



WATSONVILLE SCHOOL NAMED FOR CESAR CHAVEZ

Watsonville, Calif. – The Pajaro Valley Unified School District voted on May 25, 2005 to name a new middle school after civil rights and farm labor leader Cesar Chavez.

The move comes three years after school district officials in Watsonville rejected a similar proposal to name a high school for Chavez, despite overwhelming pressure from the community.

One school board member said she would never vote to put anyone's name on a school after the uproar over the first vote. Accordingly, she voted to name the new middle school "Hilltop."

But a majority of the board agreed with student Anna Marquez, who said, "Why name a school after a hilltop when you can name it after Cesar Chavez?"

The board voted 4-3 to approve the new name. The crowd cheered the vote—more than 200 people filled the room, banging on the walls, stomping their feet, giving high fives and chanting "Sí se puede" (it can be done).

The new middle school, located at 440 Arthur Road, will open in August. It will serve approximately 600 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

For more information, please contact the Pajaro Valley Unified School District by phone at (831) 786-2100.