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Sincerely,
Linda

Linda Ewart

Citizens for Safe Technology Society
<http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org>

Empowering the public to protect children and nature from unsafe wireless technologies.



To: Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education

From: Linda Ewart, teacher retired
Langley School District #35, British Columbia,
Canada

Re:

Upcoming Decision re Wi-Fi in the Los Angeles Unified School District

February 10, 2013

I am a teacher, recently retired from the Langley School District in British Columbia, Canada. News of your impending decision to implement a 3-phase program of Wi-Fi in Los Angeles schools is deeply concerning to me. Now that I am not required to shoulder the taxing demands of being a practicing teacher, I have the enviable luxury of being able to pursue in earnest my goal of lifelong learning and awareness. I have had time to read, study and discuss the issue of wireless in schools with children, parents, teachers and other educators, administrators, care givers and community leaders. I have learned a lot. There is a growing number of medical professionals and academics, highly respected scientists, educators, ethical lawyers and politicians, and parents who realize that this technology is being rolled out at an unrealistic and dizzying pace,

without due attention to the far-reaching repercussions it is already having on all of us, but most notably children and youth. There are many school age children now who can no longer attend public schools due to health effects suffered in the Wi-Fi environment there. There are teachers who are also experiencing ill health, an increasing percentage of whom can no longer work in the school system for the same reason. I am one of them.

Almost four years ago, in a resolution, your Board of Education recognized that there is a need to protect children from the potential health effects associated with exposures to extremely low frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency radiation. After careful and informed consideration, your Board made a wise decision to restrict the installation of wireless telecommunications near schools and to acknowledge the cumulative effects of such exposures.

Your Board also realized that new and emerging scientific evidence continues to emerge apace, resulting in controversy as to the adequacy of existing public exposure standards including those promulgated by the FCC at that time.

What will happen to that resolution now? The effects of commercial grade Wi-Fi transmitters in classrooms, hallways and libraries, and ever stronger exposure to wireless devices in schools can only be more concerning now. The presence of Wi-Fi in communities as a whole only underlines the need for safe spaces

Should not schools be among the safest spaces reserved for children to learn and grow? Is it not worth the small concession of wiring the technology that is used in their education? Must convenience and short term cost savings take precedence over the safety and health of our children and teachers? Is it responsible to expose children six hours a day, five days per week, for thirteen years of their lives, to influences that the IARC and the World Health Organization, in 2011, reclassified as possibly carcinogenic to humans?

Your responsibilities are profound. As the second-largest school district in the US, the LAUSD enrolls 700,000 students and employs 45,000 teachers, making your Board a very telling and influential example for other school districts in North America and beyond.

I speak sincerely when I urge you to think beyond the seemingly progressive tack being taken by others to keep pace with countrywide wireless implementation of Wi-Fi in schools.

You are faced with a crucial decision: to harm or not to harm: to conform to the current insanity of the day, or to exercise wise foresight and protect children from harmful and far-reaching biological consequences.

Please do your due diligence. I implore you to vote this Tuesday to reject Phase One of this Wi-Fi initiative, and to enter my urgent request in your records for serious consideration.

Respectfully yours,
Linda Ewart

Teacher, retired
Simonds Elementary School,
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British Columbia
Canada