

School District Reorganization

May 2, 2017

Northgate USD Petition Public Hearings



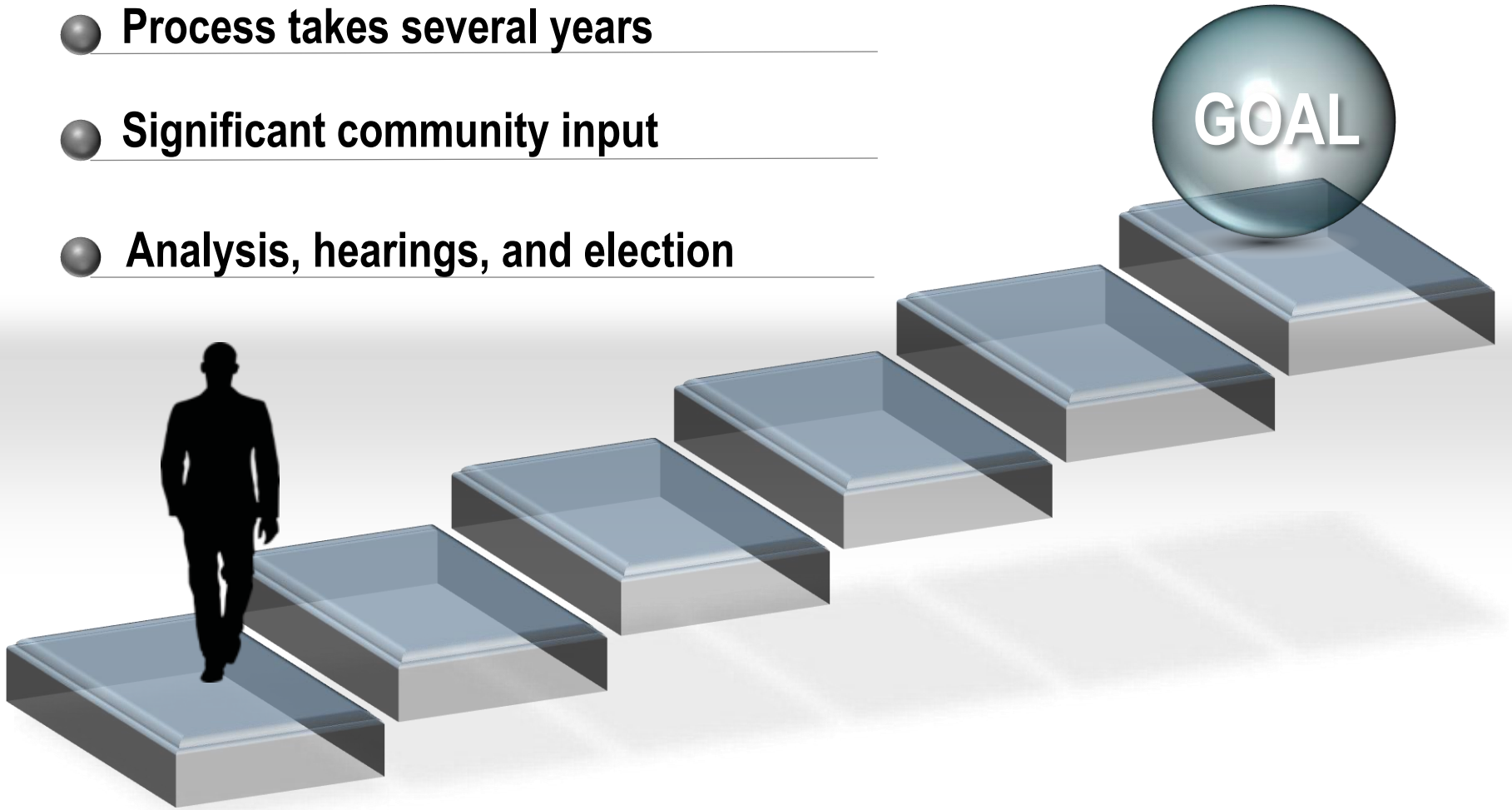
Presented by

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Overview of the Reorganization Process

Unification Process

- **Process takes several years**
- **Significant community input**
- **Analysis, hearings, and election**



Major Steps in the Reorganization Process

- **There are five major phases of the reorganization process**
 - **One – Initiation of the petition to reorganize school districts**
 - **Two – Review by the county committee on district organization**
 - **Three – Public hearings**
 - **Four – Action by the State Board of Education (SBE)**
 - **Five – Public vote**

Two Types of Reorganization Petitions

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1. 25% Petition

Petition advances to the SBE, regardless of the findings of the county committee

2. 10% Petition

Only if the county committee approves the petition will it advance to the SBE

Sufficiency of Petition

- **Basic information in a reorganization petition includes:**
 - **A description of the territory and list of districts affected (Education Code Section [E.C.] 35700.3)**
 - **A designation of no more than three petitioners (E.C. 35701)**
 - **An affidavit that all signatures are genuine (E.C. 35702)**
- **The county superintendent must determine the sufficiency of the petition within 30 days of the petition having been filed (E.C. 35704)**
 - **Upon determining its sufficiency, the county superintendent must transmit the petition to the county committee and the SBE**
- **The county department of elections must verify signatures on the petition**

Public Hearings

- **The county committee must hold a public hearing in each affected district within 60 days of receipt of the petition from the county superintendent (E.C. 35705, 35705.5)**
 - **Notification – time, place, and purpose**
 - **Posted at three public places in the involved districts**
 - **Published in newspapers of general circulation**
- **The county committee must also provide written notification to the Local Agency Formation Commission before initiating proceedings to consider any reorganization proposal (E.C. 35700.5)**

County Committee's Evaluation

- **The county committee is charged with evaluating the petition against nine statutory criteria (E.C. 35753) governing district organization**
 - **The county committee must determine whether the petition “substantially meets” each criterion individually and also considered together as a whole**
- **Within 120 days of the first public hearing, the county committee must make a recommendation to approve or disapprove the petition**
 - **It may also make a recommendation regarding the area of election**
- **The county committee then transmits the petition, its report, and its recommendations to the SBE**

“Nine” Reorganization Criteria

- 1 Size
- 2 Community Identity
- 3 Division of Property/Facilities
- 4 Discrimination/Segregation
- 5 State Cost Increase

“Nine” Reorganization Criteria

- 6 Educational Programs
- 7 School Housing Costs
- 8 Property Values
- 9 Fiscal Status and Management
- 10 Any Other SBE Criteria

State Board of Education Review

- **The SBE holds public hearings on the reorganization petition**
 - **Evaluates the petition against the nine statutory criteria**
 - **Determines the impact of the reorganization on the California Environmental Quality Act**
 - **Establishes the area of election**
- **A decision by the SBE to deny the petition ends the process**
- **A decision by the SBE to approve the petition is transmitted to the county superintendent**

Election

- **Upon notification of approval of the petition by the SBE, the county superintendent has 35 days to call an election (E.C. 35756)**
 - **Conducted at the next election “of any kind”**
 - **In the territory of the districts as specified by the SBE**
- **In preparation for the election, the county superintendent must:**
 - **Provide a statement relating to the reorganization**
 - **Make interested parties aware of their rights to file arguments for and against the measure**



Thank you!