

Students protest LGBTQ legislation in other states



Photo provided

Students gather during the March 11 walkout at Acalanes High School.

The current and future leaders of the Queer Student Alliance (QSA) at Acalanes High School – Fae Goertzen, Malia Eads, Ash Lee, Emerson Brown, and Autumn Long – organized a walkout at 10 a.m. March 11 on campus to protest against anti-LGBTQ legislation in Georgia, Iowa, Texas, and Florida.

“In Florida, HB1557/SB1834, which was nicknamed the ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill, would ban discussion of LGBTQ+ topics in school, essentially erasing LGBTQ+ history from curriculum,” Goertzen said. “The bill encourages parents to sue any school they believe violated this bill. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott interpreted the Texas child abuse laws to include

gender-affirming healthcare (puberty blockers, hormone therapy, gender-affirming surgery). Parents and doctors who continue to provide these services have been interviewed by Child Protective Services. Lastly, in Georgia and Iowa, new bills are being introduced to completely ban trans women and trans kids from participating in sports.”

The group hoped the walkout would raise awareness, and show they stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ students who are affected by these bills. They are also asking Rep. Mark Desaulnier and Sens. Alex Padilla and Diane Feinstein to introduce national youth protection bills. – J. Wake

Council considers possible rezoning of BART parking lot property

... continued from Page A2

The distributed plan proposes density and height increases for sites inside and outside the downtown, with densities from 35-50 du/ac in the downtown, 75 du/ac on the BART-owned AB 2923 sites, and up to 20 du/ac along Deer Hill Road and at the West End (“DeSilva Site”). The Downtown Only Scenario focuses increased densities only in the downtown, resulting in density and height limit increases from 35 du/ac to as much as 115 du/ac in order to meet the city’s mandated RHNA allocation, but does not include the BART sites.

Public comments about the BART development option concerned reduced parking availability, increased traffic, a potential decrease in property values, school enrollment challenges, and the BART site being in an established fire hazard safety zone.

Importantly, BART has not designated Lafayette as a fast-track priority in its Transit-Oriented Development plans. With limited BART staff available to work exclusively on TOD projects, Lafayette would have to convince BART there is public support for TOD, demonstrate market conditions are favorable for multi-family housing near the BART transportation hub, and offer alternative plans related to parking, among other items.

Vice Mayor Carl Anduri brought up an issue outlined in the Housing Element Environmental Impact Report presented earlier (see related story Page A2), in which it stated that “if the BART sites are not rezoned ... the city could not use the sites to accommodate any units to meet the housing element requirement and those units would have to be distributed else-

where.”

Wolff said that “if the city were to take no action with respect to [AB] 2923 and those TOD standards went into effect by default, staff believes based on BART’s 10-year work plan, and Lafayette being identified beyond that 10-year work plan into the 2030s, then we would be hard pressed for HCD to accept the BART site to accommodate RHNA, since development would not occur within eight years.”

Reiterating that the main purpose of the meeting was to decide whether to prepare a draft with the standards or to allow AB 2923 to run on autopilot and be enacted on July 1, Eisberg said going forward with a draft ordinance would allow the council to prepare extra planning studies that aren’t required by state law including use requirements, such as whether to allow commercial office or retail development on the site; open space guidelines that determine a development’s private, common and public open spaces; and design standards having to do with building and site design.

Mayor Teresa Geringer asked staff if they had heard anything during the discussion to change their recommendation to have staff begin preparing a draft ordinance with rezoning and objective design standards for future consideration by the planning commission and city council. Following a “no” from Wolff, the council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

Staff will present updates as to their progress at the March 28 meeting and on an ongoing basis during the coming months.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

COMPASS

New Listing!
Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm

17 Brandt Drive, Moraga 2817 SqFt | 4 Br | 2.5 Ba | 3 Car Garage

Are you looking for an amazing property for summer fun? This backyard provides the perfect venue for outdoor entertaining and relaxing by the pool, spa and firepit. Great outdoor kitchen!

The house is remodeled with high-end finishes and features a great flow, kitchen with white cabinetry and an island, adjacent family room with gas fireplace & access to the backysrd. Luxurious primary suite with brand new bathroom and walk-in closet. Don't miss it!

17BrandtDr.com Offered at \$2,750,000

ELENA HOOD
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Lafayette | Moraga | Orinda

925 254-3030
www.Orinda.com

Cal BRE 1221247

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, conditions, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

GALLEGOS BOAMAN GROUP EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

3230 Burton Court | Lafayette
Sold for \$4,210,000 | 20% over! 6 offers!

5 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,428 Sq. Ft. | .75 Acres

529 Morecroft Road | Lafayette
Offered at \$2,795,000 | Multiple offers over asking!

5 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,769 Sq. Ft. | .64 Acres

518 Florence Drive | Lafayette
Off Market Listing!

4 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,481 Sq. Ft. | .23 Acres

IS YOUR HOME NEXT?

Inventory is at an all-time low.
Where do you want to go?
Let's work together on your real estate goals and dreams. Call us!

Ranked in Top 1% of Realtors in Contra Costa County

Christine Gallegos | Amy S. Boaman
Gallegos Boaman Group
925.878.2883 | 925.997.6808
DRE# 01896511 | DRE# 01433269
gallegosboaman@compass.com
gallegosboaman.com

**NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO SELL!
CALL US FOR A HOME VALUATION 925.997.6808**

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. If your property is currently listed for sale this is not a solicitation.