



Baldwin Hills Community Fights for Educational Justice!

Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot and Gifted/High Ability Magnet Center
Saturday, January 21, 2023, 10:00-10:45 AM

Welcome/Introductions

Agenda:

- Baldwin is a “Bright Spot”
- Programs and Successes
- Proposition 39/Co-location Impact
- Call to Action



9:55-10:00 M will play music that is inserted on slide

2 min - AmberMarie Irving: Welcome and good morning! I am Rev. Dr. AmberMarie Irving, a parent at Baldwin Hills El., Governing School Council member and Neighbors in Action for Baldwin Hills Elementary member. We would like to thank the Baldwin Hills parents, teachers, community members and organizations, and elected leaders for your presence and support. This morning we will speak to you about co-location, which is a charter school occupying for its own use spaces that were already being used by a traditional LAUSD public school. Specifically, this morning we are going to talk to you about the discriminatory co-location OF A CHARTER SCHOOL AT BALDWIN that DIMINISHES the rights of our Baldwin Hills scholars. We are **calling on you to act** on Baldwin's behalf.

We will hear from Dr. Travis Dumas, UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools, We will share the programs and successes at Baldwin, and discuss the Prop 39 co-location at Baldwin and present you with a Call to Action.

Following the presentation, we will have time for questions and answers and a copy of our presentation will be available to you. The chat is closed for now to keep our focus on the content being presented, but will open later.



Neighbors in Action (NIA) for Baldwin Hills Elementary School

www.niabaldwinhills.com

- NIA is a coalition of parents, teachers and neighbors organized in support of our local school.
- We believe public schools are vital centers of our communities.
- We work to strengthen community partnerships with BHES and offer material support and political advocacy.



1 min (Joanna)

My name is Joanna Casucci, parent of a first grade student at Baldwin and a member of Neighbors in Action for Baldwin Hills Elementary.

Neighbors in Action came together as an organized group in the summer of 2020. As residents who live directly across the street from Baldwin Hills Elementary, we have taken an active role in supporting our school. We have increased our reach and membership and work with other Baldwin parents, Governing School Council members and teachers in support of Baldwin.

UCLA's Bright Spots:

Schools and Organizations Cultivating Black Youth Excellence in Los Angeles

Dr. Tyrone Howard, Dr. Travis Dumas, Dr. Angela James, Jaleel Howard



4 min AmberMarie and Dr. Travis Dumas

Dr. Dumas is a recent graduate of the UCLA Urban Schooling PhD. Across his academic and professional career Dr. Dumas has contributed to a host of research, academic, and community endeavors and projects to support the betterment of Black student schooling experiences and outcomes. Currently he is a research analyst with the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools headed by renowned UCLA faculty and Education expert Dr. Tyrone Howard, who also served as Dr. Dumas' faculty mentor.

<https://transformschoools.ucla.edu/research/bright-spots/>

The Marginalization of Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot and Gifted/High Ability Magnet Center

Through this process of marginalization and the act of giving away Baldwin's classrooms and learning spaces, we have been relegated to a secondary position in our own school and community as a result of the New LA Charter co-location on our campus. The process of minimizing our school and not allowing us to grow is actively marginalizing our Governance Board, parents, teachers, and ultimately our students.

For the past seven years, the district has minimized Baldwin's students' needs and rights while prioritizing those needs and rights of the charter. Being that our students are primarily African-American, and of lower socioeconomic status, this further creates intersecting identifications of marginalization for our scholars. As educators, we know that six out of ten Black students, and five out of ten Brown students, have experienced trauma, and for many, Baldwin is their only safe space. A safe space they are watching grow smaller every year, further adding to their trauma.

4

3 min Love Collins, Parent

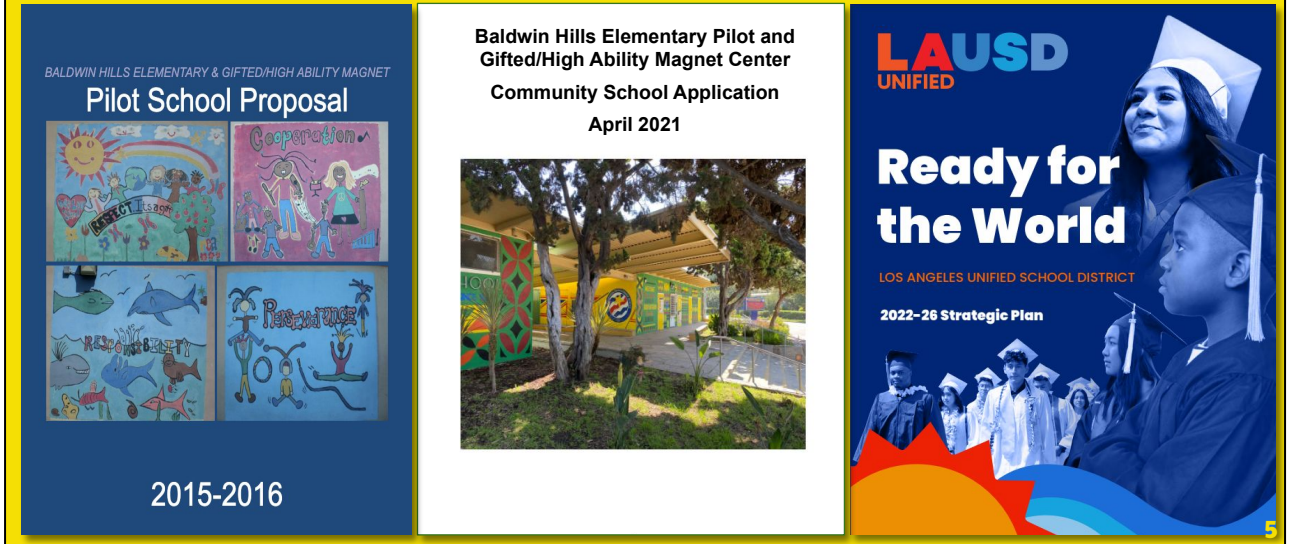
My name is Love Collins, and I'm a parent of a 2nd grader at Baldwin, a School Site Council member and a Neighbors in Action member.

Thank you, Dr. Dumas, we are deeply appreciative of the research and genuine interest and importance that you and your colleagues have placed on the work being done at Baldwin Hills Elementary. Good morning everyone, my name is Love Collins-Hayden and I'm the parent of a third-grade scholar, a member of the Governing School Council, and Neighbors in Action. For decades, the members of our school community have shown up and demonstrated passion and commitment to our students. But there is no doubt that the last 7 years have brought a new and unfortunate reality to our school community.

Read the title and entire slide to the audience...

While LAUSD is allowing our valuable spaces to be confiscated, the charter schools have high-profile millionaires and billionaires, like Reed Hastings of Netflix, backing their schools and their mission. New LA has a comfortable bank account with over \$4 million dollars. They have asked for over a dozen spaces at Baldwin for the next school year which would literally take 4 additional classrooms from Baldwin, and push an entire group of students to receive their lessons on the playground.

Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot and Gifted/High Ability Magnet Center: *80 years of education in the Baldwin Hills Community*



2 min- My name is Alan Canterbury, i'm an attorney and a parent of a 5th grade student in Baldwin Hills Gifted Magnet Program, and I'm also a member of Neighbors in Action.

Baldwin is a unique school for many reasons: Baldwin has a student population between 70 to 80 percent African-American. We have a Gifted/High Ability Magnet Center. In 2015 we became a Pilot school, (*which allowed us autonomy in governance and curriculum*). In 2021 we were approved to become a Community School. Along with these two plans that **we** created, we are also being held to LAUSD's ambitious Strategic Plan with annual measurable outcomes.

Unfortunately, the Prop 39 charter co-location is undermining the successful implementation of our Pilot and Community School plans. Our classroom spaces have been taken away and students have limited learning time in the spaces we must share with the charter. We have not been allowed to grow our Gifted/High Ability Magnet program so that we can serve more students. We want to be clear in our message this morning: we cannot allow LAUSD to continue to jeopardize the great education our students are entitled to. We need our community and elected leaders to stand up for us and demand that Baldwin Hills no longer be co-located. Baldwin students need their spaces back.

A Pilot School Plan Written from a Non-European Perspective

In 2014, BHES teachers and parents researched Pilot Schools and developed Baldwin's 57-page plan by conducting a **deep assessment of the school's needs and assets**. Baldwin became one of a few schools in LAUSD that would leave the traditional school model and convert to a Pilot School when LAUSD Board of Education approved the plan in 2015.

- The uniqueness of the school in 2015 was that there were 70-80% African-American student and teachers
- 50% of the staff lived within walking distance of the school

Our Pilot School plan was written from the voices of people who look like the students and live in the same community as the students.



6

1 min-Ivan

Programs and Successes

My name is Ivan Gamble, parent of a kindergarten student and Neighbors in Action member.

Baldwin is the **ONLY** PILOT School under Dr. George McKenna in Board District 1 and the **only** Pilot school in the district that serves a predominantly African-American population. Our Pilot school plan was written from a non-European perspective from the voices of people who look like and live in the same community as Baldwin's students.

Baldwin's Pilot school plan speaks to meeting the diverse needs of the **whole child** so that our students can have a strong academic foundation to prepare them to compete with their peers beyond their elementary years. As a Pilot school we have autonomy over curriculum and assessment, staffing, budget, governance, calendar/scheduling. Enrichment classes, social services, community partnerships, parent engagement, and shared leadership are integral to our pilot school plan.

We need **ALL** the rooms on our campus to fully implement our Magnet, Pilot and Community school plans. The implementation of Prop 39 charter co-location erodes the educational experience for Baldwin Hills Elementary students.

Baldwin's undeniable success and progress towards ending the marginalization of Black, Brown, and low-income students:

- 2015 - Pilot School status awarded
- 2020 - California Distinguished School for Closing the Achievement Gap
- 2021 - Community Schools model awarded
- 2022 - Distinguished Educators Award, Central Cities Association for Gifted and Talented Children
- 2022 - Bright Spots: Schools and Organizations Cultivating Black Youth Excellence in Los Angeles
- Education Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll

Central Cities Gifted Children's Association



7

1 min-Love Collins

Programs and Successes: Here we provide a brief list of Baldwin's most recently celebrated successes. The staff and parents have applied for and engaged in programs that hold academic, social, and cultural promise for our students. Despite the challenges of Prop 39, Baldwin has been able to push through some of the obstacles of co-location and demonstrate great work with our children. But we are at the point where we have to say this can no longer be our reality. The needs of our students have shown to be even more significant since we returned to campus last school year, but Baldwin does not have the structural capacity to run programs that the needs of our children dictate we should have. The future of Baldwin's success will be determined by the **continued neglect** or by **collaboration** we receive **right now**.

READ SLIDE

Shared Fairly? Questioning Proposition 39

Amended California Education Code Section 47614

"The intent of the people in amending Section 47614 is that public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils, including those in charter schools."

8

Good morning, I am Dr. Sara Angevine, A political science Professor at Whittier College and member of Neighbors in Action for Baldwin Hills Elementary. We have just heard how the Baldwin teachers and parents have built up the educational programs and experiences for Baldwin Hills Elementary School students over the last several years. However, Baldwin is being severely constrained by Proposition 39, the amendment to the California Education code that permits the co-location of public schools by charter schools. The intent, according to the proposition, is that "Public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils". However, what constitutes being shared fairly?

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHARTER CO-LOCATION IN LAUSD

WHAT IS PROP 39 REALLY?

Proposition 39, passed by California voters in 2000, required school districts to **provide facilities to charter schools that are "reasonably equivalent... to other public schools in the district."** The *billionaire-backed* California Charter School Association has since "used the courts to force the co-location of privately run charter schools onto public school campuses even though the word 'co-location' does not appear anywhere in the voter-approved text."

As long as a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) campus has rooms not occupied by a classroom teacher, "it can be subjected to an invasion by a separately managed school."

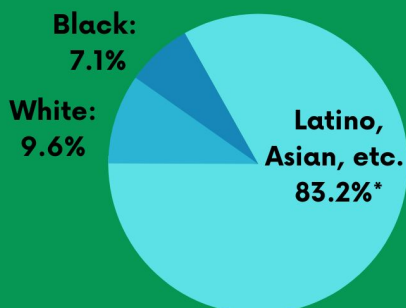
Source: knock-la.com/neighborhood-council-joins-call-for-prop-39-moratorium-719b7acea9ce/

9

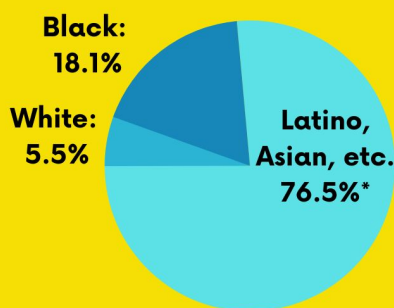
When we take a more critical examination, the School Districts interpretation of Proposition 39 to justify the idea of co-location is unfair and we see how it drains resources from already under-resourced public education schools. As one California neighborhood council notes, the billionaire-backed California Charter School Association has since used the courts to force the co-location of privately run charter schools on public school campuses even though the word "co-location" does not appear anywhere in the voter-approved text."

HOW DOES PROP 39 IMPACT LAUSD?

LAUSD Total Student Population 2021-2022



Student Demographics in LAUSD's co-located schools 2021-2022



Data Sources:
LAUSD, Ed-Data.org, US News & World Report, GreatSchools.net

*("etc." includes two or more, American Indian or Alaska Native, Decline to state)

The population of Black and White students in LAUSD is roughly similar. **Black students are 3.3 times more likely to be in a co-located school than White students.**

10

Looking at impact, it is clear that the practice of co-location is a racial justice issue in the LAUSD. White students make up close to 10 percent of the total LAUSD student population, but only half of these students are in co-located schools. Black students make up roughly 7 percent of the general student population yet over 18 percent of Black students are in co-located schools. This ultimately leads to the fact that Black students are **more than three times more likely** to be in a co-located school than White students, hardly a burden shared fairly.

How does Proposition 39 Impact the Baldwin Hills Community?

At Baldwin, the loss of lab spaces for our students is *also* a loss of lab spaces for students at New LA charter.

The charter co-location has therefore ended and limited programs, resources, and options for all elementary students in our community who have a right to attend the Baldwin campus, blocking the growth of Baldwin's gifted/high ability magnet program and limiting the capacity of the charter.

The presence of the co-located charter has resulted in a loss of academic offerings for the entire community.

11

Sara

Co-location strains the educational experience for all students, choking progress and opportunities for learning.

At Baldwin, the loss of lab spaces for our students is **also** a loss of lab spaces for students at the New LA Charter school. As we will show in detail, the charter co-location has ended and limited programs, strained resources, and limited options for all elementary students in our community who have the right to attend the Baldwin campus, blocking the growth of Baldwin's gifted/high ability magnet program and limiting the capacity of the charter. The presence of the co-located charter has resulted in a loss of academic offerings for the entire community.

Prop 39 Negatively Impacts:

1. Access to Science & Technology
2. Access to the Arts
3. Social and Emotional Learning
4. Health and Safety

12

10 seconds-AmberMarie Irving

We will now discuss how (READ SLIDE)

Proposition 39 and the Negative Impact at Baldwin Science Technology Engineering Art Math

- Loss of dedicated STEAM classroom spaces
- Cannot leave projects on display
- Loss of high-impact experiences for students
- STEAM teachers rove to different classrooms, carry less materials
- Auditorium and library are not ideal configurations for science labs
- Engineering/Science lessons limited while working on carpet in library
- Equipment and curriculum resources stored in dark and hot storage containers on campus, corners of the school library that are unsecured
- Loss of instruction time due to constant packing and moving materials
- Regular interruptions from charter school noise and staff walking through learning spaces

13

1 min-AmberMarie Irving

Over the course of 7 years, Prop 39 has eroded the quality of our programs and actually has ended some of the programs we offer to the children in this community.

(READ SLIDE)

Even with the loss of these programs and 8 classrooms Baldwin has maintained its enrollment numbers steadily over the last five years, while District-wide, enrollment is has trended down by over 10 percent over the same period. The Baldwin Hills community loves its LAUSD public school.

Proposition 39 and the Negative Impact at Baldwin on the Arts and Extended Learning Opportunities

Before Charter Co-location

PS Arts music room (5 days a week)

Orchestra room with secure storage space for instruments (district funded program)

Performing Arts (and after school dance practice)

Theater Arts dedicated room

Visual Arts dedicated room and gallery space

After Charter Co-location

PS Arts program teacher must rove

Orchestra program held in various outdoor and indoor spaces. Teacher spends instruction time moving instruments from one location to another.

Theater Arts held in the auditorium with constant interruptions from the charter school accessing this same space.

Visual Arts held in individual classrooms. The art teacher keeps the supplies in the trunk of car.

Researchers have found that learning to play a musical instrument can enhance verbal memory, spatial reasoning and literacy skills. Playing an instrument requires use of both sides of your brain, which strengthens memory power.

2 min .-AmberMarie Irving

Recognizing that many of our students are Title 1 and cannot afford enrichments outside of school, Baldwin uses its budget to provide enrichment for students throughout the school day. This requires us having all classroom spaces on campus to use throughout the day for our special programs.

Researchers have found that learning to play a musical instrument can enhance verbal memory, spatial reasoning and literacy skills. Playing an instrument requires use of both sides of your brain, which strengthens memory power.

Baldwin had a highly coveted music program that had been part of our school community for 20 years. Mr. Marwan, a professional musician, brought his Ghanian culture and instruments into his teaching practice. In the past, our students have performed at events off campus and regularly for our school-wide programs. Students learned to read music notes, play the recorder, xylophone, various types of drums, and a host of many other hand held instruments. This space was also used for dance practice after school.

This program was eroded and ended due to the co-location.

Proposition 39 and the Negative Impact at Baldwin Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of all Learners

Before Charter Co-location

Mentoring Programs for boys and girls held in a specific location with a regular weekly schedule throughout the school year.

Counseling Dedicated classroom space, appropriate amenities, space for students to move around freely.

Yoga in a dedicated classroom space that was calm and quiet. Students had adequate space to spread out, practice meditation and calming breathing techniques and mindfulness behaviors.

After Charter Co-location

Mentoring Programs lack private and adequate space, shared spaces with the charter are unavailable for consistent meeting days and times.

Counseling Students who are most vulnerable are in a setting that does not support access to their individual specialized services.

Yoga in the auditorium, on the playground, or a crowded classroom that is used for storage and counseling.

Historically, Black schools have had to overcompensate to remain competitive. Prop 39's systematic confiscation of our learning, meeting, and social emotional safe spaces is unconscionable.

2 min-Ivan Gamble

To be attentive to the social and emotional needs of our scholars...the teachers, school staff and volunteers...pool their personal time to meet with scholars during their lunch break. They support students through Self Awareness, Self Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making. After the experiences our children have faced since the spring of 2020, we should be pulling more students into these groups. Mentors and counselors struggle with finding appropriate space to run their sessions.

While we have been able to continue to offer yoga to our students, this year it is currently held in the music room surrounded by instruments and it interferes with the Psychiatric Social Worker's counseling space. The shared spaces on campus such as the auditorium are not ideal as learning spaces as sessions have been interrupted by charter teachers, staff, and students walking through our sessions which provides the greatest challenge for our students to stay focused.

Historically, Black schools have had to overcompensate to remain competitive.

Prop 39's systematic confiscation of our learning, meeting, and social emotional safe spaces is unconscionable.

Proposition 39 and the Negative Impact at Baldwin Valuable School Programs and Resources

After School Programs Reduced

- Loss of a high quality afterschool program
- Loss of a no cost after school program

The Digital Divide widened

- Decreased technology access for parents and community members to complete online eChoices and magnet applications, view grades/communicate with school teachers through Schoology
- Decreased inclusion for our students with special needs, loss of opportunities for interaction between neurodivergent and neurotypical peers

Health and Safety Impacted

- Williams Complaints filed for unacceptable condition of the restrooms
- Custodial staff serves 4 lunch periods

Six out of ten Black students, and five out of ten Brown students, have experienced trauma, and for many, Baldwin is their only safe space. A safe space they are watching grow smaller every year, further adding to their trauma.

2 min -Amber

As many of you know, the public school setting is open before the official start of the school day and for several hours after school. Our families **rely on** and **deserve** high quality afterschool programs that are also affordable. Ethan's After School program operated on Baldwin's campus for 10 years and used two dedicated classrooms. They supported students with standardized test taking skills and contributed to our students' overall academic growth. Due to the co-location, Baldwin lost this high quality afterschool program. In addition, our school lost the no-cost Beyond the Bell after school program.

The co-location has cut resources from **all** of the children and families in this community.

The digital divide widens at Baldwin due to the loss of the computer lab. The digital divide refers to the gap in availability of technology and the internet in Black and Brown households compared to white households. Parents, students, and teachers used the lab for a variety of purposes. The work we had been doing with our students to bridge the Digital Divide of our Black and Brown students was eradicated. The impact of the loss of our computer lab negatively affects all stakeholders.

Health and safety persists as campus wide concern. The students wait in long lines to use the restrooms as both schools wait for stall availability at the same time. The restrooms must be serviced throughout the day but this is difficult since they are in constant use. The custodians have to service the lunch area for a stretch of 4 nutrition

and lunch periods while still needing to respond to emergency clean-up issues across the campus and bathroom cleanliness.

Six out of ten Black students, and five out of ten Brown students, have experienced trauma, and for many, Baldwin is their only safe space. A safe space they are watching grow smaller every year, further adding to their trauma.

As we continue to demonstrate, the erosion of our space and school is making it more challenging to meet the needs of our students. The Pilot School plan, The Community School plan, and the LAUSD Strategic Plan all speak to the need of growing our relationships with our students, families, and educational partners. Baldwin should be demonstrating an expansion of our reach across our campus and community. With the removal of the charter, we will do this!

Why Now?

1. **This fight has been going on for 7 years, and our District leaders have been unresponsive**
2. **We need elected leaders fighting for us**
3. **We need community leaders to take action NOW**

17

Sara -

During the recent campaign cycle, numerous elected candidates claimed that racial justice and investing in public education are critical policy priorities for the success of all Angelenos.

It is now time to show up for Baldwin Hills Elementary School, the only Gifted/High Ability Magnet Elementary School that is co-located in the LAUSD,

It is now time to represent the best interests of our community.

Baldwin Hills Elementary School has been fighting this co-location by Prop 39 for the last SEVEN years.

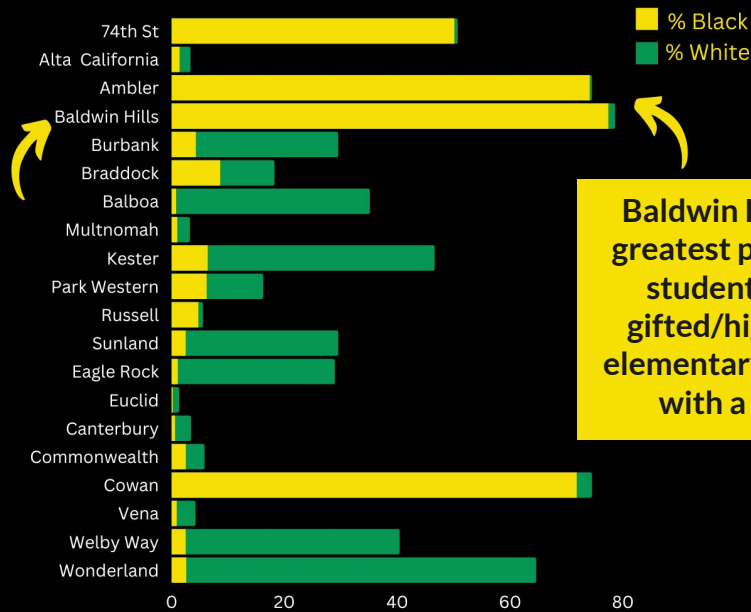
We need our elected leaders to represent the interests of these students and fight for us.

We need our community leaders to take action and mobilize for these issues.

The LAUSD will be deciding on FEBRUARY 1st the future of BHES.

We need to take action NOW.

Gifted/HA Magnet El. Schools in LAUSD



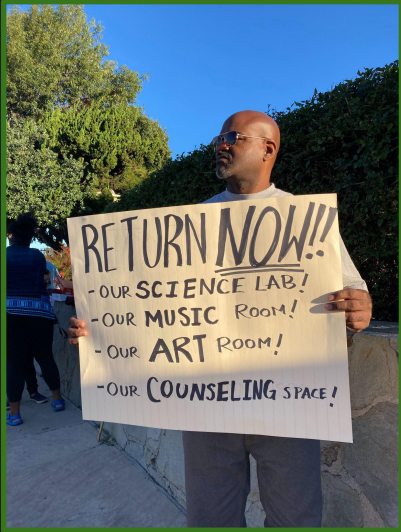
Baldwin Hills El. serves the greatest population of black students and is the only gifted/high ability magnet elementary that is co-located with a charter school.

18

1 min-Love Collins

We are seeking educational justice for Baldwin Hills Elementary. This graph lists all LAUSD gifted high-ability magnet elementary schools and we see Baldwin serves the highest population of African-American students. Baldwin is the only one co-located out of twenty gifted high-ability magnet elementary schools, This is unfair and discriminatory. We cannot overstate how the implementation of Proposition 39 at Baldwin Hills has led to academic, social, and mental health inequities for our students. LAUSD must put the needs of in-district students first!

Our Demands of LAUSD Are Simple



1. **Audit the charter now and return two classrooms.**
2. **Next year, do not allow co-location to take place on the Baldwin campus.**
3. **Work collaboratively and creatively to protect Baldwin from future co-location.**

19

1 min-Kinley Lagrange

My name is Kinley LaGrange, and I'm a parent of a 1st grader at Baldwin and a Governing School Council member. LAUSD received a demand letter from parents on October 17. We are demanding that the co-located charter to be audited and any over allocation of space be returned to Baldwin Hills now. We believe an audit is warranted because in the past New LA Charter has overstated their enrollment. Currently, the charter is housing a few of their 5th graders at Baldwin and a larger number at a secondary site. We believe that they are again overstating their enrollment at Baldwin. We also demand an end to any further co-location after this school year. LAUSD has not responded positively to our demands.

Support Baldwin Hills Elementary

A Call to Action

1. *Before February 1, Send* an endorsement letter to LAUSD leaders.
2. *Before February 1, Schedule a meeting with* Board Member McKenna and demand that BHES not be co-located george.mckenna@lausd.net 213-241-6382
3. **Do not enroll your children** in a Proposition 39 co-located charter school, and **do not support** laws and systemic practices that further oppress people who have been historically oppressed in our communities
4. Hold charter schools **accountable** for their impact in our community
5. Ask the **California Legislative Black Caucus** to research the effects of Prop 39 co-locations in black communities



2 min- Kinley

Thank you to all of the presenters and participants here today.

In 1943 Baldwin Hills opened its doors to this community. 19 years later in 1962, the NAACP would be called on to represent 40 African-American families who were wrongfully denied enrollment into Baldwin Hills Elementary. In 2015 the destructive Proposition 39 was forced on the Baldwin Hills children, staff and families, and again, racial and academic oppression is forced on our school community. For 7 years we have not wavered in our fight for educational justice! Elected leaders, community organizations and community members, your advocacy is needed is now.

Here is the call to action:

(Read the slide to audience)

(Ask attendees): What can YOU do from your position in the community?

A sample endorsement letter to send to the LAUSD School Board and Superintendent Carvalho will be placed in the chat. It can be modified to fit your personal context.

A brief Google survey has also been placed in the chat. Please complete it now to indicate how you can fight for Baldwin.



Questions & Answers

15-min Alan Canterbury, Parent, NIA

Ask that guests keep to 1 min for a comment or question and the response should be brief as well

No one jumps off mute. Wait for Alan to call on you.

If there is a question you have that you would prefer to ask us in the chat, the chat is open and we will answer the questions in writing and send to you after the meeting

We want to reserve this last 15-minutes for questions and comments from elected officials, district administrators, and community organizers. If you are a member of the press who has been invited or otherwise in attendance today, please join us at the zoom link provided in the chat. We will start the new zoom session immediately after this one concludes.

Can call on NIA and GSC members to answer the question in 1 minute

THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING.