

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 71

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INCLUDES  
RAMAH, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Ramah lies in the outermost southeast corner of McKinley county, and the official attendance area of Ramah schools is a narrow strip of land approximately four miles in width situated between the Pueblo of Zuni on the west, Cibola county on the east and south and a combination of forest and private property to the north that is unpopulated; and

WHEREAS, the Cibola-McKinley county line established as the official boundary of the Gallup-McKinley county school district attendance area is less than two miles east of Ramah; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent of the students who attend Ramah schools live outside of the Gallup-McKinley county school

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1 district attendance area, the majority coming from Cibola  
2 county and who travel a distance from two to twenty miles; and

3 WHEREAS, the Pine Hill school is located twenty miles  
4 southeast of Ramah and is located within the attendance area of  
5 the Grants-Cibola county school district, whose nearest school  
6 is situated approximately sixty miles to the northeast; and

7 WHEREAS, the Pine Hill school is a federally funded school  
8 rather than a state public school; and

9 WHEREAS, many of the parents who reside within the Grants-  
10 Cibola county school district have chosen to send their  
11 children to schools in Ramah; and

12 WHEREAS, students residing outside the Gallup-McKinley  
13 county school district boundaries desiring to enroll in Ramah  
14 schools must present a signed transfer request prior to their  
15 acceptance stating that additional staff or services are not  
16 required by their attendance or that their attendance is  
17 required due to class populations exceeding class size limits  
18 established by state law; and

19 WHEREAS, the current population of the Ramah schools is  
20 approximately four hundred students and, when including all of  
21 the Cibola county students, that number would increase beyond  
22 five hundred students; and

23 WHEREAS, parents in the Ramah area experience a strong  
24 disconnect with the Gallup-McKinley county school district and  
25 feel their voices are never heard by the local school board;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, a reasonable solution to this problem would be  
3 the formation of a new independent school district that would  
4 combine all Cibola county students west of the Ice Caves and in  
5 the Pine Hill area with the students who reside in the town of  
6 Ramah, which would increase community ownership and involvement  
7 within a local school district;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be  
10 requested to study the need for and feasibility of establishing  
11 a new school district encompassing the Ramah area; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the Gallup-  
14 McKinley county school board, the superintendent of the Gallup-  
15 McKinley county school district, the Grants-Cibola county  
16 school board, the superintendent of the Grants-Cibola county  
17 school district and the Ramah Navajo school board,  
18 incorporated.

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