Dear XXXXXXXXXX,

{My name is  XXXXXXXX, I am a Westlake Middle School  teacher/parent/community member.  I am in my XXXX year teaching XXXX in Oakland Unified School District.  OR I have been a parent in OUSD for XXXX years. }

I am writing today to strongly urge you to vote against the Prop 39 request for Westlake facilities put forth for American Indian Charter Organization. While we understand that the students of American Indian Charter must have somewhere to go to school, we strongly believe that housing them at Westlake will hamper Westlake’s ability to execute our full service community school program, negatively impact our enrollment, and have lasting damaging effects on our students.

The following are a list of concerns and questions that the Westlake community has after hearing the presentation by David Montes de Oca on Tuesday, June 2nd:

1. **Enrollment Issues**:

* Accurate enrollment projections. David Montes de Oca admitted that Westlake’s Special Education  and Newcomer English Language Learner population were not included in their projected enrollment numbers for next year. Without including these programs, it seems to them that we have a ton of extra space.
* Future enrollment- how can we try to build enrollment when we wont have the space to do so? How will our future numbers be affected by sharing a campus? Will we be set up to close? How will we bolster enrollment when our feeder schools have been cut from 4 to 1? Sante Fe and Lakeview are closed, and Lincoln now sends many students to the American Indian Charter campus in their neighborhood. Only Hoover remains, and its enrollment has been dwindling as well.  It seems like our school is being set up for failure by its very own district leadership

2.. **Loss of Community school resources at Westlake if we have to downsize:**

* If we have to offer at least 8 rooms to American Indian Charter, Westlake will experience a number of losses. These include, loss of rooms for Spark Point parent program and After school use, loss of Eagles Nest community area at lunch, possible loss of one computer lab, possible displacement of Special Education classrooms with lost proximity to counseling services.
* The district has said we can get more resources for our students if we allow American Indian Charter on campus, but with such loss of space, how would this work? What exact resources are they talking about? Why is the district just now offering resources when we have asked for them in the past and been refused (African American Male Achievement program for example)?

3. **Social and Emotional Impact on Students** -

* Many of our students come to school experiencing significant trauma and loss. School should be a stable place. Sharing our campus creates a tumultuous situation that could lead to our students feeling a sense of being pushed aside, not good enough, not worthy of our entire campus. Students can’t learn when they are preoccupied wondering if our school is shrinking and what could happen in the future.

***A possible solution:***

**Students should not be displaced by this problem, adults should**.

* There are at least 3 empty schools that we can think of that could possibly house American Indian Charter.
* Lakeview Elementary- perhaps these offices could be moved to 1000 Broadway.
* Santa Fe Elementary could house American Indian Charter for one year before Glenview moves there in 2016.
* Tilden is very close to the current American Indian Campus and the new Roses in Concrete Charter that is moving in will only house a few grades next year,leaving space for American Indian Charter.

We believe that there are other ways to make sure the students at American Indian Charter have a place to go to school without impacting the approximately 500 students at Westlake Middle School.

We are a part of the OUSD community that states our goal as ***Thriving Students*** and keeping students at the center of all policy decisions. The Westlake community believes in thriving students and putting students first as well- especially our very own Westlake Eagles.  We urge you to vote ***NO*** on the request for facilities at Westlake Middle School.

In Service,

School Board Members

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| --- | --- |
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