

Appendix A: A Brief History of Splitting APS

- 1993** Task Force recommends against split
Rio Rancho granted split after 7 years of trying (July)
- 1994** Rio Rancho Public Schools formed
- 1995** Legislative BDM Study; small districts have community support
- 2002** Bond Fails (February)
Split bill vetoed: Gov. Johnson vetoes bill that would study split and allow public vote; APS promises reform to Governor in exchange for veto. Representative James Taylor sponsored bill that would have “parents plugged in again.”
APS redistricts (September); Seats gerrymandered with only one huge true Westside district, splits north valley district with Cibola area, splits southwest mesa/south valley district with southern portion of city.
- 2003** Cedar Crest Representative Goldberg advises East Mountains’ join Moriarty or create own district
- 2004** Secretary of Education commits to studying split at request of Senator Joe Carraro and APS Board Member Robert Lucero (June)
APS tax advisor says Westside has the tax base to support its own district (July)
NM Highland Study favors creating a Westside district (July)
- 2005** NM First Town Hall on APS Structure and UNM Study; Legislature pays \$50,000 and prohibits hearings on split (Rep. Rick Miera). Town Hall is controlled by APS and study is limited due to “time constraints.” Town Hall format is consensus based and APS attendees inhibit significant reform suggestions from moving forward. (September)
Westside Community holds “Friendly Picket” of Governor’s book signing; Governor agrees to meet with community on Westside school overcrowding and find way to fund shortfalls for new schools (December). Governor states doubts regarding APS’s ability to build schools and end overcrowding.
- 2006** Voters approve first tax increase in two decades, funds new schools
APS Board approves contract for legal services of four firms; estimated annual bill is \$1.5M
- 2007** Split bill dies in House committee
APS hosts meetings on budget, claims 85% goes to instruction
- 2008** Governor’s request of \$95,000 for a split study fails to be included in education funding bill, sponsored by Rep. Rick Miera
Two additional Board seats approved by voters via Constitutional Amendment; amendment also includes mail-in vote
Board of Education asks NM Supreme Court to review legality of Amendment; Court rules amendment invalid due to “log rolling” of two items and amendment is held unconstitutional