



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

Phone: (619) 725-5578
Fax: (619) 725-5576

NEWS RELEASE

July 22, 2003

New schools named in honor of Laura Rodriguez, Walter Porter

Schools are scheduled to open in Fall 2006

SAN DIEGO – A new elementary school in Barrio Logan will bear the name of Laura G. Rodriguez, and another new elementary school in Lincoln Park will be called Walter J. Porter Elementary. Both individuals were respected community leaders. The new schools are being built under Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure that funds modernization of 165 existing schools and construction of 13 new and three rebuilt schools to alleviate overcrowding.

The late Laura Rodriguez, who was born in Barrio Logan, founded Chicano Park, helped establish the Logan Heights Family Health Center, and worked to promote health and social services in the Barrio Logan community.

The Rodriguez family, in response to the naming, stated, “As a mother and grandmother with a high regard for education, Laura instilled a love of learning in her children, grandchildren and children of the community, and this honor is the culmination of her life’s work.”

Rodriguez Elementary, which will serve 700-900 students, will be bounded by Martin Avenue on the north, the alley between Logan and Greely on the south, 32nd Street on the east, and 31st Street on the west, excluding the parcels in the northwest corner. It will ease crowding at nearby King, Logan and Perkins elementary schools.

Dr. Walter “Wally” Porter, an established and respected leader in San Diego, served as president of the San Diego Chapter of the NAACP, helped start the annual Martin Luther King parade, and was the founding Dean of Student Services at the Education Cultural Complex in Southeast San Diego.

“My father was truly a hero. He has left a legacy in the community that can be felt today, and it is a great honor to have an educational institution named after him,” said Yvette Porter-Moore, daughter of the late Dr. Porter.

Porter Elementary will be built on the existing Kennedy Elementary site at 445 South 47th Street. The existing Kennedy Elementary will be rebuilt but will retain its name.

Both names were suggested by numerous community groups and individuals and reviewed by the School Names Committee, then approved by the Board of Education on July 22, 2003.

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