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May 26, 2016

Via U.S. Mail & Email: dmplaw@gmail.com

Deborah Parker
[REDACTED]

La Canada, CA 91011

Re: Math Textbook Selection for Elementary School Students

Dear Ms. Parker:

The La Cañada Unified School District ("District") received your May 22, 2016, letter regarding the mathematics textbook adoption process. Superintendent Wendy Sinnette requested that we review your concerns and respond on the District's behalf. The District considers your letter to be a Request for Reconsideration under Board Policy 6161.1, Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials, and provides this letter in response.

As a preliminary matter, the District takes seriously its mission to be a learning community dedicated to personal growth and academic excellence. The District always strives to provide a cohesive and rigorous curriculum, and instruction that enables students to, among other things, solve problems, work collaboratively, think critically, access and apply information, and become lifelong learners. The District has carefully undergone a thorough, stringent, and lawful selection process to adopt a new mathematics textbook for the elementary grades.

Selection Process and Parent Involvement

The District began its textbook selection process in the summer of 2014. The District created a mathematics textbook adoption plan and presented it to the Board of Education in October 2014. Between the fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015, teachers from all school sites reviewed different instructional materials and to initiate a pilot teaching program. At the end of spring 2015, the District collected the evaluations and feedback from all kindergarten through sixth grade teachers regarding the materials used during the 2014-2015 school year.

During the 2015-2016 school year, additional instructional materials were reviewed and piloted by the District. In March 2016, the District formed a Textbook Review Committee ("Committee") to review the materials, study evaluations and feedback, and recommend its final

choice. The Committee members were: Superintendent Sinnette, the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, three (3) principals, two (2) teachers on special assignment, and seven (7) teachers from each grade level, K-6.

Pursuant to the District's commitment to develop and maintain strong parent and community partnerships, the District provided several opportunities for parents and community members to review and provide feedback regarding the textbooks under review. Specifically, the instructional materials were available for review on May 3, 2016 in the District's Governing Board room, May 18, 2016 during Parent Math Night, and, by appointment, between May 6 and May 25, 2016.

Everyday Mathematics

The District recognizes and understands that Everyday Mathematics has not been adopted by State Board of Education ("SBE"). However, the District complied with all policies, regulations, and laws regarding the adoption and selection of instructional materials. Under Education Code section 60210, school districts may adopt and use instructional materials, including textbooks, that are aligned with academic content standards regardless of whether the materials have been adopted by the SBE. Everyday Mathematics is aligned with the common core academic content standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative consortium.

The District complied with Education Code sections 60002 and 60210 by ensuring that a majority of the participants in the review process were classroom teachers assigned to the grade level of the materials. The review process began in the fall of 2014 wherein all kindergarten through sixth grade teachers reviewed the materials. All kindergarten through sixth grade teachers were given the opportunity to provide feedback, opinions, and recommendations regarding the reviewed textbooks. This input was considered in the selection of the new mathematics textbook.

Pursuant to Education Code section 60002, the District also promoted involvement of parents and other members of the community by providing several opportunities to review and provide feedback, including the ability for parents to making an appointment time and date of their choosing. Additionally, the District complied with Board Policy 6161.1, Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials, when it made the materials available to the public, including parents, on May 3, 2016, May 18, 2016, and by appointment between May 6 and May 25, 2016. The District recognizes the importance of parental involvement in education. As such, the District provided significant and meaningful opportunities for parents to be involved in the textbook adoption process.

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Recommendation

After receiving all feedback, evaluations, opinions, and recommendations from District staff, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members, the Superintendent is ready to make a recommendation to the Governing Board regarding the adoption of new mathematics textbook and instructional materials. A majority of participants, including a definitive majority of teachers, selected Everyday Mathematics as the textbook and instructional materials for grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The review and selection process occurred over nearly a two year period. The review process was thorough, inclusive, and legally compliant. Accordingly, on May 26, 2016, the Superintendent will recommend to the District's Governing Board that it adopt Everyday Mathematics as the District's instructional textbook and materials for grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

Thank you for your time and involvement in this matter. The District sincerely values the input of all parents and community members.

Sincerely,

FAGEN FRIEDMAN & FULFROST, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerrie McNally /jc". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large "K" and a stylized "McNally".

Kerrie McNally

KEM:KT

cc: Wendy Sinnette

Anais Wenn

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