

Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education

**Statement of Support for
Buena Vista Mobile Home Park Students and Families**

At the Board of Education meeting of March 12, 2013, PAUSD students and graduates who reside in the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park publicly notified the school district of their mobile home park's possible closure. They urged the school district to help find a way for the families to continue to live in Palo Alto and for the children to continue attending PAUSD schools. The graduates spoke of the importance of their PAUSD education and advocated for the same educational opportunity for their younger siblings and family members.

Information presented by the "Friends of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park," lists that of the 375 people who live at the mobile home park, 125 are children. Of those children, 103 are PAUSD students currently enrolled at Barron Park, Juana Briones, Terman and Gunn. The other 22 children are preschool age. 12% of Barron Park Elementary students live at Buena Vista. Of the nearly 400 residents, most have low incomes and 82% are Latino.

The advocacy group also shared that in addition to the possibility of losing their homes, community, friends and schools, students may face separation from their extended families, and a parent's potential job loss due to relocation.

Given the above, the PAUSD Board of Education recognizes:

The importance of the testimony, experience, and advocacy of the Gunn graduates on behalf of the students currently living at the mobile home park, as they seek to continue their PAUSD education.

The valuable opportunities and outcomes of a PAUSD education, as reported by our graduates.

That School Board Policy 0100, which states that "the diversity of the student population and staff enriches the learning experience for all students," will be undermined by the loss of this significant number of culturally and economically diverse students.

The Developmental Assets that guide Project Safety Net and jointly endorsed by PAUSD and the City of Palo Alto.

Therefore, the Board of Education resolves:

To reaffirm our commitment to Buena Vista students; to their education and future.

To uphold the value of diversity in our schools and city and acknowledge that Buena Vista Mobile Home Park residents represent an important part of our district's economic and ethnic diversity.

To partner with the students, their families, the community, and the city as we seek favorable educational outcomes.