

Board Meeting 8-7-18 Transcription

[PRESIDENT WILLIAMS BEGINS THE BOARD MEETING BY STRIKING THE GAVEL FOUR TIMES]

Williams: Good morning.

Bedell: Morning.

Barke: Afternoon.

Williams: Welcome. Our Regular Meetings for the County Board of Education are normally at 10 A.M. Today is a special day because of his state required mandate on adopting textbooks at a certain time. Anyone wishing to address the Board must complete a Request to Address the Board card that is available at the table near the back door there. Uh, we also have rules and uh, behavior that we uh, certainly appreciate that uh, those guests who are here today will follow uh, and if you are interested in completing a card and uh, addressing the Board, please give it to our Board uh, Recorder, Ms. Darou, up here uh, in the next few minutes. Each individual is allowed to speak for three minutes per meeting and uh, you cannot give your time to other people.

This is a Public Meeting so we ask that all be respectful of each other as well as the Board deliberations. Verbal outbursts and clapping are prohibited. Anyone deemed to be disruptive may be requested to leave per se to Penal Code section 403. The Board Agendas are also posted online and can be reviewed in our website. Agendas are also available on the back table. Thank you for attending the Board Meeting for the Orange County Department of Education. I would like to have uh, as we normally do, Invocation to start and we have uh, Brenda Lebsack, who will be giving our Invocation. So, all those please stand.

Lebsack: Is this on? Thank you for the opportunity to give an Invocation today before your Board Meeting. Um, my name is Brenda Lebsack, and as you already know, besides being a Trustee of Orange Unified and a teacher in Santa Ana Unified, um, I'm also an ordained minister. My husband and I have been senior pastors in Orange County for 15 years and, however um, we pastored in other counties and states for almost 30 years. So, we pastored Hope Chapel in Huntington Beach for seven...for seven years, and we've been pastoring Plaza Bible Church in Orange for the past eight years, and I would like to proceed my Invocation today with some quotes.

Um, President Abraham Lincoln said in his Thanksgiving Proclamation 1863, "to these bounties we are so constantly enjoyed, that we are prone to forget the source from which they have come. To the ever-watchful providence of almighty God. President Franklin. D Roosevelt, in the State of the Union Address of 1939 said, "there comes a time in the affairs of men when they must prepare to defend not their homes alone, but the tenets of faith and humanity on which their churches, their governments, and their very civilization are founded. The defense of religion, of democracy, and of good faith among nations is all the same fight. To save one, we must now make up ormin...make up our minds to save all.

And, Reverend. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated in his sermon titled, "Recovering Lost Values", in 1954. "The great problem facing modern man is that the means by which we live have outdistanced the spiritual end for which we live. If we are to go forward today, we've got to

go back and rediscover some of those mighty precious values that we've left behind. We've got to go back and rediscover the principle that there is a God behind the process. If we are to go forward, we've got to go back and find that God. That is the God that demands and commands our ultimate allegiance. Let us pray: Lord God, we thank you for the rich heritage and the foundation of which this country is built upon.

We thank you for leaders who sought divine wisdom and Godly counsel in times of war, crisis and chaos. We thank you for the sacrifices that so many have made to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Help us to heed the warnings of these great leaders to not stray from our foundational values and tenets of faith in the name of so-called progress. Help us not to forget from where we've come and how we got here. I pray for this Board of Trustees and I ask you to guide them with your wisdom as they help sell...set the course for future generations through the education of our children.

Thank you for their willingness to serve, sacrificing their own discretionary time for the pursuit of the greater good. Give them eyes of discernment, hearts of pure motive, and spirits of courage to build upon this count...this country's great foundation in order to forge a stronger future by protecting and investing in the children of today. Father and help...in Heaven, help us remember that it's truth that sets free, and grant us strength to stand for truth in a way that reflects your love for all mankind. In your mighty name we pray. Amen.

[VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS SAY "AMEN"]

Williams: And we will have the Pledge of Allegiance. Uh, please stand and Linda Cohn will lead us in the Pledge.

Cohn: I think in the thousands of times I've said, this is the first time in my life I've ever led the Pledge of Allegiance. Hand over hearts, please.

[VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE SAY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WITH MS. COHN: **I Pledge Allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which is stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all**]

Williams: Thank you, Linda, and uh, thank you, Pastor Lebsack. Very moving words. Okay, we'll have Roll Call. Darou.

Sisavath: Trustee Sparks?

Sparks: Here.

Sisavath: Trustee Barke?

Barke: Here.

Sisavath: Trustee Williams?

Williams: Present.

Sisavath: Trustee Gomez?

Gomez: Present.

Sisavath: Trustee Bedell?

Bedell: Here.

Williams: Very, very good. Any introductions our good uh, Associate Superintendent?

Boyd: There are no introductions at this meeting.

Williams: Very good, very good. Okay, so moving forward, we will need Adoption of our Agenda. I have a Motion?

Barke: I make a Motion to...

Williams: Motion.

Barke: ...Adopt the Agenda.

Williams: I need a Second.

Sparks: Second.

Williams: Second? Thank you uh, Trustee Sparks.

Bedell: I have a question. Mr. Chairman.

Williams: Yes, sir.

Bedell: Uh, is Item Number 7 still valid?

Williams: Yes, it is, sir.

Bedell: Okay. Thank you.

Williams: Okay, any other discussion? Okay, all those in favor say, "aye"

[THE BOARD MEMBERS SAY "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose? Abstain? Okay, uh, we need next to have a Motion to Adopt the Minutes from our July 11th meeting. May I have a Motion for such?

Sparks: Motion to Adopt the Minutes.

Williams: Very good. Motion by uh, Trustee Sparks. And a Second by...let's look at uh, Trustee Bedell. Uh, would you Second that?

Bedell: My pleasure.

Williams: Okay. We have a Motion and a Second. Any discussions or corrections on the Minutes?

Bedell: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would respectfully request that the Minutes reflect that...you remember from that meeting we had an Agenda Item that I asked be put on the uh...are we doing the Special Minutes? Special Meeting Minutes? Are we...

Boyd: No, those are July. July...

Bedell: I'm sorry.

Boyd: July 11th.

Bedell: I'm not doing the 26th.

Boyd: No.

Bedell: I want...I want to talk about...let me see what...I have uh, a question about the Minutes, and it will be dealing with the meeting on the 26th. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Williams: Right...right. So...so...

Bedell: I'll Mov...I'll...

Williams: That's okay.

Bedell: I'll Move...I'll Second and Move whatever you want for the other set of Minutes.

Williams: Oh, okay. So, I think we're on right now the Adoption of July 11th Minutes.

Bedell: Right, that's...so Moved.

Williams: So Moved, and we have the Second by that. Very good. Uh, all those in favor say, "aye".

[BOARD MEMBERS SAY "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose? Abstain? Motion passes 5-0. Okay, now I need Adoption of the Special Meeting July 26, 2018.

Bedell: I'll Move those.

Williams: Okay, Move, and a Second?

Sparks: Second.

Williams: Second by Trustee Sparks.

Bedell: This...I res...respect...respectfully request that when you come to the page that is 13 in our packet, and...which is Page 3 under, "Discuss Special Legal Counsel Cost Estimates and Cap To Contract". And you remember, Trustee Williams, when we came out of that meeting that we had an Agenda Item and I asked, "Now what you want me to do with that Agenda Item?" since we dealt with it in Closed Session.

You reported out that we talked about expenses being from somewhere between \$12,000 and \$500,000. I would like that to be reflected in that pa...Number Three: Discuss Special Legal Counsel cost estimates and cap to contract including expenses range...in a range from \$12,000 to \$500,000. That's what you reported out on the floor and that was what's in public, and I would like the Minutes to reflect that in the name of transparency for the public.

Williams: Very good. No, I don't see any problems with that. Any discussion, thoughts by the Board?

Barke: I just want to make sure I understood. There was no cap on there though, right? We did not set...

Bedell: No, no, it says discuss special legal cost estimates in cap to contract. We did that.

Barke: Okay.

Bedell: Including a range of...so it doesn't deal...it takes care of what your concerned.

Barke: Okay, so there's no cap. Just...okay. I'm fine.

Sparks: Yeah.

Bedell: Thank you.

Williams: Trustee Sparks? Trustee Gomez?

Gomez: Oh, I have plenty of questions about these.

Williams: Okay.

Gomez: Um, I was not present. Um, the meeting was scheduled knowing I was out of town. Um, so I'm a little um, disappointed about that. Um, so I'd like a couple of clarifications on the Minutes so that I understand what's going on here. Um, on...on the Closed Session Item Number One um, what was the purpose of obtaining the documents?

Williams: What documents are you referring to?

Gomez: On Item One.

Bedell: The first Motion?

Gomez: The first...the first one.

Williams: What...what...

Gomez: Because...

Williams: ...page?

Gomez: Page 12.

Barke: Page 12, yeah.

Williams: Page 12.

Bedell: Which is Number Two.

Williams: Yeah, so that was um, without being there, that's a very fair question. That was uh, something that our Counsel requested.

Gomez: Whose Counsel requested? When you say ours, I'm not sure which Counsel you're referring to.

Williams: Yeah, so we do have Board Counsel to help us with the whole purpose of the uh, July 26 meeting.

Barke: They can't hear.

Williams: So, we do have Legal Counsel retained uh, Trustee Gomez, if you're not aware of that by now and that was what they requested.

Gomez: Well, I'm aware of what you're trying to do, but I'm trying to understand it here. Um, your...there's...there's...you're obtaining documents and I just want to be clear about why we're obtaining the documents. So, if you can clarify that for me, I'd appreciate that.

Williams: Sure. In fact, why don't we have um...Adam, where are you? There you are, sir. If you can come and help uh, give some light to Trustee Gomez's questions.

Abrahms: Sure, happy to. Um, Trustee Gomez, I believe what you're asking was...

Boyd: Excuse me. Could you state your name for the record? For the...

Abrahms: Absolutely. Adam Abrahms. Epstein Becker Green; we're the retained outside Counsel that uh, has been referred to. Uh, Trustee Gomez, I believe what you're referring to is, and not having the Minutes in front of me, is the...is the Request for Records that was sent to the Superintendent's office. The basis and rationale was that...was to further the purpose of understanding and investigating whether or not litigation was appropriate. And to understand, since there was an action taken that, from the Board's perspective and our...our legal, um, opinion's perspective was outside of the realm of um, propriety. Uh, what exactly took place and um, what those documents uh, what might be able to shed light on...on how uh, the uh, improper appointment of the uh, General Counsel was...was attempted, in which...

Gomez: You're saying how the improper appointment, but we don't have that investigated yet, so you can't say it's improper, yet.

Abrahms: Well, we...

Gomez: Correct?

Abrahms: ...can. We can because we have a...based on what the records show and what the Board...bo...there's been no vote...

Gomez: At the time of these Minutes, was that improper?

Abrahms: Yes. That was the opinion that we were being...we were providing based on our review at that point in time. Now, we were continuing to investigate. That was the purpose of...of that, but at the...so we were asking for more documents but based on the Public Record, the Minutes that you guys have approved. Uh, there was no vote of the Board to appoint a General Counsel. Uh, and without that Board...a Board vote or any authorization to appoint a General Counsel, that was the issue. And so, the documents that you're inquiring about were documents to further that investigation to understand if something may have been missed, but based on what we were able to see at the point in time in which those documents were requested, there was no valid action taken to appoint a Counsel.

Gomez: Okay. Do we have transcripts of the Closed Session? We do not? Okay. Um, there is also a Category 2 in the middle of the paragraph there. What was Category 1?

Abrahms: I...I don't see what you're referring to. So, um...

Gomez: Okay, well, this is not helpful. Okay.

Abrahms: I do...

Gomez: All right. Um, okay, I'm going to move on.

Abrahms: Thank you.

Gomez: Um, on the Second Item uh, the second Motion. Um, middle of the paragraph it says um, "The appointment of a General Counsel in the current and existing dispute between the Board." Uh, again this infers this is the entire Board, and since I wasn't there, I don't believe that that should be reflected as the Board, because that infers the entire Board. Um, so, I would respectfully ask the Minutes reflect that this does not uh, reflect um, my presence or my conversation uh, in these Minutes. Um...

Williams: But Trustee Gomez, it does reflect that. Number Two, Paragraph Three. It says, "Gomez absent". So...so hopefully that meets your request.

Gomez: No, it does not. Um...

Williams: What would you like it to read?

Gomez: I want to say between the Board, okay, and then again reflect that my absence was um, was present...or I was not there, because when you say the Board, it infers that this is the consensus of the entire Board, and I don't agree with that. And it's...without a transcript and without other information, it's hard for me to tell what exactly happened. When it says that you went into Closed Session for nearly three hours, it's a little hard for me to capture the essence of the conversation um, in these short paragraphs. So, I would respectfully request that again, when it says between the Board, and you can put 'Gomez Absent' in parentheses behind that, I would appreciate that because I do not...I...I cannot support something that says the Board when I was not there.

Bedell: Trustee Gomez, would you be more comfortable wherever it referred to the Board, say a majority of the Board, or the Board majority?

Gomez: Um...

Bedell: Would that do it for you?

Gomez: No, I want to be sure that my absence was...was noted.

Bedell: In that vote.

Gomez: In that vote.

Bedell: Okay, thank you.

Gomez: And...and where it says, "The Board."

Williams: Any thoughts uh...? Are you done, by the way?

Gomez: Um, yes, I am but I also had the same question about the cap um, that uh, Trustee Bedell had as well.

Williams: Okay. Tru...uh, Trustee Sparks? Any...any thoughts on the request by Trustee Gomez?

Sparks: I think you could do Board...Board majority; Gomez Absent? I have no problem with that.

Barke: I think the...the feeling about not having a cap is it that the Superintendent doesn't have a cap, so why should we have a cap?

Gomez: Well again, I would um, echo what Trustee Bedell said, is that this is public funds and

these are funds that are not going to kids, not going towards their education, and I think the public needs to know that we're spending money and that if we have this invisible cap, that's a problem for me.

Sparks: The public needs to know all sides are spending money.

Gomez: I don't have a problem with that.

Sparks: So...

Gomez: But I think that there should be a cap and if that we get towards that cap, then we need to revisit this, but I'm...I am not comfortable at all with having this unlimited amount of money that's being spent on litigation instead of kids.

Williams: Okay, so let's focus on what we're doing here. We're correcting Minutes. We're not going to be addressing the issue. What would you like the um, Minutes to say? Uh, again, I have to emphasize that it does reflect that you were not present, Trustee Gomez.

Gomez: Okay. When it says, "Dispute between the Board", and I want it to say, in parentheses, 'Gomez Absent', end parentheses, that's all I want to inserted.

Williams: Okay.

Bedell: That's editorial as far as I'm concerned, and I'm okay with that.

Williams: Yeah. I...I don't see any problem with that.

Boyd: Did you capture that?

Sisavath: Yeah.

Boyd: Okay.

Williams: Okay. No further discussion. All those in favor of adopting the Special Board Meeting Minutes of twe...July 26, say "aye".

[ALL BOARD MEMBERS EXCEPT TRUSTEE GOMEZ SAY "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose?

Gomez: I will Abstain since I wasn't there and I can't get clarification on a couple things.

Williams: Abstain.

Bedell: So, as Amended. They are...they are...

Williams: As amended, correct. Very good. Okay, Public Comments.

Boyd: There are...9 Public Comments. Sorry. Um, I'll call the first 2 names. If the first individual would take the podium and then the second would line up, then we will expedite. Uh, Al...Hol...Holguin?

Holguin: Holguin.

Boyd: Is...is first up and then Joe Im...briano?

Imbriano: You got it.

Holguin: Good afternoon, Council. My name is Al Holguin, Mission Viejo resident since 1992. I would like to remind the Council that this is a country of laws. Only 13 days ago on July 25th, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled unanimously that praying at School Board Meetings are not allowed. In the Court's decision it says on Page 34 that was filed just 13 days ago, quote, "The only speech that it requires the Board Members to refrain from engaging or permitting others to engage in is speech that would cause the district to violate the Establishment Clause.

Under state law, the Board has control of the school district. Consequently, the Board Members are appropriate actors to enjoin in order to bar school-sponsored fair, including at Board

Meetings”. End quote. This room that we are in right now is not a mosque, is not a synagogue. It is not a temple and it definitely is not a church. No child or adult at this meeting...at this meeting or any future meetings should be coerced to stand and pray, no matter what their religious or non-religious background is.

I urge the School Board to stop scheduling prayers at these meetings as the United States Court of Appeals has already made its decision. This is a country of laws.

Unidentified Woman in Audience: And freedoms.

Holguin: If the School Board continues to perform religious ceremonies of any type, future lawsuits could put our country...our community, excuse me, our community at risk and the real losers will be students and teachers, the same people you make policies that affect them. Thank you.

Boyd: Joe Imbriano, followed by Brenda Lebsack.

Imbriano: [MR. IMBRIANO POSITIONS A HAND-HELD VIDEO CAMERA ON A SMALL TRIPOD ONTO THE PODIUM, FACING THE CAMERA TOWARDS THE BOARD MEMBERS] Thanks for having me. This is Joe Imbriano. I'm a Fullerton resident. I run the Fullerton Informer.com website, "Wi-Fi Dangerous.com" in the Fullerton and former YouTube channel. Uh, Miss Gomez. I share your concerns with transparency. I came in here today. I couldn't get a uh, Agenda in the lobby. I asked if there were any recordings of this meeting and they said that there're audio recordings, and that they use a stenographer to type out and review the Minutes. What a joke. What's the budget of this place? You can't hang a video camera? You get them for 30 bucks at Fry's and I know you have the technology and the ability to do that. So, instead of splitting hairs over a million dollar contracts, why don't we get some trans...some real transparency in here.

All of you know exactly what I'm talking about. As far as this gentleman here who wants to kick God out of this place. God was kicked out 50 years ago and there's a cop out there that's in full body armor in battle gear that's not putting a gun to anybody's head to pray. No one was told to stand up unless they wanted to so that's a bunch of nonsense, and you can take that Ninth Circuit of Appeals decision and stick it in your pipe and smoke it, because that's what comes out of that Court isn't even worthy of my dad's pipe that he threw in the trash when he quit smoking. I wanted to talk to you tonight...I've got about a minute-and-a-half left...that Aruba Network that you got on the roof there. That's the current generation wireless.

Everybody in the school districts is now forced to use wireless devices because of people like you have sat back and brought them into the classrooms. Microwave radiation is a class 2B carcinogen just like lead. We don't use lead paint. We don't have uh, things in the classroom that have class 2B carcinogens on them, but, nonetheless, you're bringing in these devices. I want to talk to you about the next generation of the stuff that's coming. It's called Y Gig. It's going to replace that. Instead of 2.4 gigahertz, it's going to go to 60 gigahertz. 60 gigahertz is the absorption spectrum of oxygen molecules. Y Gig has no place in a home or a school and it's coming. I'm urging all of you to do your homework.

I know you...I've tried to contact so...Mr. Bedell. I might as well talk to the Venetian blinds. I mean, I've tried to get through to people about what's going on in these classrooms with these

devices, how they're ruining kids, how they're creating all these addictions and insomnia and health problems, getting away from textbooks. We're getting in a situation where Common Core's been rolled out with the blessing of most of you and...and you're focused on all the wrong things.

We need to go back to pencil and paper and get the weaponry out of the classrooms, and if you don't want to bring God back, well at least like have some morality back in the classrooms instead of teaching kids about how to rim each other and uh, you know, do all kinds of kinky things that are even banned on YouTube, but it's in the curriculum and it's coming. And, you know isn't just a stipend to sit up here and collect a couple hundred bucks a month and have everybody say hello there Mr. and Mrs. Board Member. These are the minds of children. We're talking about the health and the future of our generations to come. Thank you.

[MR. IMBRIANO TAKES THE HAND-HELD VIDEO CAMERA AND TRIPOD WITH HIM TO HIS SEAT]

Boyd: Brenda Lebsack, followed by Michelle New.

Lebsack: I'm actually reading this on behalf of a teacher friend of mine who got called into work today, and I start back tomorrow. So, I'm actually putting on my teacher hat right now, and I said I would read this for her because I have some of the same questions. So um, I'll go ahead. So, good afternoon, President Williams, Dr. Mijares and Members of the Board. My name is Letty Jacoby and I live in Orange County. I recently went through a program, "Teach for America". As a new teacher, I rely heavily on curriculum provided to me which is based on the state standards and the framework. I'm familiar with AB 329 and saw the Orange County Department of Ed will be holding a forum to discuss this new law.

And, as a new teacher, I would like to request specific definitions of Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation. I would like to share the definitions that were given in the Hea...California Health framework draft of 2019. If these are the definitions that will be approved for our future state framework, then these are the definitions that will be taught in the curriculum to fulfill the California Healthy Youth Act, and I hope you'll address that during the forum. Um, Gender Identity; Gender Expression def...is defined; Gender Identity refers to one's internal deeply-held sense of being male, female, neither of these, both, or other genders and may not necessarily cus...correspond with an individual sex assigned at birth.

That's Chapter 6, Page 32. Students may not conform to the social norms of Binary Gender's Identity of male and female. For example, Gender Non-Binary; Gender Non-Conforming; Androgynous; Gender Queer; Gender Fluid. Chapter 6, Page 32. Sexual Orientation definitions from the framework. The usage of LGBTQ+ throughout this document is intended to represent an inclusive and ever-changing spectrum and understanding of identities. Historically, the acronym included Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual, but has continued to expand and include Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual Allies, and alternative identities LGBTQQIAA, as well as expanding concepts that they fall under the umbrella term...wait, they will fall under this umbrella term in the future.

Chapter 5, Page 21 through 22. Sexual Orientations on Chapter 6, Page 33: Heterosexual, you know what that is, Gay and Lesbian, you know what that is, Bisexual, you know. Asexual, No Sexual Attraction, Pansexual, attracted to all sexes and gender, Polysexual, attracted to many sexes and genders, but not all. Queer, Non-Heterosexual and some students may not be...may be Non-Monogamous and the term, Partners, may also be used in order to be more inclusive. The framework also addresses some of these concepts will be taught...when they will be taught, students understand from learning in earlier grade levels that gender is not strictly defined by biology and sexual anat...anatomy.

And in TK through Third grade level at the state framework states, "That all forms of gender should be respected." So, her question, Orange County Board Members and Superintendent: Can you please address these issues in the September Forum, so Orange County educators can be made aware of these new definitions of Gender and Sexual Orientation that are new to many? Thank you.

Boyd: Michelle New, followed by... Gheorghe Rosca.

New: Sorry, I'm waiting for my reader. Hi, thank you for hearing me. I'm Michelle New. Um, I wanted to bring my daughter with me. Well, she had to come to work with me today because my other daughter was meeting with her professor. Anyway, she's with me right now. I wanted to point out because um, AB329 has become such an issue uh, this side, that side, what we believe...but you're being made to believe by certain people here and other people that were...have been here many other Board Meetings that this is about a religious belief. I do not stand here as a Christian, as a Muslim, as a Catholic...as anything. I'm standing here as a parent. This is my daughter, one of my daughter's; I have two daughters.

I don't force my belief down her throat. She...I tell her what I believe. She makes her own choice. She's 11. She's capable of making her own choice. She does not need a teacher to impose her belief on her. We follow the rules, which is why I spoke out and said, "Freedom" as some of these girls made funny faces. This stuff...[MS. NEW SNAPS HER FINGERS ON BOTH HANDS] I want to know why this is allowed in here. We have rules in place for a reason. Why are these outbursts allowed? I teach my daughter that there are rules and we have to follow them, whether we agree with them or not. We...we're following AB329 because it's a law but the curriculum does not uphold the law. The curriculum is completely biased.

It is not representing Catholics, Muslims, Protestant...anybody except a specific group of people and their belief. I'm sorry for some of these beliefs that they feel that they've been held down or mistreated. You know what? People are mistreated all the time. That doesn't mean you need to push your curriculum on my child. She does not want to learn it. I don't want her to learn it. When she's at an age to make a choice for herself, she will do so and we will support her in whatever choice she makes. My sister is in that lifestyle and we support her in her choice. I don't have to agree with her but I love her and I support her but she doesn't...she has a problem with this curriculum as well. Fine. This is a law.

Uphold AB329, I say uphold it but this curriculum is not upholding the law the way it stands, and I'm tired of it. We...I was followed into the parking lot from one of these people that claim bullying, threatening me. It's ridiculous. They claim bullying, they claim all these...it's a

religious thing, it's not a religious thing. My religion doesn't come into the play of what's in school. My...what's necessary by age appropriateness is what plays in school.

My child goes to school to learn Math, to learn English, Writing, Science, History. She's not there to learn preferences, sexual preferences, so I'm asking you to do what's right, and please get these [MS. NEW AGAIN SNAPS HER FINGERS REPEATEDLY] people to stop doing this junk because you know what? It's offensive. I teya...teach my daughter to follow rules. I expect them to do the same.

Boyd: Gheorghe Rosca, followed by Shannon Tilley.

Rosca: Good afternoon Board Members, Dr. Mijares. My name is Gheorghe Rosca. I'm a former student here in Orange County one...1st through 12th grade, father of 3 children that go to Orange Unified and a pastor in Placentia. I would like to start off on a much lighter note. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, they decide to go on a camping trip. After dinner, they go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions of stars" "What do they tell you?" Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observed that Saturn is in Leo.

Horologically, I deduced that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorol...meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes was silent for a minute then spoke. "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent." I'm afraid AB329 has stolen our tent of parental rights and protection of our children while we've spent the last 3 months arguing over what should or should not be in the curriculum. I think we've missed the point. Watson, SIECUS, ACLU, and Planned Parenthood want full access to our children through the masquerading of diversity, equality, inclusivity, healthiness, and other stolen metaphysical concepts, which are impossible to derive from their own worldview.

The root of their philosophy is eloquently stated by their own preacher of the Sexual Revolution, Aldous Huxley. I quote from his book, Ends and Means: "For myself, as no doubt for most of my friends, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom", end quote. Without a transcendent moral being, we stand no chance but to create a self-referencing morality which, taken to its bitter end, will result in a philosophy of meaninglessness. If life is meaningless then everything is permissible. We like the latter, but not the former, and don't realize that the two are inseparable.

We wonder why the most recent 2017 CDC Youth Risk Behavior survey...surveillance report shows teens that were sexually promiscuous were found to have much higher rates of other risk behaviors related to violence, suicide, tobacco, alcohol, drug use, diet and more. Our children are seeking fulfillment in this worldview where everything is permissible, because SIECUS tells them it's their right.

Yet, through all of their experimentation, they find...they keep on finding the brutal answer: meaninglessness, but I think everyone in this room believes that our children are not

meaningless. They are priceless. The philosophical underpinning of a worldview that promotes meaning and worth to all people is none other than the Judeo-Christian worldview that is ingrained in our Constitution. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...

Boyd: Your time is up.

Rosca: ...that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights...

Boyd: Your time is up.

Rosca: ...that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Thank you.

Williams: Who’s next?

Boyd: Shannon Tilley, followed by Samantha Eden.

Tilley: Hi everyone. Um, my name is Shannon Tilly and I went to public schools in the Capo Unified School District my entire life, and I'm currently now a student at Vassar College in New York. Um, I'm proudly a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and I'm here to speak about the importance of incorporating LGBTQ issues into public high school curriculums. My experience with sex ed specifically was brief, to say the least. Um, in my semester-long health class in 9th grade, we spent about two weeks, if that, discussing um, sexual education and the curriculum was largely heterosexually oriented with no mention of how to have safe sex with a partner of the same sex. And, I think this is unacceptable.

This gives the message that students who identify as LGBTQ, their health and their safety do not matter to schools. Complete erasure from the curriculum is a denial of existence, which is extremely dangerous for vulnerable LGBT youth. Whether your personal values conflict with the LGBT um, agenda it does not change the fact that LGBT people exist and attend our schools. A lot of people today have talked about upholding values and I agree. Values reflecting the law should be upheld, especially separation between church and state, and the full implementation of the California Healthy Youth Act.

If your religious beliefs create dissonance with the law, I urge you to put your children in private schools that align more with your beliefs. This is not a question of what demographics are catered to in sexual health as well. I can confidently say abstinence is taught in every sexual health class, which is mostly desired by groups like Christians, Muslims, etc. So, it's not really catering to any specific group in general. So, thank you.

[SOME AUDIENCE MEMBERS CLAP]

Boyd: Samantha Eden, followed by Dr. Priya Shah.

Eden: Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Samantha Eden and I am here representing the Anti-Defamation League, which is an anti-hate nonprofit that works to promote inclusivity and works with educators to establish a safe, inclusive, and respectful school environment. I personally am entering my sophomore year of University and was a public school student in Orange County from Kindergarten until my senior year graduation. Today, I am proud to be speaking on behalf of the ADL and myself as a former Orange County student. I hope that each and every one of you believes that every student in Orange County has the right to an equal and inclusive education.

I hope that you are aware of why inclusive, unbiased, medically accurate education like CHYA is essential and needs to be implemented. I hope that published statistics like less than 5% of middle school and high school students report having positive discussions of LGBT-related topics in their health class, and the LGBTQ+ students are more likely to experience dating violence, sexual assault, attempts suicide, have HIV and other STIs, allow you to recognize how essential an all-inclusive education. As you can see, it can clearly be a matter of life or death. I hope that you are also aware that the California Healthy Youth Act is California law, and as a school district...as...as the Board of Education you are obligated to implement it.

ADL supports that all students be valued as human beings, respected for who they are, and embrace an inclusive educational environment in terms of policy and curriculum, including hel...health curriculum like CHYA, that respects all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. With our organizations long battle of anti-Semitism and other social injustices, we know the necessity of inclusivity includes schools and community. Personally, my health education as a public school student in Orange County, as a straight cis female in middle school and high school, was inadequate and did not provide me with enough information so I can only imagine how frustrating, isolating, and detrimental the current health curriculum is to the LGBTQ+ community.

You, as the Board of Education representing our students, cannot be intimidated by parents that want to infiltrate religion into public education. They can easily opt their children out if they are so revolted. There is also no need for a forum to hear two sides because there are no two valid sides. There is one, the law, and you...it is your responsibility to follow through. To not is a huge disappointment to, in neglect of our students. Thank you.

[SOME AUDIENCE MEMBERS APPLAUD]

Boyd: Dr. Priya Shah, followed by Laura Kanter.

Shah: Hi, good afternoon. Good to see some of you again. I missed last month um, so I'm just going to go right in. Like the concept of race or the intellectual capability of women, the concept of sexuality has also greatly shifted since the last time we were here in Orange County having this debate over sexual education in the 60's. Advancements in medicine and biotechnology, sociological studies of sexuality and gender variance, and most crucially, the testimony of our queer brothers and sisters, have demonstrated the extent to which sexual and gender diversity are both real and biological and sociological terms, and common among all cultures and classes of people.

In keeping with this learning curve and in the spirit of love and compassion, many religious leaders and communities have embraced the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and gender non-conforming people within their folds, just as they have embraced women who were once almost uniformly considered subservient of mind and body. In other words, in a heterogeneous society in which people of many different faiths, and of no religious faith at all, share in public institutions like education. It is imperative that we base this education on the social consensus formed by the articulation of research, evidence, and historical experience. This does not mean at all the removal of religious interpretation and teaching from our young people's lives.

In fact, as we see in Orange County, there are vibrant and vital faith communities that continue to inform the value systems and the culture in which our youth grow. But, public education needs to be grounded in the knowledges that inform the lives and decisions of all members of the public square. Second, I recognize that there has been a lot of misinformation spread about the specifics of the curricula, and we've heard some of that today, but I would just like to take a step back and think about this word sexuality that has been so overdetermined. So much of the fear that riddles this conversation stems from our social...social associations with the word sexuality and we've come to reduce sexuality to the pornographic, so much so that when we hear the word we think of dirty magazines, illicit online videos, and over-the-top commercial advertising.

Our popular culture is emptied sexuality of all but the most vulgar of its aspects and so it's not surprising that parents recoil when they hear just the term sex ed, but sexuality is much more than Paris Hilton seductively eating a giant hamburger. It is the life force that is integral to our integration into the world around us. Sexuality is not just the sex act but it is our understanding of our changing bodies, our longings, our desires for companionship and the root of all chosen in biological families.

And so, this takes me to the question of whether sexual education and the specific details of its curricula are appropriate for middle and high school youth. If we understand that sexuality encompasses our biology as well as our sociological connections, we can see that understanding what in...it entails is integral to the growth and well-being of the whole student. Thank you so much.

[SOME AUDIENCE MEMBERS APPLAUD]

Boyd: Laura Kanter.

Kanter: Hello, good afternoon. My name is Laura Kanter. I'm the Director of Policy Advocacy and Youth Services at the LGBT Center in Orange County. Um, I didn't write anything. Um, and um, what I want to say is a couple of things. Um, first of all, the snapping thing. [MS. KANTER BEGINS TO SNAP HER FINGERS] Um, it's a queer thing. When we get excited our fingers snap [MS. KANTER STOPS SNAPPING], and we just can't help ourselves and we're doing our best. Um, secondly, um to um, Mr. Rosca, um, who um, has been sending around messages um, linking my name and my work to um, something um, that is about um, a sexual act that I have nothing to do with. That's from a long time ago.

I had...I don't even know what it is um, and sending this out to people and trying to malign me um, and threaten me um, and my work. I want to say that that is not very Christian of you sir. Um, to um, Mrs. Lebsack, I think that you actually gave the definitions of...of those words while you were here. So, those definitions are there. That's what was written in the curriculum. So, you have the definitions and I...I would suggest that um, you think about who you're asking for uh, for the definitions. And...and I'm saying that because as a lesbian, and someone who's grown up in an environment where I have been bullied, and have been um, targeted, and I have been harassed and discriminated against, um, I want to say unless you know what it's like to be an LGBT person, you need to stop trying to tell us who we are and trying to judge us.

Last week, I attended a press conference. The District Attorney's office following, um, the um, filing of a hate crime enhancement charges against a man named Sam Woodward. He was an Orange County student who killed...murdered another young man also in Orange County, person who grew up in...young man who grew up in Orange County named Blaze Bernstein. He killed him because he was gay. Sam Woodward grew up in a home where he was taught that it was not okay to be LGBT.

We don't know anything about Sam Woodward. I don't know who he was, where his hate started, but I know that he was taught that it wasn't okay to be LGBT and he was not taught about who LGBT people are and he took...he met up with um, Blaze Bernstein and stabbed him to death and left his body in a park in Lake Forest. And, do you know who causes that? You cause it [MS. KANTER POINTS TOWARDS THE BOARD MEMBERS] and you [MS. KANTER POINTS AT MR. ROSCA] cause it with your hate.

Woman in the audience: Oh, please.

Rosca: We love all people.

Woman in the audience: Give me a break.

Kanter: Your love is...first of all, this is my time up here so you can be quiet. Thank you very much. Sec...secondly...

[PRESIDENT WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL THREE TIMES]

Kanter: I'm speaking.

Williams: Hey, can...

Kanter: A man that murders, the bullying that leads to murders, the lack of education and the ignorance that is leading to the murders of people, of young people and killing kids. This kid got killed. He was a young man; 19 years old. He had come home for Christmas vacation from college and he was murdered, stabbed, and left in a ditch because he was gay because Sam Woodward was not taught who gay LGBT people are. He was not given that information and now Sam Woodward's life is ruined as well. You need to stop it and...and I completely object to your forum. It's just going to be another one of these and it's horrible. It's hurtful. It causes traumatizing...

Boyd: Your time is up.

Kanter: ...hate for people.

[VARIOUS AUDIENCE MEMBERS CLAP]

Boyd: That's the last of our Public Speakers.

Williams: That's it? Okay, that...that marks the end of Public Comments. Uh, I will ask Teresa Johnson to the podium regarding a Charter Submission for the National University Academy.

Boyd: And after that um, just to remind you, we had a uh, Time Certain for the Inter-District Appeals, so we're beyond the time.

Williams: Okay. Yeah, we'll go through this as quickly as we can.

Johnson: Good afternoon President Williams, Members of the Board and Superintendent Mijares. We have one charter school submission today. I would like to introduce Ms. Kimberleigh Kopp, representing National University Academy Charter School. She is submitting

this Charter School Petition on appeal as a result of a denial from Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

Kopp: Good afternoon distinguished Board Members, Superintendent. Uh, we are very excited to present you with our Charter Petition. Uh, we know it is a tremendous amount of work to review by staff and ours is a large one. If there is anything that we can do to better align ourselves with the County, we are very excited to have those conversations and we're collaboratively...collaboratively with staff through this process. Thank you very much for your time.

Boyd: And Ken, if I could just mention to our new Board Members the process so that...

Williams: Absolutely...

Boyd: ...they're familiar?

Williams: Please do.

Boyd: There will be some binders available. They will present next month. Uh, their petition to the Board and so this is just an introduction to let you know it's coming and then staff will set up a meeting with them. We'll look at all the...the components of the petition and a staff report will be written and prepared for you, and the Board will have opportunity uh, when they receive the staff report after the presentation to ask questions uh, of the petitioner. So, we...it's another two month process, so the next meeting they will present and then the following meeting would be action after that.

Barke: Thank you.

Williams: Very good. Can we...Ms. Johnson, is that the end of the charter submission?

Boyd: Yes.

Johnson: That is the end of the charter submission. Thank you.

Williams: Thank you. Very good. Um, moving on to the Consent Calendar. There's um...Nina, if you can help me out here. On Page 14 we have three um, categories that are not covered or Members of the Board not...not in there. Is that something that you forgot to put in here or is it something we need to figure out?

Boyd: This was a carryover from last month so that for Board Assignments. So, uh, we need to fill in the 2018-19 uh, responsibilities of Board Members understanding Orange County School Board Association uh, their bylaws do not allow uh, new uh, Board Members. You have to be on a School District or County Office Board at least a year before you can be on that, uh, uh, Executive Committee for Orange...uh, the liaison to the Orange County School Boards Association. So...

Gomez: I would be happy to do that position.

Williams: Thank you, Beckie. You're very kind. Okay, that go with Page then, also?

Boyd: Page is um, another component of that. It's actually happens an hour prior to the Orange County School Boards Association. The...what Beckie has um, agreed to participate in is the Board of Directors meetings and the Fiscal Seminars and be the liaison for those. Uh, the Page is separate from that. It's the legislative um, or information meeting. There's three meetings and they typically occur before...one hour before the dinner meetings of the School Boards.

Williams: Okay, so are we looking for somebody to fill that?

Boyd: Yes, to participate in that.

Williams: Okay. Any volunteers?

Bedell: Can new Board Members do Page?

Boyd: Yes.

Bedell: Okay.

Boyd: And we also need a PTA Liaison.

Barke: I'll volunteer to do the Page.

Williams: Trustee Sparks, can I get you to step up to the plate? If you can do it?

Sparks: If I can do it, I'll do it.

Williams: If you can't make it, let me know.

Sparks: Yeah.

Williams: I'll take your place.

Sparks: Okay.

Barke: You gonna take my place too if I can't make it?

Williams: Sure, sure. Okay. Um, so uh...

Gomez: So, Trustee Sparks is going to do the PTA?

Williams: Yes.

Gomez: Okay.

Williams: Yes.

Bedell: So, I'll Move the Consent Calendar...

Williams: Yes, please.

Bedell: ...I'll Move a Motion for the Consent Calendar as amended to include those three names as inserted.

Williams: Very good. I need a Second for that.

Barke: Aye.

Williams: Second by Trustee Barke. Any other questions? Being that it's Consent, all those in favor say, "aye."

[ALL BOARD MEMBERS SAY, "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose? Abstain? Okay, um moving on to Staff Recommendations. I'm going to try...and by the way for my Board Members, I'm going to try and get through Items Nine uh, be...before the Expulsion. Um, moving on to Staff Recommendation Number Five. May I have a Motion to Approve the Material Revision for Scholarship Prep Charter School?

Barke: I make a Motion.

Williams: Motion by Trustee Bark...Barke. Second by...

Sparks: Second.

William: Trustee Sparks. You want to Second that? Okay. Uh, any questions? Any...any information we need to know from uh, Superintendent's Office on this?

Boyd: It's all written in the staff report, unless any of the Board Members have additional questions?

Williams: Okay. Okay, being that I don't see any further questions, all those in favor say, "aye".

[THE BOARD MEMBERS SAY, "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose? Abstain? Motion passes 5-0. Moving on to Item 6, I need a Motion for Approval of Federal Forest Reserve receipts.

Bedell: So Moved.

Gomez: Second.

Williams: So Moved and Second. Um, for the benefit of...of the new Board Members uh, Dr. Bedell, I think you have a great amount of enthusiasm and support and experience of this. Can...can you help...

Bedell: Sure.

Williams: ...them out?

Bedell: My pleasure. Because the Federal Government takes – this is the Reader's Digest version – because the Federal Government takes land away from cities and counties to do forest and parks, the cities lose potential revenue for stores and car dealers and houses. The Federal Government backfills a tiny skosh of that. We've gotten a much as \$29,000 one year. This is one of the things when we go back to Washington, we always mention it because many people thinking what are you doing with this kind of money in such a suburban develop County? And the cities around the area get it and so it's...it's much less this year, I...which I don't quite understand but...

Boyd: Actually, this is an additional apportionment. Um, you...the...several months ago the Board uh, received the \$59,000. So, this is another \$4,000. We're not sure why they um, sent some additional money but we are happy on behalf...

Williams: We'll take it.

Boyd: ...of ourselves and the District.

Bedell: I put my hair on fire when I saw the small amount, what's left of it, so, uh...

Boyd: Actually, we did make some copies that I'll give to the Board Member so that they'll have the additional information and um, Dr. Bedell, when this was presented several months ago had asked for the historical in terms of how much has come into the County. So, we have copies of that for the Board Members to take home.

Barke: Approximately what part of Orange County is Forest Reserve? Do we know?

Boyd: Uh, Districts who receive funds are: Capistrano Unified; Orange Unified; Rancho Santiago Community College; South Orange County Community College; Saddleback Valley Unified and our office.

Gomez: It's on the report, right?

Mijares: Yes.

Gomez: Yeah.

Bedell: So, that's...but that's a great question. I don't know the exact percentage. It's certainly much smaller than a lot of other Counties.

Barke: Okay.

Bedell: That's why we talk about it because it's counterintuitive that we get it.

Barke: Right.

Williams: Very good. Barring no further discussion, all those in favor say, "aye".

[ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS SAY, "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose? Abstain? Motion passes 5-0. Moving on to uh, Board Recommendations.

Bedell: Trustee Williams, if you could indulge me, I have some very serious...concern about

Number Eight, in particular, and I...I don't know how Number Nine relates to the Board Discussion Item of the General Role. My recommendation to the...for the public's sake is that we take the...the kids first because I think there's going to be a lot of discussion about Seven, Eight and Nine.

Gomez: I would agree.

Williams: Um...

Bedell: We're having...

Gomez: We're...we're already 25 minutes late for these time certain things.

Williams: Yeah. So, the Time Certain is meant that we can't start before them. A...as you know uh, we have historically gone after that time. It's just important, I think uh, because we do have uh, Legal Counsel here that we get this done as quickly as we can. So, may I have a Motion for Number Seven?

Sparks: I make a Motion.

Williams: All right, and I'll Second that. Any discussion?

Gomez: Why are we doing this?

Williams: Well, uh, this is...

Gomez: Because there's no report, so I'm not...I'm again, I don't know if this is an outgrowth of that Closed Session meeting again.

Barke: So...

Gomez: Special Meeting?

Barke: So, I think some things have changed since this Motion. I think that um, Ms. Chidester, I'm not sure how you say her name, has actually withdrawn to provide as um, as Counsel. Is that true?

Williams: Well...

Barke: Am I reading the Memos right or...?

Williams: Yeah, so the...

Bedell: That... that was why I asked that question, if that was still...thank you for mentioning it because that's the way I...my conclusion...

Barke: Unless there's been a Memoir I've missed, my understanding is she's now withdrawn. So, I think based on that I would make a Motion to revise Number Seven, that we would retain Counsel and that would be restricted to Mrs. Chidester since she has withdrawn um, providing that. Would that be reasonable?

Williams: So, that's a subsidiary Motion. Could...could you say that again? Is that in addition to? Because uh, Ms. Chidester may change her mind in...in the future.

Barke: All right. Well, then I would say that um, I would make a Motion that if Mrs. Chidester decides not to provide legal advice and representation to the Board, that we have the ability to hire other uh, Counsel in her place. That, if she agrees to it, that we would use her but if she...if she um, withdraws, that which I thought at this point she had, that we would have the ability to use other...hire other Counsel.

Williams: Okay, I...and I'll Second that. Okay, so we're going to go to the subsidiary Motion dis...discussion. So uh, maybe Chidester is still kind of up in the air, not knowing exactly what's uh, going to occur. As we know, Maggie has been someone who has been very dear to this Board for...for several decades. Um, if uh, Ms. Chidester does not want to uh, take this position uh, this Action Item allows us to go and look for another uh, law firm that would represent this Board; to provide uh, legal advice and representation. So, we have a subsidiary Motion and we're...we're

dis...discussing, uh, not restricting Maggie but adding uh, to uh, to the Executive Board's authority to hire uh, and find and obtain uh, other Counsel.

Bedell: So, Mr. Chairman, as I understand – thank you, Mari, for clarifying that – as I read this Motion, it's...basically says discuss and take action to retain outside Legal Counsel, possibly the law offices of Maggie Chidester, to provide legal advice and representation to the Board. Is that basically it?

Williams: So, as uh, we are all well aware of, the um, Agenda Item went up last Friday, and as last Friday, there's been a change, possibly and so, uh, that was why it's on today's meeting and I think the subsidiary Motion by Trustee Barke was to authorize the exec...Executive Committee to find another outside Counsel if Maggie doesn't take it.

Bedell: What is the expense of the Executive Committee talked about for this Item?

Williams: Uh, we...we haven't talked about it. That would be a Board Discussion Item. That would be something that when th...that occurs, we...we would talk about it.

Bedell: Oh, okay.

Gomez: Mr. President.

Williams: You have the floor.

Gomez: Um, okay, so we're looking at retaining an outside attorney, but it's my understanding we have more attorneys on site besides the General Counsel. Is that accurate, Mr. Superintendent?

Mijares: That's correct.

Gomez: Okay.

Mijares: We have five attorneys including the General Counsel.

Gomez: Okay. So, why would we need to go outside and seek Counsel when we have other attorneys on staff?

Williams: Right. So, that...that's a very fair question. It's a good question, Trustee Gomez. So uh, the Board's position as of the Special Meeting is that there's not an appropriate Counsel appointed and that's why at that meeting uh – and we'll go into Closed Session, by the way, afterwards and talk more about that and bring you up to speed – but the um, the situation is we don't have properly and lawfully appointed General Counsel. So, uh, since we have uh, Expulsion and um, Inter-District Transfer Hearings, uh, we need Legal Counsel for that. Uh, so we need somebody to help and guide the Board.

Gomez: Oh, I agree. But, since we already have staff attorneys, well let's...let's just put it this way. What if the General Counsel got in a car accident and couldn't be at work for six weeks? Would we appoint somebody interim or would you use a staff attorney? I mean, I think that's kind of the same...same thing. I mean, I don't know that we would have the expense of going to an outside attorney for a short period of time. So, I...I just again, I just see this as a wasteful expenditure of taxpayer dollars as opposed to using a staff attorney, somebody who already knows the system, already knows what we're doing.

Williams: So, to help you understand, today in our ex...um, Inter-District up here...Appeal Hearing, we do have staff attorney helping us for that uh, event today. But as far as the replacement of Mr. Wenkart uh, there has been no lawfully appointed General Counsel. That has been our position uh, that was taken wid...

Gomez: That's the majority of the Board position.

Williams: That's...that's the majority of the Board's position, correct.

Bedell: Mr. President, I appreciate your willingness to use an in-house attorney today because I never like going into those sessions...gives lives at risk if something went wrong in the district, for example, and we didn't know about it or we didn't pick it up in the material. That said, I understand we've had...we've hired Counsel. We've had the...you know the...gra...whole idea. It seems to me that at one level, it's insulting to our own attorneys to say you can't handle the work of the Board. I really think if I were a professional in that office, I'd say, hmm, I wonder what's wrong with...where did I get my degree? Didn't I pass the Bar? And now, we're going to spend more taxpayers money, and we don't know how much.

So, even before I...first of all I have nothing against Maggie. I mean...I'm a...she's...total respect for her as a person and as a friend, so that's not my issue. My issue is we have four in-house lawyers. Why are we taking money away from the kids? Because that's what we're doing. Now it may come from reserves but God forbid we have a fire or something, we've got to build one of our sites. That would come out of reserves. So, I don't see why Item Number Seven is necessary with in-house Counsel and I would have a hard time defending it to my constituents by saying, oh yeah, we got four attorney's but we're not using them and we got a couple lawsuits going on. I just...to me it does not make sense.

Williams: Th...thank you, and I...I appreciate that. Uh, any...any thoughts by my other Board Members on this matter?

Sparks: I think we need representation one way or the other and I, you know, we need...we have...we need to be able to move things forward with Counsel that we have confidence in. That would be my statement.

Williams: Trustee Barke, your thoughts?

Barke: Well, my thoughts are I'm very new in a position to be putting all this out. Um, so I...I think our main issue is the hiring of our outside General Counsel, and I think the reason we brought Maggie in is because we did that until we figured that out to...we're going to hire her outside Counsel. How it works with other people substituting, I don't really actually know all the logistics. How many others are available? What they would be doing if they're not doing that? Or...or how that comes into play. So...

Bedell: Mr. Chairman, would you entertain a Motion to table this to the September meeting? We have no pending business other than the other litigation. We will probably have other uh, cases that may come in from Inter-District appeals. We can see how this works today. I think it honors our staff and I think it's taxpayer friendly, and I don't see a sense of urgency. We already have the...we already have this good firm and our colleagues are here working on our other issue. Uh, I would personally be comfortable delegating to the Executive Committee the ability to go to our in-house lawyers should matters other than arise. I'm...I'm comfortable in both of you doing that and I would see that as a logical, fiscally responsible, professionally respectful alternative.

Williams: So, the elephant in the room is that we're...the Board did not put us into this situation, as you are well aware of. That the unilateral decision to appoint General Counsel for the Board of Education puts us in a bind and such is the reason why we're in litigation. We've gone forward

in the first steps. That's what we voted for uh, at...at our last Special Meeting. So, we really don't have General Counsel for this Board during our meetings when difficult situations arise and so, uh, the thought process of the Executive Committee is that we need to have General Counsel. And...and thus the...the reason why I think this is necessary.

Bedell: With all due respect, I don't find that compelling since we're going to do fine today with one of our own in-house attorneys, I'm sure. So, I think that, to me, is what's overriding and I...even if one accepts your argument about unilateral, uh, is theoretical that I don't see how that situation necessarily bleeds into this situation.

Williams: It's a good question and uh, may I ask um, because there's a lot of discussion that...that took place uh, with the Executive Committee uh, with our...our Legal Counsel on this matter. Uh, so if...if I can ask our Legal Counsel to...to come in and fill in some of the gaps here...

Barke: Can I?

Williams: help...help us answer these questions.

Barke: Can I also get one point of clarification so I understand? Who oversees the Staff Counsel that would be working with us? Is that the role of the General Counsel or who does the Staff Counsel?

Boyd: That's the direct Supervisor, yes.

Barke: Okay.

Abrahms: An...and uh, Trustee Barke, you've identified the issue uh, and there are some uh, some authority out there that that in a Supervisory role, if a General Counsel has a conflict...

Barke: Mmhmm.

Abrahms: ...um, uh, the subordinate attorneys...the conflict is imputed to them. Uh, and even if you were to do traditional ethical walls and take other shteps...such steps uh, to insulate the individual supervisory attorney from the subordinate attorneys...

Barke: Mmmhm.

Abrahms: ...that those may not be effective to uh, to avoid the conflict. And so, I...I...I think what was discussed last time um, and what I'm comfortable sharing here, is that the...that is the concern is it unti...as long as there is a supervisory relationship uh, of the uh, disputed Supervisory Counsel, that you do run the risk of having a conflict that could infect other matters that are not...not out there, right? And so, the not knowing how the conflict, who would raise the conflict or what the issue would be.

Um, the ramifications of that could not be known and it's not something that generally you would want to...you always want to try to avoid a conflict as much as you can and you don't want somebody to try to disqualify Counsel or...or have a reason to dispute um, or...or take issue with any...any action that was taken or guidance that was provided. So, I think that was the rationale, having answered more questions, but I...I think that's probably what we've relayed last time.

Williams: Trustee Gomez or Trustee Bedell, any question for...?

Gomez: Well, I think there's a point of order here because I...I believe that uh, Trustee Bedell wanted to table the item. Isn't that...is that correct?

Bedell: I wanted to hear fro...well, that's...that's close. I wanted to hear from Trustee Williams' sense of urgency that a Table would prevent, because we have no cost...

Williams: So, we have a conflict.

Sparks: But now that we have the additional information, I think we have... I think that's important information for us to make a decision.

Williams: If it...

Sparks: I don't see a need to Table it at this stage.

Williams: Our...our...our Counsel gave us reason for this and that's the conflict that originally started all this. Uh, so with all due respect uh...

Bedell: No, that's fine.

Williams: ...we...we...we can disagree on this one, Trustee Bedell. So uh, we do have...can...can you reread the subsidiary Motion just so we have it properly understood?

Sisavath: It was to delete or um...to take out Maggie Chidester. Dr. Bedell had took um...outside Counsel, possibly the law office...

Bedell: That was...that was my interpretation of what was said. Th...that was my deduction of what was meant by that...

Sisavath: In leaving it open.

Barke: Right. I think that's the Motion I was making, was that...that if Maggie has not withdrawn or does not wish to withdraw, that we would you use her, but if she chooses to withdraw, that we would have the ability to replace her with different outside Counsel, is the subsidiary Motion.

Williams: Does everybody understand that?

Boyd: And that's we, being the Executive Committee?

Barke: Mmhmm.

Boyd: Okay, so you'd need to put that in there because Executive Committee is not in there.

Sparks: Do we need a Second?

Williams: Uh, the subsidiary Motion has already been Seconded.

Sparks: Okay.

Williams: We're discussing it now.

Sparks: Okay.

Williams: And I want to make sure before we vote, everybody has all their questions answered. Okay, being that there's no further discussion, all those in favor of the subsidiary Motion uh, say, "aye".

[PRESIDENT WILLIAMS, TRUSTEE BARKE AND TRUSTEE SPARKS SAY "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose?

Bedell: No.

Gomez: Oppose.

Williams: Okay, the Motion passes 3-2. Now, getting back to the original discussion Item Number Seven. Uh, we do have the subsidiary Motion in...in addition...additional language. Uh, do we...uh, we have a uh, I believe a Motion by uh, Trustee Sparks and a Second by myself. Uh, do we have any further discussion on Number Seven? Being that there's none, all those in favor of Number Seven say, "aye".

[PRESIDENT WILLIAMS, TRUSTEE BARKE AND TRUSTEE SPARKS SAY "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose?

Bedell: No.

Gomez: Oppose.

Williams: Motion passes 3-2. Um...may I have uh, input from the Board? We do have Inter-District Appeals; I don't want to wait too much longer, but also we do have Closed Session Number One since our...our...our uh, Legal Counsel is here. Uh, I...I would like us to go, spend time, get caught up and understand uh, the issues that are at hand. Would there be any objection if we went into Closed Session Two before taking the Appeals?

Gomez: Um, I would just ask how long they think it's going to take? Because I'm sure some families have taken time off of work to be here, and we're delaying them. We're already forty minutes late. So, I...I...I have a concern about that.

Williams: I do to, and...and it's happened before. This is not uncommon and...and...

Gomez: Well, I don't really...

Williams: ...the...the...the...

Gomez: ...it doesn't matter if it's happened before. We need to worry about what's happening now.

Williams: So, it...it's happened before, it's happened uh, as a part of the history of doing Appeals. Delays are...are common. Um, I am just trying to get us moving in this meeting so we can get our...our Legal Counsel and Closed Session out of the way so they can go. And I...how long will it be? It depends on how many questions that uh, there are.

Bedell: My preference would be to put the students and their families first, Ken. That would be my personal preference. This...these...they're waiting for school...

Boyd: We have two families here...

Bedell: Yeah.

Boyd: ...that are...that...they just said.

Gomez: Yeah.

Abrahms: We have no objection to waiting and...and we're...we're not going to be on the clock while we're waiting.

Barke: Thank you. Thank you, we appreciate that.

Williams: So, I think um, that was a...very kind of...of uh, Becker and Epstein. So, let's um, if everybody agrees and the consent is there to put aside uh, Board Recommendations Eight and Nine, and let's go to our...our Time Certain, and our first Closed introduction.

[THE BOARD MEETING ADJOURNS FOR THE CLOSED INTER-DISTRICT APPEAL HEARING. UPON COMPLETION OF THE CLOSED HEARING, THE BOARD MEMBERS RETURN TO THE BOARD ROOM AND TAKE THEIR RESPECTIVE SEATS]

Williams: It is now an Open Session temporarily as uh, we will go to Closed Session One and have conference with Legal Counsel regarding anticipated litigation.

[THE BOARD MEETING ADJOURNS FOR CLOSED SESSION 1. UPON COMPLETION OF THE CLOSED SESSION, THE BOARD MEMBERS RETURN TO THE BOARD ROOM AND TAKE THEIR RESPECTIVE SEATS. PRESIDENT WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL TWICE TO CONTINUE THE MEETING]

Williams: Uh, the Board is out of Closed Session and uh, our attorney, Mr. Abrahms, has a statement to be put into the record.

Abrahms: We...we updated, uh, the Board on um, the progress that no decisions or actions were taken during Closed Session.

Williams: Thank you, sir. Okay, um, moving on to the...the Items ahead of us. Um, I'm gonna make a...a Motion that we Table Eight because Table Eight really wasn't meant to be a decision-making process other than a discussion, and it's on the Board Discussion, so, I think that was an error and...and as I look at this and I...I um, review it, I...I think it's best as a Board Discussion Item, not as an Action Item, so um, I'm going to Move to table this. Um, procedurally, do I need a Second for that?

Bedell: Motion to Table.

Williams: Motion to Table? Okay, so...

Bedell: When is it coming back?

Gomez: You Table it until next meeting.

Williams: I'll table it until next meeting.

Bedell: Okay. Um, so all in favor of that say, "aye".

[ALL BOARD MEMBERS SAY "AYE"]

Williams: Okay, mo...moving on to Number Nine. Number Nine um, uh, may I have a Motion for that?

Barke: I'd like to make Motion.

Williams: Make a Motion. I'll Second that and um, Dr. Sparks, will you...will you read that....

Sparks: Yeah.

Williams: ...into the record?

Sparks: ...I'd like to...uh, read the statement and request that it be uh, listed on the URL web page and I'll read it to the record at this current meeting. Uh, at a Special Meeting Thursday, July 26 the Orange County Board of Education, OCBE, made a decision to take several steps to remedy a unilateral action by the Orange County Superintendent of Education, OCSE, to appoint a General Counsel without the co-approval of the OCBE. By law, the General Counsel advises both the OCBE and OCSE and the California Education Code 35041.5 expressly stipulates that the OCBE and OCSE, "Shall appoint the same" in-house Counsel. It is the OCBE's position that the OCSE's unilateral action violates state law as well as basic notions of agency collaboration and shared governance.

Given the importance of the General Counsel position to the OCBE's work and its ability to serve the members of this community, the OCBE concluded a decisive action was necessary to fully understand, address, and resolve this potentially conflictual and unjust situation.

Accordingly, at Thursday's meeting, the OCBE resolved to make a formal demand that the OCSE remedy its legally unauthorized action and, in the event it fails to do so, to subsequently seek the intervention of the du...judiciary by filing appropriate action in court requesting an order determining the parties respective rights, remediating violation, and awarding other suitable assistance and support.

The OCBE also formally authorized an earlier request for information from the OC...O...OCSE made approximately one month ago regarding the OCCE's...OSCE's actions. The OCBE prefers to avoid litigation if that can be accomplished and it will attempt to do so in good faith.

However, if the OCSE will not agree to remedy its unilateral action and acknowledge the ...and cooperatively implement the co-equal right of both agencies under state law to appoint the

General Counsel, then the OCBE is equally as committed to correcting this action and will seek to protect its governing authority and the right of any client to choose its Legal Counsel. The OCBE takes very seriously its duty to serve and guiding the education and well-being of Orange County citizens.

Appropriate ethical and suitable in-house counsel representation is a crucial role for the OCBE to be able to effectively conduct informed policy and decision-making for Orange County citizens. It is our aim to obtain a just and swift resolution of this disagreement between the two governing entities of the OCDE.

Williams: Thank you. Any uh, discussion on this Action Item? In...in essence uh, th...this was going to be uh, put onto our...our web page under the Information News section. Any further thought?

Gomez: Um, yes.

Williams: How nice.

Gomez: Um, I don't agree with the statement. Um, once again, I was not at the Special Meeting on Thursday, July 26, it was a meeting that was scheduled knowing I was out of town. Um, and once again, um, this implies that this is the entire Board um, is taking this action, and I do not believe that...hat I can sign off on this. So, um, it...it just doesn't reflect my views. It doesn't reflect what I think should happen. Um, so, um, I...I won't support this.

Williams: Dr. Bedell?

Gomez: By the same thing I mentioned earlier today, that I'm not there, I was not privy to the discussion and uh, I think it's inappropriate to do this at this time.

Williams: Any further thought, comments? All those in favor of Item 9 say, "aye".

[PRESIDENT WILLIAMS, TRUSTEE BARKE AND TRUSTEE SPARKS SAY, "AYE"]

Williams: Oppose?

Gomez: Oppose.

Williams: Abstain?

Bedell: Abstain.

Williams: Motion passes 3-1-1. Okay, as we move on with our meeting, we will not have Closed Session Two and we're under Informational Items uh, but our good Superintendent is here and uh, since he is here and it's almost now 20 minutes to 6:00, we'll give you the floor, sir.

Mijares: Long time. I know you're exhausted. Just a couple of comments I would like to make. One is that two weeks ago, we conducted a Professional Learning Institute in Sacramento and we had over 2,000 people arrive, which was amazing because we were the lead agency, the Orange County Department of Education. And um, very successful. I wanted to give a shout out to Christine Olmstead and her unit. She's not here right now. She had to leave but they did a fantastic job and we were uh, they were commended by the California Department of Education. Secondly, we met about that same time with six doctors from CHOC and uh, we're going to um, work on a project collaboratively to uh, curtail high absenteeism, chronic truancy, and to make sure that our kids are in the seat to begin with, in order for them to learn.

So um, looking forward to that uh, relationship with Children's Hospital of Orange County and a medical team there, and I think we're going to have a great relationship as far as what we can do Countywide, and we did have two District Superintendents present with us. And so, I think the Superintendents in the County are on board with that. That's all I have under my reports today, Mr. President.

Williams: Very good. Thank you, sir.

Mijares: Mmhmm.

Williams: Uh, Associate Superintendent, our good Ms. Nina Boyd. Anything to add?

Boyd: Uh, just a reminder the next Board Meeting is September 12th at 10 o'clock. Submission. deadline is August 29th. Uh, CCBE, the County Boards of Education um, Conference is September 14th through 16th in Monterey. Uh, Mari and Jack are confirmed to attend. Um, Beckie, I think is attending, but she will confirm uh, tomorrow. But next month, you'll also have a Facilities Corporation meeting as part of your regular Agenda, and that is the Esplanade property, so Renee will be facilitating over that discussion. We'll provide some backup information for the new Board Members. Uh, there was also a request for patriotic music to be played before and after the Board Meetings by the Executive Committee.

We're checking on licensing requirements and will request the full Board's input once we have that information. Uh, Trustee area maps are included in your red folders. Uh, Vice President Barke had uh, requested uh, some updated Trustee maps and so we wanted to make those available to all the Board Members.

Barke: Thank you.

Boyd: Uh, and then just as a reminder, we will do uh, updates on Charter Schools. Uh, September, October uh, meeting depending on how full the Agenda is uh, for the Board, so just want you to know that's coming. And what that is, is we typically uh, twice a year give you updates on the Charter Schools that are authorized by the County Board. So, we currently have 13 Charters and uh, the staff will provide an update with regards to the status of uh, enrollment, status of financial, status of where um, they are in terms of year 2, 3, 4 uh, so that you have some general information related to what's occurring with them. That's all I have for you.

Barke: Just a question. Um, Scholarship Prep. Are we voting on that next meeting?

Boyd: You voted on that today, earlier.

Barke: We did?

Boyd: Yes, you did.

Williams: Yeah. That...

Barke: Oh.

Boyd: That was uh, you voted on that...

Barke: Okay.

Boyd: ...earlier. It was Item Number Five. Actually, you made the Motion and Lisa made the Second...

Barke: Oh...

Boyd: ...and it was 5-0.

Barke: Okay.

Sparks: It's been a long day.

Williams: It's been a long day. Yes, it has.

Barke: Okay. Is that today?

Boyd: What's that day?

Williams: What is today? Okay. So, um, okay moving onto...then...now that our reports are complete, uh Board Discussion. Um, the Executive Committee talked about um, media representation. I think that's too premature at this time, and we're going to table that. Uh, but the most important thing is, um, the Community Forum. Want to get that off the ground. Obviously today there was a lot of emotions behind this unlike uh, what we uh plan, to do as a Board. Uh, if you can take out th...the draft, the uh, the purpose and the goals. Um, we don't have to approve this today. We can make it more official, but I think it's a stepping stone to talk about and plan for...for this um, special Community Forum.

The idea and concept as...as was discussed earlier, that's going to follow the same format that we had for the Common Core, which was uh, created by our good, uh, Trustee Bedell, and we see here um, this...this document here entitled, "Special Board Meeting Public Hearing uh, October of 214." That was going to be the format that uh, we're going to be using. The Executive Committee and I are working out this now to try to find the people who would be our experts.

Um, and then the...the purpose and goals getting to that handout. This was something that we talked about earlier that uh, Trustee Sparks and I were going to be working on as a...as a separate sub-committee. And uh, we did it. We...we completed this and I wanted to give it to you. And um, we'll probably come back at the next meeting and put it officially on for everybody uh, to vote on.

Boyd: Which document is the one...?

Williams: That is the draft of...that says at the top, "Subject to Approval."

Boyd: Okay.

Williams: Yeah. It has...it's the purpose and the goals.

Boyd: Thank you. That's the Sparks/Williams document?

Williams: Correct, correct. So...so, that's uh, what came out of that uh, Special Subcommittee. Um, that was a lot of work for you, and you were out of town. Um, and...and I created uh, some sample topics uh, for the...for this uh, forum here. It's a draft and it's uh, entitled, "CHYA" and it has sample uh, topics at the top here. This is a...a draft. Um, and I'd love to have opinion and...and in...input. This is something that's probably not an Action Item uh, unless someone wants to make it. Um, but uh, it's...it's the...the top questions that I...I would ask and uh, there's a lot of information here. I don't expect everybody to...to read it or review it but uh, hopefully by the next meeting, we'll talk uh...we'll put this on the Agenda again and we'll review it. Okay.

Bedell: Are we talking about this event in...

Williams: Yeah, we're on the topic of...

Bedell: ...right now?

Williams: Yeah, that's correct.

Bedell: Where you ended there, I thought you were done. I'm sorry.

Williams: Yeah, I'm done talking.

Bedell: Oh, okay.

Williams: I'd...I'd love to throw it out to the Board uh, to get their input and...and viewpoint.

Bedell: Well, since we had a fight outside in the lobby today...

Barke: We did?

Bedell: ...that the Sheriff went out to deal with uh, that made me very, very nervous...and in a...in a place of Education.

Williams: Yeah, it's sad.

Bedell: Yes.

Williams: Very sad.

Bedell: And so, what concerns me, Ken, and I need your help, because I knew that...and I really appreciate you getting a lot of thought on this. How do we prevent this from being a they-them? How do we prevent sarcasm? I know when some of these people got up and discussed certain behaviors, many of those behaviors are engaged in bis...heterosexual couples, not just gay and lesbian couples. Okay? And I'm just thinking I don't want to demonize anybody. I don't want anybody on the Board to be demonized.

I don't want anybody in the audience to be demonized, and I've shared with you that student whom...former student of mine whom we honored here and he felt raped, there's no other way to put it, in public by the conversations when he got that award that day, was back...and that's...and I just...I just want to...and I don't know if it's possible to deal with that. Are you...this is a Board event. So, you're picking both sides and I don't even like those words.

Williams: Well...well, I'm not picking both sides. Jeff Hittenberger's going to play a big role. There's a list of...of suggested individuals. Um, Jeff's been a pretty busy guy. He's been out of town on vacation this last week and so, that's on my first to-do list tomorrow, but...

Mijares: Today?

Williams: ...there's gonna be experts on...on both sides of this issue.

Bedell: Obv...that's where I'm confused. I thought it was a Board event.

Mijares: This is not a...this is not an Orange County Department of Education event. It's subordinate. So, Dr. Hittenberger is um, working with me and the Cabinet to determine how we might fit in to the event you want to have. That is not been finalized yet, so I thought I would throw that out there just for the sake of uh, of transparency.

Williams: Oh, absolutely. It's...it's like the Common Core. It took a while to find people and experts on...on both sides of the issue.

Bedell: So, Ken, going where...if I...I understand and I really have appreciated Trustee Sparks' comments about the facts; just the facts. And I appreciated Ma...Mari saying, you know, not we, them.

Barke: Yeah, yeah...

Bedell: Right?

Barke: ...cau...I think we shouldn't even say both sides.

Bedell: Yeah.

Barke: I'm just saying...

Sparks: You can say...

Bedell: Those are red flag issues...

Barke: Let's just say...

Bedell: Those are red flag issues.

Barke: ...Factual Symposium. What...what is the law? What are the rules...?

Bedell: And I could s...

Barke: And what are, you know...?

Bedell: Yes, and I could see...

Barke: Mmhmm.

Bedell: ...there could be a section on proposed amendments. That's academic. You could say, okay. For example, I...did you see what happened in Oceanside?

Barke: Yes.

Bedell: Oceanside's a beautiful example.

Barke: Yes.

Bedell: Oceanside took the law and misapplied Oceansi...of the law, and said it was for either Pre-K or K-2, and they took Sex Education down to that...those grade levels. Totally outside of the purview of the law. Not even...totally.

Barke: Parents flipped out.

Bedell: Yes, and to me, I'm not...maybe Nina can help me here. Are the Districts saying we really need County help from the s...this office on implementing this curriculum?

Boyd: No, actually our Districts are communicating just the opposite. Um, our staff...uh, Dr. Olmstead was here earlier and prepared to answer questions that the Board had, but um...and certainly if there are questions that you'd like to have forwarded or that you have that we can um...I can send to her and then I can do a communication to the Board Members with regards to, you know, anything that you have that's in question of our Districts. But um, what we're hearing from the Districts are they've been working on this for some time and that this is not something new to them.

Um, the inferences that they need help is not something they've asked for um, that they recognize their has been a Board Member uh, coming and speaking to the Board, but that's not representative of all 27 districts. And so, there has been some concern that's come to this office related to that. So, I'm not sure if, you know, some of those Board Members will end up dialoguing with you all independently or...or um, with staff definitely, because they're the ones working with the community members in their respective Districts. And so, it has created some confusion um, with some of the work that's already occurring.

Bedell: Because I can live...deal with my Board Members in my constituents area, not one person has said can the County help us out on that. My also...I'm also going back, Ken, to your point. Is my understanding of the law – and this will probably be helpful for me – is that the law does not require that a District adopt the curriculum. It requires that there be subjects covered. Is that fair? Is that right?

Boyd: Correct. Adherence to the law...

Sparks: That's the whole purpose...the whole purpose of the forum is to clear up all these confusions...

Bedell: That's right.

Sparks: ...It's not to tell...not at all to tell Districts how and what to do. It's to say, here's the law and so the public has a very clear understanding, here's the law. Here's what it...what's mandated. Here's what's not mandated. Ah...instruction shall do this in what grades. Uh, you

know, K-6 is May, you know uh, middle school and high school is required and in what capacity um, um, and...and just to clear up all this confusion. So, I think if we set the tone at the very beginning, um, you know, that this is you know, going to be evidence-based, about what's mandated, what's not mandated.

We're not here to impose anything on the Districts. We're here to show some leadership in our role as the Orange County Board of Education on what is mandated, what's not mandated, and where the confusions lie and to clear up those confusions um, because there's a lot of, like you say, there's the both sides. There's a lot of emotion flying around and we want to kind of take that out as much as possible and...and uh, hopefully clear up the confusion.

Bedell: Appreciate that.

Sparks: So then parents will know, you know, because some Districts are doing a really good job of communicating with their constituents and their...and their families. Others are not and so that's part of the problem.

Williams: So, just for the record, I've had many individuals in the Districts I represent...School Board Members comment and...

Bedell: Sure.

Williams: ...let me know their opinion on it. So, it's a big issue in...in...my...my district. A lot of Trustees don't know what this law says and they rely upon what staff says, and staff will choose a state approved curriculum and we've heard a couple...many, many examples of that as found in Teen Talk and other state approved curriculums that is quite offensive. And so, k...kind of the thoughts that I had on this starting out many, many um, months ago when all this began, I think in March is when we first started having people come to our Board, was what is this law clearly say? Because we don't want to present things that are offensive to people. I don't want to do anything that would make somebody from the LGPD...um, LGPD?

Sisavath: BTQ.

Williams: QLLT community, uh offended, uh, they are human beings just like I am. We're all broken human beings, fallen from grace, and we are all broken and we need each other's help and support. We don't need at home and attacks uh, upon each other. I was disappointed in...in what I saw today. Uh, I think what we do in setting the tone that this is about uh, free moral agency. It's about being fair and honest and showing grace and forgiveness, being academic and having a very scholarly approach to understanding a very complex issue. Sexual medicine, sexual education is extremely complicated and what is age and content appropriate is debated, and I'd...I'd like to know from the experts, wha...what is age and content appropriate?

I don't think it's appropriate that you go tell uh, a Kindergartner that they can be, if...if they're young man or young boy, that they could be a girl or they can be without any...any gender, or without...or ha...or have the ability to go back and forth between genders whenever they want. I think that is very troublesome from a psychological, mental health perspective. Uh, and...and parents, when you hear them come up and they...and I get a lot of emails from parents throughout the County, and some of the things they...the examples they give me are very frightening and that's what I think the community and our constituents don't want. They don't want these controversial things. So, you know, I'm all about free speech, openness, and love and

for...forgiveness, um and...and grace. Um, so I...I think this is...this is a good thing. I mean in America, we used to have these Community Forums, and we...we went and...and had many disagreements publicly, but we all came together in the end, and I think having a public forum and hearing experts will help us on this. Will it he...he...heal every wound? Maybe, maybe not.

Sparks: It won't but it will clarify a lot of things. What's required in Grade 7th? What's required in high school? Um, you know, those differentiations are going to be really important because some Districts are doing the same curriculum in both 7th...in...in middle school and high school and others are really making a point of differentiating. Um, so those things need to be cleared up. Um, our...what Districts are using their current teachers that are in the District that know the kids, and what Districts are pulling in outside consultants. That's where some of the fear lies as well. So, you know, really clearing out all those questions that are swirling all around the County. Um, we'll just...we'll do our, I think, our due diligence in...in uh, holding the forum.

Williams: Trustee Barke, any thoughts or comments?

Barke: No, no, my thing was just keep it factual and just ne...never to imply us versus them, because I just...almost everything I hear this us versus them. I just want to make sure that um, you know, everybody's questions and concerns are addressed, we get as much factual information as possible, and that we have a nice orderly Informational Forum.

Williams: Yeah, and that's why when Lisa and I were working on this, we talked about goals. We talked about topics and discussions should be scholarly, objective, scientific with medical facts and evidence, um, no demonization or ad hominem attacks on opponent's and incivility uh, will...will be a...allowed. Uh, discussion based on politics, ideology, or religious proselytizing will...will not be a...allowed or...or rejected. Um, and topics should be focused and...and this is...this is Lisa's. I like how she framed it.

How to best serve the medical, physical, and psychological need...help and needs of the children. Uh, so...I...I know this is probably going to be something that will create a lot of controversy, a lot of thought, but I think it will be good eventually for the...our constituents that we have an open, honest, and fair discussion. And anything that happened today um, we're...we're...we're not going to allow that to happen. That type of vitriol and ad hominem attacks is not conducive for civil society and free speech.

Barke: Yeah, I think we should impose the no yelling out and this clicking and...because some people are offended by it. And I think, you know, everybody should have to be quiet. If everybody starts doing their little what makes them feel good, we're gonna have uh, quite a parade of, you know, noises and I...I think it would be nice to just enforce at the beginning that we will have a quiet audience....

Sparks: Yeah.

Barke: Um...

Boyd: The challenge is that the Orange County Sheriff's um, Department has told us that that is not perceived as disruptive unless it breaks the whole meeting apart. And so, um...

Barke: Well...

Boyd: ...because...tha...I mean...I...I just...

Barke: I thought it was.

Sparks: I thought it was disruptive.

Barke: Yeah.

Boyd: ...we....Ken had had the conversation um, because we...you know, when we put the signage up and so forth, but when people were, you know, standing up as a group, and we said, okay, they shouldn't be able to do that and so forth, and he said...I...I can't stop people from doing that. Now, he did say that, you know, if there are behaviors that Ken, as the President, deems out of...he can point to and say, "I'd like to have that person removed", but it has to come from the dais. It can't come...he...he can't just go over and...and do something. So, I mean certainly, with the gavel, you know, Ken will be able to, you know, try as much as possible to control that and so forth, but...

Sparks: Standing up silently is very different from snapping and the...the...the sort of verbal, non-verbal gestures and noises.

Boyd: But we had outbursts during Common Core too. I mean, we tried to keep it ci...civil...

Sparks: Right.

Boyd: ...but there were outbursts. People fr...you know, from...and again that was pro and con, so...which is what has been said numerous times. And so, people were, you know, very...they say one thing and then they'd be...well then they'd come from someplace else. So, it wasn't the same person doing, you know...

Barke: I'd never heard that until today...

Boyd: ...and then they'd...

Barke: ...though. Was that clicking new?

Sparks: No, they do it all the time.

Barke: Oh, oh. I...today it made me...

Boyd: Well we...yeah, we haven't heard it as much in this meeting, but, I mean, but other places, other settings and so forth, yeah.

Sparks: We hear it at the University all the time, but from all sorts of groups. It's not just one group. It's like...everyone.

Bedell: I...I have a procedural question, Mr. Chairman. How many people does this room hold?

Boyd: Uh...do we know? Do we...with the two rows...when you...we do setup, Tom, can you...

Sisavath: About 80.

Tom Froehlich: About 150.

Boyd: Okay. For the...

Bedell: Do we have a setting on this campus that holds more than 150?

Boyd: Mmhmm. Building Do...D, the conference...the conference center.

Bedell: And how many does that hold? Do you know?

Froehlich: 325.

Bedell: 325. Do you see where I'm going?

Williams: Yeah, yeah.

Sparks: Do you think it's going to be that big, you think?

Bedell: I would be surprised if it's not.

Williams: Yeah, I agree.

Boyd: You would not have a dais? I mean, so you would, you know, just from that standpoint, and that's kind of a um, but...but we do things out there so, you know, everybody can see...

Bedell: That's where they go for the workshops, right?

Boyd: Mmhmm.

Bedell: Yeah. I'm, Mr. Chairman, I'm thinking if you had the Democratic party has mobilized all their chapters and is going after school districts, as with the letter we've seen, and all the people who are interested, I wouldn't be surprised to see students from Chapman, from Cal State Fullerton...

Boyd: We'd need to check the date just to make sure that that date, that it's not an evening event because we do...there are classes that are held on campus in the evening time? So, I know we checked this date for this room, but we haven't done anything with the other. So, we'll check that tomorrow.

Williams: What we'll do is get back to the Board next meeting regarding that option, because that's...that's my concern, too, is that we do fill over 300 people. Or the other option is to have...video...

Sparks: Yeah, can we get a streaming and have that in an overflow room? Maybe?

Boyd: We're working on that right now and they will be starting installation next month. I don't know if it will be completed by the 26th. You...you...

Bedell: And this could...because we filled the room with the Common Core and that...

Williams: And overflowed.

Bedell: Right.

Hendrick: Right.

Bedell: This one...

Hendrick: Right. We do not have video streaming capability from this room. We did it for the Training Center and so uh, we couldn't stream from this room, from the...that facility we could. Timing wise we have...I'm not sure if all the equipment will be here because major rewiring of the building is what's taking for the infrastructure piece so um, and we have to shut the room down for a few weeks in order to do that, so we've had a timing issue with all our trainings.

Bedell: But we could do what Lisa suggested from there.

Hendrick: From there you could, yes.

Bedell: Okay.

Hendrick: Right now we are setup to where we could um, stream from that um...there's multiple rooms in that building. If it's 350 in the...the open room, but there are other rooms we could broadcast to.

Bedell: Yeah. I think, Mr. Chairman, I think that might be something until the Executive Committee can look at that.

Williams: Absolutely.

Bedell: We want to be accommodating. We don't want space to be an issue; people camped out.

Williams: Exactly. So, the Executive Committee will work on that and report back to this Board next meeting. Okay, uh, any other questions? Okay, I think that is it for the Agenda. May I have a Motion to...

Boyd: Are you going to talk about the Liaison?

Williams: Oh, um...

Boyd: That's your last Item for Discussion or are you carrying that over?

Williams: So um, so, you know in communicating as human beings sometimes there's breakdowns, there's misunderstandings, and I think there was a misunderstanding. Um, but I just want to make sure, hear it from the Board, that the Executive Committee makes determinations

for things that uh, don't need to come before us. Um, things that uh, are required by law or statute, we bring them to hear decisions, but there's a lot of day-to-day, moment-by-moment things that occur and...and it's important, as you remember uh, being on the Executive Committee and present that you...that we trust you to make those day-to-day decisions.

Bedell: Oh, yeah, but we report them out.

Williams: Ab...absolutely.

Bedell: Yeah.

Williams: Absolutely. So...

Bedell: I didn't think that's what that Item was about.

Sparks: I don't know what the Item's about. I...

Williams: That was it.

Bedell: Oh.

Boyd: The things that were...so I asked that question as well.

Williams: I...

Boyd: I mean, the only two Items that I'm aware of that were brought forward to made one thing...one was a legality, the Brown Act, because of the website and so it wasn't reported out previously. So, I...I couldn't post it and so, Ken and I had some conversation about that and that's why it's on the Agenda this time, so that it can be posted. Uh...

Williams: So, we resolved it. Miscommunication between two good people.

Bedell: And who were they?

Williams: Nina and I were the good people, of course.

Bedell: But there's Agenda Item Number 8 that you post...is that postponed?

Williams: Well, you know, I'll...I'll be honest with you, uh, in tabling that is because it...actually thought it was a part of the uh, Board Discussion because it's kind of the same thing.

Bedell: Okay candidly, I found I had some difficulty with Item Number 8 in terms of dealing with people and professional manner, and the use of the words, "And follow instructions". Is this...almost something insidious in that? The first few meanings in the dictionary...I actually went to the Dictionary in this, Trustee. I love that you sent me to the Dictionary. Way down, about the seventh arrangement with the various ones, that means obedience and given in to a higher authority, and I don't like that sentiment in a professional organization. So, if we could to...talk about that. I just...there was just something about that language. That would not have been my choice in terms of treating everybody professionally.

Williams: Okay.

Bedell: Fair enough?

Williams: I...I don't understand but...

Bedell: Well, if you are...you...you want...if we can see this Agenda Item again, I can speak to it. I don't want to hold up...we have people taking planes and stuff. I...this item that I read, Number Eight as you submitted it, or the Executive Committee submitted it. I had...as they would say in French, obéissant, an obedience component to it, which I don't particularly like when we're dealing with professionals. That's all I'm saying.

Williams: Very good.

Bedell: Okay?

Williams: May I have a Motion to Adjourn?

Bedell: So Moved.

Williams: Thank you all.