

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 407
RESOLUTION ____
Request for Change of School District Boundaries
(Fallbrooke Lake of the Woods East Phase 2)

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.315.195 allows for citizens and a school district board to petition for a change in school district boundaries; and

WHEREAS, certain residents of the Fallbrooke Lake of the Woods East Phase 2 (the “Fallbrooke Territory”) submitted to the Puget Sound Educational Service District (“PSESD”) a petition proposing to transfer territory from the Riverview School District to the Lake Washington School District (the “Petition”); and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2024, the PSESD notified the Riverview School District and the Lake Washington School District of its receipt of King County’s verification of the validity of the Petition; and

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.315.199(a) requires the boards of directors of the districts affected by a petition to transfer territory to enter into negotiations concerning the petition, with each board represented in the negotiation by at least one member; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Riverview School District and the Lake Washington School District met on November 5, 2024, for the purposes of negotiations concerning the petition; and

WHEREAS, the negotiating parties did not reach an agreed recommendation; and

WHEREAS, following the negotiation session, the Lake Washington School District notified the Riverview School District that its board of directors would consider a resolution to approve the transfer of territory requested by the Petition and the Lake Washington School District board voted on November 18, 2024, to approve the Petition; and

WHEREAS, Riverview School District has received oral and written comments from families and residents of the Fallbrooke Territory and from the District’s community regarding the Petition; and

WHEREAS, Riverview School District provided an opportunity through a scheduled public comment at a special meeting to hear from those both in favor of and against the Petition; and

WHEREAS, of the 41 identified K-12 students residing in the Fallbrooke Territory, Riverview School District provides student instruction to twenty-five students, the Lake Washington School District has accepted choice transfers from five students, and eleven students have made other choices for instruction; and

WHEREAS, the service area boundaries between Riverview School District and Lake Washington School District are longstanding and well-established, with homeowners in the Fallbrooke Territory purchasing homes located within the boundaries of the Riverview School District; and

WHEREAS, the Fallbrooke Territory and the surrounding neighborhoods within the Riverview

School District have a long history of student enrollment and civic engagement in the Riverview School District; and

WHEREAS, the Fallbrooke Territory and the surrounding neighborhoods within the Riverview School District are all located within unincorporated King County and the rural area, and outside of any master planned communities; and

WHEREAS, Riverview School District's boundaries are consistent with other rural/suburban school districts that have portions of their populations residing in suburban neighborhoods, as well as in the rural area; and

WHEREAS, students residing in the Fallbrooke Territory travel to Riverview School District schools on dedicated school bus routes and travel on developed and maintained public roads; and

WHEREAS, Riverview School District anticipates that approval of the Petition could prompt other transfer requests from other areas located near its boundary with Lake Washington School District, resulting in the potential loss of additional territory and the erosion of Riverview School District's territorial integrity; and

WHEREAS, if approved, the transfer would result in a loss to the Riverview School District of both the assessed valuation of the property located in the Fallbrooke Territory and the basic education apportionment; and

WHEREAS, Riverview School District's loss of these funding sources to Lake Washington School District would increase financial disparities between the two school districts, erode the Riverview School District's tax base, and increase the tax burden on the remaining residents of the Riverview School District, all creating immediate and future significant financial impacts on the Riverview School District and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.315.015(2)(a)-(d) and RCW 28A.315.205(4)(a)-(e), together with implementing regulations, delineate criteria for reviewing a proposed transfer of territory.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Riverview School District, in consideration of the statutory and regulatory factors governing citizen petitions for transfer of territory, as well as the relevant evidence, facts, and community input, finds that approval of the Fallbrooke Petition would result in significant harm to the Riverview School District, its students, community, and taxpayers without advancing the best interests of public education; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Riverview School District does hereby deny the proposed transfer of territory from the Riverview School District No. 407 to the Lake Washington School District No. 414; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Riverview School District Board of Directors directs the Superintendent to notify the Puget Sound Educational Service District of this action and to request a hearing before the PSESD Regional Committee for purposes of adjudicating the Petition given the dispute between the two school districts related to the Petition.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2024.

President

Director

Director

Director

Director

Attest:

Dr. Susan Leach, Secretary