

September 13, 2022

Trustees,
San Dieguito Union High School District
710 Encinitas Boulevard
Encinitas, CA 92024

Delivery by email

Hon. Trustees,

This letter is to bring to your attention an ethical lapse and dishonesty demonstrated by Trustee Julie Bronstein. The circumstances described reveal a failure by Ms. Bronstein to make truthful disclosure in response to discovery demands arising out of litigation in which the District has been involved. Accordingly, I urge the Board to examine closely the facts and circumstances described herein.

I reviewed certain emails available as public records: 1.) one dated April 9, 2022, which Ms. Bronstein sent to attorney Randy Winet and shared with former Superintendent Cheryl James-Ward; and 2.) another received by Ms. Bronstein on February 17, 2022, from an individual named Adam Fischer. Copies of both are included herewith.

Ms. Bronstein corresponded with Mr. Winet in his role as outside counsel to the Board in litigation pertaining to the decennial redistricting process. Pursuant to discovery obligations in that proceeding, Mr. Winet was charged to gather all of the Trustee correspondence related to that matter.

Along with her April 9 message to Mr. Winet, Trustee Bronstein provided *inter alia* a copy of the Fischer email, which was sent at 9:47pm on February 17, during the course of a Regular Meeting of the Board. In her message she stated that “Neither of these emails were opened, reviewed, referenced or responded to by me during the meeting or anytime thereafter.” **The evidence shows that statement to be knowingly and willfully false.**

That falsity is demonstrated by Ms. Bronstein’s own words at the February 17 meeting, accessible via the video link posted on the BoardDocs page of the District’s website. The remarks in question are directly accessible via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/8tfprhxr>.

Relying on the clock which was visible on the wall behind her, together with the time display on the video, I observed that Ms. Bronstein began to speak at approximately 9:50pm. As the video reveals, her remarks included this statement:

Maps 7 and 8 make significant changes to racial minority representation, thus diluting their voting representation, which is actually not permitted under CVRA and other voting rights law.

Ms. Bronstein's statement is a nearly exact repetition of the opening statement contained in Mr. Fischer's email, which was sent at 9:47pm, approximately three minutes before Ms. Bronstein spoke:

Maps 7 and 8 make significant changes to racial minority representation, thus diluting their voting representation, which is not allowed under CVRA and/or other voting rights law.

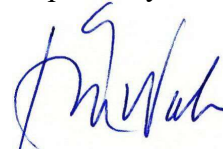
Moreover, Ms. Bronstein's remarks segued into a recitation of figures describing minority representation in the proposed district map then under discussion, citing the exact same figures, in the same order, as set forth by Mr. Fischer in his email.

It is inconceivable that these two *nearly identical* statements by two separate individuals occurred by chance within three minutes of each other.

It is clear that Ms. Bronstein lied when she said that she did not open the email from Mr. Fischer. By representing those remarks as her own she misrepresented herself to the people of the district. By failing to respond to Mr. Winet's disclosure request with candor, and by then lying to him in her email, she violated a fundamental duty borne by our elected officials – the duty to be truthful when conducting the public's business.

I have no acquaintance with either Ms. Bronstein nor Mr. Fischer, so I have no insight into why Trustee Bronstein would deliberately attempt to conceal Mr. Fischer's contribution to the discussion that evening. The fact that Ms. Bronstein lied, in writing, in correspondence with the District's attorney regarding active litigation is troubling. Such conduct is unacceptable, and individuals who behave in such a manner should not be occupying a position of trust in our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Garvin Walsh". The signature is stylized and cursive.

J. Garvin Walsh

Att.

From: [Bronstein, Julie](#) on behalf of [Bronstein, Julie <julie.bronstein@sduhsd.net>](#)
To: [Randy Winet](#)
Cc: [Cheryl JamesWard](#)
Subject: April 4 request
Date: Saturday, April 9, 2022 11:51:43 AM
Attachments: [Emails.021722.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Winet,

In response to the public records request served by or on behalf of Trustee Allman on April 4, there are no responsive documents, emails or communications. Trustee Allman erroneously concluded from my comment at the Feb. 17 board meeting that the conversation with a friend was through email or text. In fact, the conversation took place by phone prior to the start of the Feb. 17 board meeting and is therefore not subject to disclosure. Should Trustee Allman require a further response, and have a lawful basis to seek such information, such request should be forwarded to me and a response will be provided accordingly.

In an effort to be fully transparent and compliant, I reviewed my private email for any and all communication relating to the subject matter of maps that I received during the Feb. 17 meeting. I discovered two unsolicited emails (attached) dated Feb. 17, 2022 -- one from Adam Fisher sent at 9:47 p.m. and one from Robyne Ruterbusch at 10:02 pm. Neither of these emails were opened, reviewed, referenced or responded to by me during the meeting or anytime thereafter. Further, I did not respond to or send any emails during the course of the Feb. 17 meeting.

I trust that this satisfies Trustee Allman's and plaintiff's request for information.

Best regards,
Julie Bronstein



Julie Bronstein, MPA

(She, her, hers)

Trustee, Area 5

(Carmel Valley and Pacific Highlands Ranch)
858-461-9895

710 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas, CA 92024



The mission of SDUHSD is to provide a world-class education for all students through quality programs that engage students, inspire achievement and service to others; and prepares them to be lifelong learners and responsible members of society. 

This communication and any documents, files, or previous e-mail messages attached to it constitute an electronic communication within the scope of the Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 USCA 2510. This communication may contain non-public, confidential, or legally privileged information intended for the sole use of the designated recipients(s). The unlawful interception, use or disclosure of such information is strictly prohibited under 18 USCA 2511 and any applicable laws.

From: Adam Fischer adam_mba@yahoo.com
Subject: Analysis
Date: February 17, 2022 at 9:47 PM
To: Julie Bronstein juliembronstein@gmail.com



1) Maps 7 and 8 do not fairly represent racial minorities

Maps 7 and 8 make significant changes to racial minority representation, thus diluting their voting representation, which is not allowed under CVRA and/or other voting rights law. Specifically (and using Map 7 as an example, with Map 8 not being materially different):

- a) The minority share decreased in Area 4 by 7.5% from 31.9% to 24.4%, thus greatly diluting its voting impact.
- b) The minority share decreased in Area 5 by 3.4% from 50.7% to 47.3%, thus diluting its voting impact.
- c) The minority share decreased in Area 1 by 2.5% from 27.1% to 24.6%, thus diluting its voting impact.
- d) The Asian population share decreased by 8.6% in Area 4, from 16.7% to 8.1%, thus greatly diluting its voting impact.
- e) The Hispanic population share decreased by 5.4% in Area 1, from 15.8% to 10.4%, thus greatly diluting its voting impact.
- f) The Hispanic population share decreased by 2.8% in Area 3, from 13.9% to 11.1%, thus diluting its voting impact.
- g) The Asian population share decreased by 2.7% in Area 2, from 6.3% to 3.6%, thus diluting its voting impact.

By comparison, in Map 1C, the biggest changes are:

- h) The minority share decreased slightly in Area 5 by 1.4% from 50.7% to 49.3%, however this change appears to be unavoidable due to Area 5 being so out-of-balance in terms of total population due to its growth.
- i) The Asian population share decreased by 2.3% in Area 5 - again likely unavoidable due to the above reason.
- j) No other minority population share, individually or in aggregate, decreased by more than 1% in any Area.

By way of another comparison, in San Diego Unified's recent redistricting, the largest single racial group share change was 5% (With one case at 5%, 1 at 4%, and the rest all 1% or less) and the largest change in share for minorities overall was 4% (just one case). As can be seen, Map 1C makes changes of a similar magnitude or less, whereas **Maps 7 and Map 8 make changes to decrease minority shares by more than those amounts, and has MANY more instances of decreasing minority share by several percent.**

2) Maps 7 and 8 split up communities of interest (e.g. feeder elementary school districts)

One key set of communities of interest in SDUHSD, as expressed by many members of the community and otherwise, are the elementary school districts that feed into SDUHSD.

- a) The current trustee area map has 7 splits of the elementary districts (Del Mar is split once, between trustee areas 4 and 5; Solana Beach is split twice, between areas 3, 4, and 5; etc.)
- b) Map 1C has 6 splits of the elementary districts
- c) Maps 7 and 8 have 9 splits of the elementary districts

Therefore, Maps 7 and 8 split up communities of interest much more so than the current map and especially the alternative Map 1C.

3) Maps 7 and 8 disenfranchise over 30% of the voters in the district, or around 60,000 people

Maps 7 and 8 take VERY large areas that last had an election in 2018 and would otherwise be scheduled to vote in 2022, and moves them to areas that won't vote again until 2024. For instance, most of what was Area 1, which is scheduled to vote in 2022, is now in Area 2, which won't vote until 2024. Therefore, after the election in 2022, the people living in that region will not have a trustee that they voted for representing them and will have to wait until 2024 to have such representation, thus

they voted for representing them and will have to wait until 2024 to have such representation, thus disenfranchising such people for those 2 years. .

a) In total, Maps 7 and 8 disenfranchise an estimated 58,500 people, or 32% of the entire district population.

b) By comparison, Map 1C disenfranchises just 12,300 people, or less than 7% of the entire district population.

c) By other comparison, SDUSD's redistricting disenfranchised only around 5% of its population.

Therefore, Maps 7 and 8 disenfranchise almost 5 times more people than Map 1C and way more than other such boundary adjustments.

4) Maps 7 and 8 make significant changes to the trustee areas that rearrange the boundaries as opposed to just adjusting them

As is stated in the [California Ed Code](#), the changes due to a census are an "adjustment" (section 5019.5) and not a more drastic "rearrangement" (section 5019). A "rearrangement" is conducted by the county committee (i.e. SDCOE) rather than the school board. Moreover, the attorneys advising this adjustment clearly stated the facts that this adjustment should only consist of "tweaks"/"small changes". Proposed Maps 7 and 8 clearly constitute way more than that and are thus invalid. The reasons, as stated above and otherwise, are:

a) Maps 7 and 8 significantly decrease minority representation, as shown above

b) Maps 7 and 8 split up communities of interest to a much greater extent, as shown above

c) Maps 7 and 8 disenfranchise far more people, as shown above

d) Maps 7 and 8 make other dramatic changes as can be seen from the map including rearranging the relative positions of Areas 1 and 2, moving Area 3 way more South and Area 5 way more North, and otherwise.

Therefore, Maps 7 and 8 do not qualify as valid adjustment to the trustee areas.