

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD REPORT

To: Board of Trustees
From: Gila Jones, Trustee
Date: September 23, 2020
Board Item: **TRUSTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO
CONSIDER A NAME CHANGE FOR JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL**

HISTORY

The building at 31422 Camino Capistrano began life in 1921 as Capistrano Union High School, serving area students until 1964. The school then housed eighth and ninth grade students until Marco Forster Junior High opened in 1969, and it continued to be the overflow home for fifth and sixth graders after that. Eventually the campus was given its present name of Junipero Serra High School. In 2003 a private school, JSerra Catholic High School, opened just a mile from CUSD's Serra campus, resulting in confusion in the local community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saint Junipero Serra is remembered as the founder of twenty-one Roman Catholic missions in California, the primary purpose of which was to bring Catholicism to the native people of California, and to provide a base from which Spanish power could be further expanded into the new world. But to the descendants of the groups of native people known as the Mission Indians, St. Serra and the institutions he led were brutal and patriarchal, and were responsible for the suppression of native culture.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Board is being asked to consider re-naming Junipero Serra High School. Board Policy 7511, *Naming of Facility*, states that the Board shall form a naming committee, comprised of Board members, to bring forward a name recommendation to the full Board for approval. Although BP 7511, *Naming of Facility* is silent on the topic of community input in the school naming process, the Board could solicit community input by publicizing the renaming effort in traditional and social media, and/or by appointing a community task force.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to form a committee to consider re-naming Junipero Serra High School, however the committee will be directed to bring back the estimated cost to re-name the school.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Following discussion, the Board may vote to form a naming committee of two or three Board members, and give direction to staff to begin the re-naming process.

PREPARED BY: Gila Jones, Trustee