from leasing the Bullis site. In May 2004, a Santa Clara County judge denied the request for an injunction and ruled in LASD's favor.⁴⁹

BCS began classes in the portables at the Egan Camp School in August 2004.⁵⁰ BCS has approximately 170 registered students for grades K-6⁵¹ and anticipates enrolling up to 310 students for the 2005-2006 school year.⁵² Students from LASD were given enrollment priority and non-district students were accepted to fill out classes. A majority of BCS students are from LAH and the former Bullis attendance area. Other BCS students reside in Los Altos, Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Redwood City.

BCS as currently constrained does not bring a public school to LAH: (1) the site given to BCS by the district is located outside LAH; (2) BCS' charter cannot allow an enrollment preference for students from the PAUSD section of LAH; and (3) the corresponding state funding to BCS is only \$4,563 per child.⁵³ For these reasons, the BCS is not within the purview of options to be reviewed by the Public Education Committee of LAH, as discussed in the next section.

D. The Public Education Committee

In August 2003, the LAH City Council formed the Public Education Committee (PEC) to research the interest level and feasibility of returning public education to our town. The Council appointed 11 members from different parts of town to the PEC, specifying that no more than three members could be parents of children who formerly attended Bullis and who lived within the former Bullis attendance area. The PEC meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month, although since its inception the committee has met twice a month.

⁴⁸ April 30, 2004 letter to Marge Gratiot, Superintendent of Los Altos School District, from Peter Evans, Bullis Charter School Board Member and Site Chairman.

⁴⁹ Order Re: Petition for Writ of Mandate, May 25, 2004, *Bullis-Purissima Elementary School vs. Los Altos School District*, Case No. 104-CV-019781, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara.

⁵⁰ See www.bullischarterschool.com.

⁵¹ BCS Board Meeting, August 2, 2004.

⁵² See <http://www.bullischarterschool.com/jobs.asp>.

⁵³ Los Altos School District 2003-2004 Budget, at p. 298; see also, Los Altos School District, Financial Q&A, at http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/fin_qa.htm.

The charges and duties of the PEC are:

- a. to determine the level of interest of Town residents to bring public education to Los Altos Hills, and to advise the Council thereof;
- b. to review and evaluate options that may bring public education to Los Altos Hills, and the ways in which Town government is able to assist in that effort; and
- c. to make recommendations at City Council meetings regarding public education.”⁵⁴

In January 2004, the LAH City Council approved an informal, non-scientific public opinion survey created by the PEC to determine residents’ level of interest for bringing public education back to our town. In March 2004, the PEC-designed informal survey was sent to all LAH residents as part of a regular town newsletter mailing.

The informal survey asked residents which course of action should be taken to return a public school to LAH:

- (1) do nothing;
- (2) support a charter school in town limits;
- (3) form our own LAH school district; or
- (4) redistrict to have either LASD or PAUSD serve more of LAH and guarantee an in-town elementary school.

The informal survey results from 429 respondents showed that residents (80%) want neighborhood schools in Los Altos Hills, whether by forming our own school district or by merging more of LAH with one of the school districts. The informal survey also concluded that 75% of town residents thought the City Council “owned” this issue, and that up to 75% of private school students would attend a quality public school in LAH.

The March 2004 PEC survey was an informal gauge of town opinion. The results indicated sufficient interest to warrant Council funding for a professional survey company to conduct a statistically valid survey to assess LAH voters’ opinions about public education in LAH. The professional survey will collect the opinions of the various constituencies affected by any potential reorganization: the PAUSD portion of LAH; the Covington portion of LAH; the Loyola portion of LAH; and the West Los Altos portion of Los Altos.

In its research, the PEC has identified four options for public education in LAH, each of which will be explored by the formal survey:

- (1) Merge more of the town with PAUSD, the boundaries of which are yet to be determined;

⁵⁴ Resolution No. 70-03 of Town of Los Altos Hills Establishing Standing Committees and Adopting General and Special Rules Pertaining Thereto, 18 September 2003, at p. 9.

- (2) Form our own K-8 District with all LAH students feeding into MVLA, i.e, either Los Altos High School, Mountain View High School, or one of MVLA's alternative high schools;
- (3) Form our own K-12 unified district;
- (4) Take no action.

We are scheduled to receive the survey results in late September or early October. The survey results are intended to be used by the City Council to guide the future activities of the Public Education Committee.

Los Altos Hills Public Education Committee:

**Roger Burnell (Chair), Edward Emling, Kathy Evans, Steve Hubbell, Jill Jensen,
Kathleen Justice-Moore, Nancy Kelem, Jamie Lucia, Duncan MacMillan,
John Radford, John Swan**

*Source material that was used in the preparation of this report is available for review at Los Altos Hills Town Hall Temporary Offices, Bullis School Administration Building, 25890 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills.