Annotations to the proposed resolution from the Baldwin Hills School Governing Council

Presented by Kate O’Brien, Principal, New Los Angeles Charter Elementary

1. New LA is a free, public charter school. We are funded by the state of California and approved by the LAUSD.
2. We have no intention of taking over Baldwin Hills.
3. New LA was offered 8 classrooms on the Baldwin Hills campus for the 2016-17 school year. These were to accommodate our 6 general education classrooms, 1 special ed. classroom, and 1 office space. New LA looked critically at the space, understanding that a co-location can cause a strain on the host school. We noticed that The Delta Professional Development Center was located on campus and used the equivalent of 3 classrooms. This space was not counted as part of Baldwin Hills Elementary’s room count, as it was District level space dedicated to offices and meeting spaces. New LA worked with the Prop 39 office to see if the Delta Center could be vacated and that space be used for New LA classrooms in order to lighten the impact on Baldwin Hills. We were able to convince LAUSD to go forward with that plan so we moved into those 3 classrooms and only 5 of the Baldwin Hills rooms.
4. We grew to add 2nd grade and did so with the addition of just one classroom. LAUSD again offered us space at Baldwin Hills with the addition of Room 23. Room 23 was not occupied by a classroom nor was it used for critical programs by Baldwin Hills as is stated in the proposed resolution given to the WANC. Room 23 was a book room. It was filled with old books and shelving units - students were not using that space.
5. Both classrooms we moved into were after school programs. During most of the day they sat empty and were in use after school.
6. New LA requested no additional classrooms for the 2019-2020 school year and will be staying on Baldwin Hills with no increased classroom space.
7. It is important to not that New LA did not take over the Baldwin Hills computer lab. None of the 3 classrooms offered in the 2017-18 or 2018-19 school year were in use as a computer lab or classroom.
8. The document submitted to the West Adams Neighborhood Council by the Governing School Council of Baldwin Hills Elementary continues to argue that New LA’s co-location has caused a security risk on campus. In fact, New LA takes campus security very seriously. While the Baldwin Hills campus as a whole has 3 entrance gates, New LA uses only one. It is the gate at the back of the campus where our office and classrooms are also clustered. We’ve outlined here the steps we take to maintain a safe and secure campus: Arrival: Our gate opens at 7:15AM and there are two staff members monitoring the gate, it is not left open unless there is a staff member there. Parents are permitted to escort their children in the gate to the enclosed assembly area (just a few feet away) and wait with them there until students go to the classrooms at 7:50AM. At that time parents are expected to exit the gate directly, they do not go to the classrooms and they certainly don’t wander the campus. New LA staff members continue to monitor the gate for late arrivals and throughout the Baldwin Hills arrival time while the gate is open. After 7:50 however we do not allow parents to enter with their students. During the School Day and During the After School Program: The gate on our campus is equipped with a buzzer, intercom and video monitor. When someone wants to enter the campus they ring the bell. If they are not a known person they will be asked for...
information regarding their visit. After being buzzed in, all visitors are expected to go directly to the office to sign in and visitors and volunteers receive a badge to wear during their time on campus. In the event the visitor is not for our campus or we do not know the person is, they will not be buzzed in. This can sometimes be frustrating for a visitor to the other campus but we feel it is important to maintain this safety protocol. We came to this agreement jointly with the leadership of Baldwin Hills Elementary. 

Dismissal: Our students are dismissed at 2:20PM most days. At 2:20 a staff member opens the gate and allows parents to go to the classrooms to pick up their students. Parents, baby sitters etc. are identified by a New LA key tag which has been issued to every family. This is how we know an adult is cleared to access campus as they are part of our school community. At the start of the year everyone is expected to show their tag at the gate, after a few months the staff know almost everyone by face, those who they don’t know will be asked to show their key tag. In order to minimize disruption, students in classrooms that are further from the gate are escorted to the gate so parents are not walking extensively through campus. On early release days (12:35 dismissal) when Baldwin Hills students are in recess during our dismissal period, we likewise walk children to the gate to minimize disruption. To be clear, at no point do we open the doors to the general public, nor do we allow visitors to roam the campus at their leisure. Additionally, during the after school hours the Baldwin Hills after school programs leave the gate on Ridgeley open and unmonitored into the evening. This is wide open to the general public and is a threat to both New LA and Baldwin Hills students.

9. Co-Located charter schools are not permitted to hire additional M&O staff. A portion of the monthly rent we pay to LAUSD is designated for M&O. In addition, we have made every effort to maintain a clean campus and support the on site maintenance staff. When the budget for supplies is exhausted we have purchased additional toilet tissue, paper towels and garbage bags.

10. Please note that there are families who have students at both New LA and Baldwin Hills.

11. To clarify, it has always been our intention to find a permanent site of our own and we have stated that intention publicly.