

Orange County Board of Education Meeting – 6/22/16 – Transcript

Sound of voices – gavel-

Welcome and Call to Order

Lindholm: Hi and welcome to your Orange County Board of Education meeting. Regular meetings are held each month at 10:00 AM, unless otherwise noted. Any person wishing to address the board on any matter whether or not it appears on the agenda, is required to complete a request to speak form. You can find these in the back on the table and if you would please turn those in to our clerk, we would greatly appreciate that. Each individual will be allowed 3 minutes per person, per meeting, and may not give their time to extend time for other speakers. All persons are reminded that this is a public meeting and we request that all attendees and speakers be respectful of each other and the board. Board agendas are posted on-line and can be reviewed at our board website and they're also available at the back table. Thank you for attending your public meeting. And we will begin today with an invocation by Pastor Dave Smith and we will have the pledge of allegiance led by Tom Pollitt. Please rise.

Smith: Good morning. Would you pray with me please? Sovereign God, our loving father, today we ask your presence in this body for where your presence is there's power. And we need to draw from it. Lord, we need your strength to faithfully discharge the duties we have undertaken. You have also promised to supply wisdom to those who ask, and we are asking. We need your wisdom to face the issues and challenges before us. How the steward, the physical, and the financial resources we have. How to maintain quality education that equips our children for life. How to guard the safety and security of all those entrusted to our care, students and staff alike. And so father, we ask for your presence, your strength, and your wisdom. And we thank you for hearing and answering. And father, I pray your blessings upon these who serve. I'm thankful to them and to you, knowing that whatever good anyone does, you will reward. I pray this is the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lindholm: Thank you.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pollitt: As we pledge the flag of the United States I would just hope that we would keep in mind all those that have died defending that flag. Place your hand over your heart.

Many voices: *I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Lindholm: Thank you, both. And I want to say for those who see we're missing somebody, um, our President, Robert Hammond, is traveling, and I believe he's in Colorado, so he will not be

here today. So, I get to sit in and then, Mr. Boyd will be coming later. So that brings us to roll call.

Phouangvankham: Trustee Boyd?

No response.

Phouangvankham: Trustee Hammond?

No response.

Phouangvankham: Trustee Lindholm?

Lindholm: Here.

Phouangvankham: Trustee Bedell?

Bedell: Here.

Phouangvankham: Trustee Williams?

Williams: Present.

Lindholm: OK. We have a quorum. Uh, at this time for the members of the audience, we will be adjourning to a special committee meeting which we also have an agenda posted on that. I anticipate it might take between 20 to 30 minutes. So, if you're here, feel free to go and stretch, and we should be returning in 20 to 30 minutes. Thank you.

Sound of gavel

Lindholm: We are back from our subcommittee meeting. We do not have any items to report out at this time. Continuing on, we have any introductions?

N. Boyd: We do not have any at this meeting.

Lindholm: Ok, thank you. We did have one request to speak, um, let me skip down to this one. Let's go to agenda for the regular meeting. Adopting the agenda?

(Inaudible) second Bedell.

Lindholm: We have a motion and a second for adoption of the agenda. All in favor?

Several Ayes

Lindholm: Any opposed or abstentions? For the minutes, regular meeting of June 8th, is there a motion for approval?

Williams: So moved.

Bedell: Second. And there was a correction...we have a corrected copy.

Lindholm: We have a corrected copy?

N. Boyd: Actually, the correction was made prior to the posting of the agenda so the public saw the corrected.

Bedell: You mean once again I'm wrong?

N. Boyd: No, you're correct. We corrected it after you notified us.

Bedell: Oh, thank you.

Laughter

Lindholm: Thank you. So, it's not being amended, it's as posted. All in favor of the minutes as posted?

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: That carries that item. That brings us to public comments. I did have one request to speak on the Ad Hoc Committee, I'm not sure he's here...Christian Khan? Welcome. Did I say your last name wrong?

Khan: Good afternoon, or early morning, trustees and superintendent Mijares. In regards to Trustee Boyd, I'd like to point out a few things relating to the PowerPoint he made, and the ongoing lawsuit regarding his Brown Act violations. The first point I would like to bring attention to is that Trustee Boyd misused what I said. In the speech I gave I clearly stated that I would like to expose the truth for the board. I was not looking for the truth. Another thing to bring up is that I am a minor. And I would like to mention that libel laws for minors are much stricter than libel laws for adults. Another thing, he never asked to use my speech in his

presentation. Or in a formal setting or of any kind. This is misuse. In many jurisdictions when a person creates an original work that is fixed in a physical medium he or she generally automatically owns the copyright to that work. The owner has the exclusive right to use the work in certain specific ways. Not only did Mr. Boyd, not only did Mr. Boyd take actions that are border line illegal, they were just plain unfair. Mr. Boyd's actions should have a reprimand. And I ask that he prefer in front of us an apology to not only me, but to other people he may have slandered in his presentation. Thank you.

Lindholm: Thank you. Susi Khan? Welcome. And, I think I forgot to explain to the general audience that we do have a time, uh, that our clerk does, I know you're aware of that. And it gives you 3 minutes and lets you know when you're about done. Thank you.

Khan: Good morning, board and superintendent. I have a little visual today, don't worry, it's not anything scary coming out of here. As I am a mom, so, right? I have visual aids today. It's summer time. So I'm talking about the Local Accountability – the LCAP that's being approved today, I believe. I just, um, wish everybody here would start reading this stuff 'cause it's a nice big paperback that you guys can all take home and look into, Um, but my first jar here is local controls. So this should be the citizen this should be at our dining room table. This should be what local control is. So, having a voice at the local level, right? And so, here's our accountability to the state. So we put these two together and there is the local citizen underneath the government. Shake it up – it stays together for a little while, right? But it will not last. So, I brought this just to show to make us think a little bit about the oxymoron of local control and accountability. And so as you have this come before you, and I know it's too late, it's always too late 'cause today's the day you vote. But we need to think about this on an ongoing basis over the year. And we need to think about how could you all take an item out of it and say look, we're not going to send this back up. I know that this is written into law that you have to do it the way they're telling you up there with Torlakson, sends it down and he'll send it back, apparently. And I wish that you would be bold and say, look, we're not going to fund this part of it. Um, we have uncovered this social emotional learning which is treacherous. Our children's minds are not property. It is personal property. And it is stated as such. And so what we're doing is we're taking this, this, the children now, and doing this social emotional learning which is habits of mind. We're getting in there and we are doing neuroscience on them with teachers. These aren't psychiatrists, psychologists that are specially trained to do this. So that is something in here that you could seriously consider not funding. Also, the technology piece and the SBAC testing we know that it's flawed, fatally, and we also know that the technology is the data is being taken off by 3rd parties SBAC does not have a privacy policy and you can look that up yourself. So anyway, so there's my fun little thing today. But we are losing our voice. We have no longer local control and we citizens should be very highly concerned about that and we should get involved, we should speak up, and we should demand that legislators and board members and people speak up to this. A bad law is not ok to enforce. As I've said before and we heard

somebody here last week, there were some bad laws in Germany but people were strong enough and said no to. So thank you.

Lindholm: Thank you. Gloria Pruyne? Welcome.

Pruyne: Good morning superintendent Mijares and vice president Lindholm and honored school board members. My name is Gloria Pruyne from Fountain Valley. I'm speaking on Local Control and Accountability Plan, LCAP, and the Orange County Board of Education which serves 500,000 students according to your website. LCAPs are designed to address specific needs of students with low income families, English learners, and foster youth. Under pupil achievement it states, improving student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures in putting test scores, English proficiency, and college and career preparedness. I have been given results of the 2015 ESBAC test results were that 55% of all the students in Orange County failed SBAC. In the article, *Computerized Assessments and Smarter Balance Test Scores*, Roxanna (inaudible) Ph.D., emphasizes the projected high failure rate among African Americans, Latinos, special ed., and English language learners, which would affect students in your school district. She believes that there is a lack of scientific validity of the test scores that are soon to be released to the public and to promote critical thinking about issues of fairness, assessability, data security, and standardization in the test administrations. Projected failure rates disproportionately impact youth of color, students with special needs, and English language learners. Test scores have yet to be validated and the use of the test scores may be argued to contribute to systemic barriers that already limit access to higher education for students from historically underserved populations. According to chart data from SBAC, 11th grade SBAC math test % projected to fail all students 67%, African American 83, Latino students 80%, special ed., 93%, English language learners 94%. I respectfully request that my comments be photocopied for each board member and I request that this document be included as an original meeting document for historic reference. Thank you.

Lindholm: Thank you. David Whitley?

Whitley: Good morning board, superintendent. Thank you for your time. Uh, the last board meeting um, there was a lot of talk about the California Healthy Kids Survey and how that came about and what we might do to inform parents and, I just wanna bring that back up because that was an issue we brought up um at least I brought up back in 2014. And then the board took some action on it and informed the district of the law on informing parents regarding surveys and questionnaires. But, that discussion started over the summer, we were hoping to get that information to the parents at school time and it took 'til February of 2015 for that finally to go out to students. And my local school district of Irvine, I've done the same thing, I've complained about why this information doesn't go out to the parents in a more reasonable timeframe. Because when I brought it up there they bury all the legal documents in a 90 page pdf that the

parents are supposed to read at the beginning of the year when they enroll their kids in school. And, what I've been trying to get them to do is inform the parents at the time the survey is gonna be given. I know in the 5th grade it's an opt-in and in 7, 9, and 11 there's a passive consent. The parents that I've talked to and everybody I know that talks to parents about some of the questions on that survey, they're outraged by it. And so I feel like that if a child has lice in their hair and we can inform the parents the next day, or if a student dies in a car crash over the weekend we can offer assistance and counseling to the entire school the next Monday, we can inform all of the parents via email and via paper take-home notice, their legal right to opt out of California Healthy Kids Survey or the SBAC, to throw that in there, in a timely fashion so that parents can react to it as it's coming up. And for those on the board that are concerned about some of these questions I would add to that form, some of the questions that may be of concern to parents so that the parents understand that this simply isn't about the climate on the school or the health of the students or issues related to funding programs to help youth at risk which is what I've been told, that if we don't take it we don't get funding. If we don't take it we're not able to help these at youth risk students. But so many parents when they hear about these questions would rather not have their student take it. My kids have opted out every year. Um, and many parents ask me why? And then I tell them and they're very concerned about it. Many parents are concerned about the way a student might be treated or the way they might be looked at by opting out some of these assessments and questionnaires. And so, you can help them by informing them in a timely manner and in a complete manner, knowing their rights and knowing what's on those questionnaires. Thank you.

Lindholm: Thank you. Sound of timer. In regards to that item, may I request from our superintendent a memo on this? That lets us know um, how, when they are informed about this survey and where they can read it on the website? We could just have a memo out on that?

Mijares: For our children, ACCESS? Sure.

Lindholm: Yes, and that would be available on our website? I would appreciate that. Um, we don't have any more requests to speak so closing that public comments section on this one...we move to our time certain item. Are our guests here?

N. Boyd: We can delay that and move on to consent.

Lindholm: OK, so neither item #1 or 2 are here at this time. OK.

Williams: Move the consent calendar.

Lindholm: Suggestion. We have a motion and a 2nd to moving our consent calendar which is items 3 through 5. Uh, all in favor?

Several Ayes.

Bedell: Madam Chair, if I might?

Lindholm: Yes.

Bedell: Regarding the consent calendar since we don't discuss them one of the highlights of my, for myself in a selfish sense, is going to the graduation ceremonies and seeing these kids graduate and participating in those graduation ceremonies and seeing their families and seeing, some even have children, it's just, it says so much about what our staff is doing for our kids. And I would hope that more and more people have a chance to go to those commencements even if does embarrass the deputy superintendent.

Lindholm: Well, I'm glad that you attended that. You're always more than welcome to speak on an individual item of the consent calendar. So, uh, we have a motion and we've all voted on it so that item carried unanimously. That makes, should we move then to the Local Control Accountability Plan? Alright. That's item #6. And we're waiting for some of the guests for the employee recognition.

Bedell: I'll move approval Madam Chair of #6.

D. Boyd: I'll second.

Lindholm: And that brings us to discussion on this item. And if I may say for the benefit of the audience, this has to do with the local control accountability plan which we have had on the agenda. There was opportunity for public comments and a full presentation was given prior to this meeting. Would you like to add anything to those comments?

N. Boyd: Just as a reminder that this statute requires school districts and county offices of education to present a 3-year local control accountability plan and budget at a meeting subsequent to any board action. And that board action must be completed prior to June 30th. The LCAP and the budget are then submitted to the State Superintendent of Schools and as our vice president indicated that was held on June 8th, both the presentation for the LCAP and the budget were presented. We had public speakers that were represented. Both parents from our program, community partners, and students. Related to the budget we had one individual from the public who spoke and addressed the board. So just as a reminder and for transparency purposes, we also want to make sure that the public is aware that both the LCAP and the budget and the Executive Summaries for both have been posted to the website.

Lindholm: Thank you very much for that. Um, I would like to thank you too for making a shorter version. So there's also a 6-page version so you can read, and that's also available online? Very good. So when this is passed will we be getting a binder of the past LCAP? Or will it be the exact same one we had from the previous meeting?

N. Boyd: It will be the exact same one that you received previously. It will just be earmarked and tagged that it was approved.

Lindholm: OK. Discussion? Um, Trustee Bedell?

Bedell: Yes, thank you Madam Chair. Uh, there is a Yiddish expression to "gavalt" which means to exude pride over. There is a Yiddish expression "ver clempt" which is to feel heavy emotion that you can hardly function and I'm both ver clemting and gavaltting over the work that the staff has done. And bringing in these parents last meeting, which takes a huge amount of courage for those dear souls to come here, not being able to speak in the language that the document is presented in and to talk about how our staff going to the local level worked in getting those people involved and having the children be represented here at this meeting. And I just want to say as one board member, I know our LCAP is seen as one of the best in the county, in the state for county offices. And it goes back to your earlier comment in a way that this deals with our unique children. It has nothing to do with the children in Fullerton, where I live, but it's our unique 7,000 and I think you really highlighted the things that they need. Some people may even want to strip away from them, for whatever reason, the highlight, but they need to succeed and hopefully as many of them may transition back to their regular districts. So, as one board member, Madam Chair, under your tutelage, I am gavaltting over this.

Lindholm: Thank you for your comments. Dr. Williams?

Williams: No comment.

Lindholm: Trustee Boyd?

D. Boyd: Thanks again to the staff for all their hard work.

Lindholm: It was a wonderful presentation for those of you who were able to be here at the prior meeting. It was just, as you said, it was incredible. Um, we have a motion before us and a second to adopt the LCAP. All in favor?

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: Any opposed?

Williams: Opposed.

Lindholm: We have one No – any abstentions? Motion carries 3-1-0. Uh, that moves us on to, let's go ahead and do the budget. Item #7, which is approve OCDE budget for 2016-17 by July 1 as required by state regulations. Is there any kind of staff presentation on this? No.

D. Boyd: I'll move.

Bedell: Second.

Lindholm: There's a motion and a second on this. Again, Ms. Boyd, this was previously presented there was a budget workshop, um, the information was available to the public and has been available online. So this is the secondary meeting for this item.

N. Boyd: That is correct.

Lindholm: And we had the opportunity for public comments as well as a staff presentation. Any further discussion?

Bedell: Yes, I would just like to again thank the staff for this. But also, I attended a meeting where they were talking about the – in two years the budget for the University is not looking so good. And I want to thank the staff for highlighting the part about the pension reforms and stuff. I think we need to start thinking and those conversations have begun and I appreciate that.

Lindholm: Miss Hendrick, did you want to say something on this? Yes and one thing we did look at with the budget is that it will be getting more and more complex as we go forward in time. There will be more burdens on us in terms of us healthcare, costs increasing continually. So this will be something we will need to keep doing and we need to keep having a workshop where the public has input prior to it being approved. Motion and a second before us to approve the budget for the upcoming year, all in favor?

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: Opposed?

Williams: Oppose.

Lindholm: And there are no abstentions, so that's a 3-1-0. Thank you. So that concludes those 2 items and then, do we have? Miss Hendrick? Do we have everyone here?

N. Boyd: Not quite. Our 11:30 time certain the individuals are all present but because of the posting um, it's only 11:00 so we can continue with updates from the Board and the Superintendent and maybe a short recess.

Lindholm: OK. Let's go to our superintendent of schools. If you would like to give us an update on what's going on? And, may I ask a favor?

Mijares: Yes, you may.

Lindholm: That at some point we get to hear about the workshop for the charter schools that you're putting on to show them what's required so that they are in compliance.

Mijares: Thank you. I want to commend you and Mr. Boyd and the entire board for creating the template, because that's helping us tremendously. We now have a template that guides the work that the staff goes through in terms of the approval process which is aligned with law and also brings in the fiduciary responsibility to make sure that we do it with great prudence. So, thank you to the board. Yet, these announcements I'm going to talk about just very quickly, first of all, going back...sorry this is going to take us back a little bit but, May 16th, we had the very wonderful opportunity to salute our schools here in the county who are gold ribbon awardees. We had 138 schools participate in the event, which represented 23 districts and that gave us a total of 906 people that attended this event at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove. And, it was a wonderful opportunity for us to salute the gold ribbon schools and as you recall, this distinction was a little bit different than the Distinguished Schools that we used to celebrate. The model is now shifting back to a different type of model that will resemble the Distinguished Schools but the beautiful think about this was that we got to emphasize elements that were noteworthy far beyond just the test scores. But to get into, naturally test scores are to be treated with a great degree of respect and we expect our students to do well academically in terms of the instructional program, but also how is that information applied, what kind of culture does the school express, how are students encouraged to participate...there's a number of other factors that was examined in terms of giving a school a gold ribbon award, and we did this because we wanted to really praise our schools individually as opposed to what we were experiencing from the California Department of Education, not to be disparaging to them, but when you do this awards ceremony and you're recognizing hundreds of people, it turns into like a cattle call where people are just rushed on the stage, and rushed off, and we just wanted to spend a little more time accentuating the work of our superintendents, the boards, and really just celebrating schools. So, the first time out I want to commend Christine Olmstead and our instructional unit for helping to put this on in such a very special way.

Um, then I also wanted to praise the El Sol Charter School in downtown Santa Ana. We had a chance to participate in their 15th year anniversary. I'm very proud of that school because I was part of the development of that school along with other leaders here in Orange County and last year it was designated as the number 1 charter school in the state. But what I love about this charter is that it takes students right from the community. Those that live in Santa Ana and they, you know, they participate in this instructional program and it's part of the SAUSD, it's part of the Santa Ana Unified School District. So, there's great harmony in the school, the district, community, everybody celebrates it. And thank you to Mr. Boyd for participating in that event with me.

Then, just quickly on the 26th of May the Santa Ana College opened up the new science center, which is a multi-million dollar project which will help with STEM education. Everybody's talking about STEM and the importance of the STEM professions, well this school's going to take it to a new level so, for Linda Martinez my commendation as the president who just retired from that school. But it's going to be a great opportunity. Just those 3 things under my reports.

Lindholm: OK. And thank you, it sounds so exciting. Congratulations on that school getting #1. Do you have any news on when there might be that workshop for the charter schools?

Mijares: I don't know? Nina? The workshop for the charter schools?

N. Boyd: We haven't heard anything back on that for the CSBA? That we've submitted? Or, you're talking about locally, that's going to be in September. We've had conversations with the charter association-so we have 2 that we're dialoguing about. We submitted a proposal to present at CSBA in December. We haven't heard back on that one. The one that we're doing with the charters authorized by the board, the conversation is to do that at one of the meetings that they are scheduled to have in September. And they do have a date.

Lindholm: Wonderful. Thank you to the staff. I'm hoping you have the chance to impart all your wisdom to them on the rules and regulations and so that the charter schools will do a good job, instead of catching up to them you will be sharing what you have at the very beginning.

N. Boyd: And we actually, Kelly Gaughran, Administrator of our charter schools participated in a meeting with them last month. They had a meeting, I believe at Samueli Academy, and she was invited to participate, so she and another member of our team, Aracely, went and they had an opportunity to dialogue with those authorized and had some good conversation and feedback that we'll be sharing with the board and with the committee related to documents that we have.

Lindholm: I think we are still waiting for a little bit of time, would you like to give a report on anything?

N. Boyd: Just a few updates for the Board. Next month we will have an update on all the charters authorized by the board. The board indicated several months ago that they would like to have updates done twice a year so our first update will be next month and we will give you some status updates on what's happening with each of the charters in terms of whether they're scheduled to open as anticipated or whether, you know, other challenges they are trying to overcome. And we are working closely with all of them right now. So, we're hopeful that all of them will be reaching their schedule. We have heard from one, and I'm sorry I can't recall the name but we may have a material revision that they want to wait until the following year to open. So, we'll verify and confirm that information and report to you next month. The next scheduled meeting is July 13th and we'll be going back to the 11:00 AM timeframe so, for members of the public we are 11:00 o'clock next month, unless the board changes their schedule after that then we would be resuming the schedule we've had in the past. Deadline items for the agenda will be next Wednesday the 29th. Reminder that the office is closed on Monday, July 4th and also a reminder to the board and to the public that we have office hours for the summer that are 8:00 to 4:00, so this office does close at 4:00 o'clock Monday – Friday, through August 26th.

Lindholm: Fantastic.

Bedell: The response to that is there anything we can do today legally to institutionalize the 10:00 AM time? Ron?

Wenkart: I don't believe it's on the agenda but if you want it at the next board meeting to set the schedule and change the time to 10:00 AM you could certainly do that.

Bedell: Does that work for you?

Williams: Yeah, in the past what we've done is through Darou, the board secretary, get a consensus if there is conflict, and so we can continue with that practice if we desire.

Lindholm: We could put it on for 10:00, on the agenda if that helps your practice. And we have a new board member. Maybe, I don't know.

Wenkart: Yeah, discuss it at the next board meeting and if you decide to change the future board meetings to 10:00 Am you could do so.

Bedell: Could we do that in perpetuity? In other words can we say the time we meet is 10:00 o'clock?

D. Boyd; Yes, but it has to be on the agenda to do that.

Bedell: But we could? So we don't have to come back this time next year and revisit it. Thank you.

Lindholm: Um, would we like to go to board comments at this time? OK, Dr. Williams?

Williams: No.

Lindholm: Dr. Bedell?

Bedell: I just said what I said about graduation.

Lindholm: OK. Trustee Boyd, excuse me.

D. Boyd: In the past 2 weeks I've done nothing.

Lindholm: I have one thing I wanted to bring up under board member comments and that is if we want to go forward with the letters or to discuss it for the building, for the proposition that's on the November ballot? That would affect us and might be helpful to us? For the state bond, would that be something we would like to from the agenda have discussion and for a letter of support? That would be something I would like to see.

D. Boyd: Sure. Those bonds that go for sure in November.

Lindholm: The prop is on the ballot, right? And that...

N. Boyd: We can draft a letter of support and there is a template for a resolution if the board is so inclined we can bring both of those next month.

Lindholm; Can we specifically add in that we have a project that we would like included in that?

N. Boyd: Certainly.

Lindholm: OK, that would be terrific. So that would come on the next agenda? Miss Hendrick, are we able to go forward?

N. Boyd: Take a 5 minute recess.

Lindholm: We'll take a 5 minute recess at this time. We're still waiting for a couple of people to be recognized so thank you for your patience. About a 5 minute break. Thank you.

Sound of voices – gavel.

Lindholm: We're back from our recess, so with that we have a very wonderful afternoon planned. We will begin, not quite afternoon but we will begin with a special presentation by Renee Hendrick. Will you join us please?

Hendrick: Good morning vice president Linda Lindholm and members of the board. As customary at this meeting each year, we'd like to recognize employee accomplishments, longevity of services, and retirees. Not everyone was able to join us this morning, so for your reference a program has been provided identifying all the honorees by category. For those of you in attendance, as I call your name, would you please come up to the front here and we're going to take a group photo and we'll do it by grouping. I'd like to ask the audience to hold your applause until all have been introduced. So, first we're going to recognize for 25 years of service. We had 20 employees in that category. Today, we have a few of those so first is...

Michelle Faggard, Lisa Garrett, Rene Mosquera, Jodean Riley, and Debe VanDyke.

Applause

Hendrick: We also have employees with 30 years of service, and we have 20, believe it or not at 30 years of service. We have 3 here with us today:

Bonnie Fossum and Leslie Fossum, I believe you're related, and Tom Froehlich.

Applause

Hendrick: Next we have 35 years of service and we have 8 employees in that category. And we have 1 with us here today – Virginia Taylor.

Applause

Hendrick: So we're going to have a group photo.

Voices and laughter as the group is arranged for the photo. Applause.

Hendrick: Now we have retirees, and this year we have 32 employees that have given notice or have already retired this year. Joining us today we have:

Nancy Hollenbeck, Diana Schneider, Pilar Taylor, Jean Werner, and Ellin Chariton. Applause.

Hendrick: OK, if we can get a couple of pictures.

Applause

Hendrick: The next group we have are the Employees of the Month for 2015-2016. We have of those that are here with us today. The first one is:

Patricia Banuelos, Maria Hernandez, Karen Nelson, Lynn Turner, Tristan Mejias, and Trisha Martinez.

Applause

Picture taking noises as the group poses.

Applause

Hendrick: Lastly, we have 3 employees here today who have reached educational achievements. So first, Jami Parsons. Jamie has completed the Association of California School Administrators Pupil Services Academy.

Applause

Hendrick: Next is Omar Guillen and he has received a Masters of Arts in Education and Multiple Subject Credential with Bilingual Authorization from Chapman University.

Applause

Hendrick: And lastly, Allison Carey. So not only has Allison just completed her Master of Arts in Education from National University, and she has already started on furthering her education with Stanford University program on-line.

Applause

Hendrick: If we could give another round of applause for all of our honorees today. Applause. And again, thank you members of the board for allowing the department time during your meeting to recognize these individuals.

Lindholm: We have one more special presentation that should be about 10 minutes, correct? So if we do that and then we get to celebrate, right?

N. Boyd: Yes, we'll move into a reception next door that we have scheduled for everyone that is present.

Lindholm: So if you kindly set for just a little bit, we have one more presentation.

Chariton: Thank you. Vice president Lindholm, board members, and superintendent Mijares. Today we are fortunate to recognize a dedicated corporate partner and dynamic teacher from the Brea Olinda Unified School District. Over the last few years, Cox Communication Orange County has been a valued collaborative partner with Inside the Outdoors, providing support through Cox executives serving on the Inside the Outdoors Foundation board, providing volunteers for activities as well as financial support and public service announcements for the program. With the trust for public land, Cox Communications created the Cox Serves Heroes as an award program to honor volunteers who create, preserve, or enhance the shared outdoor spaces in our communities. 3 finalists have been named, representing San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Orange County. And I'm pleased to introduce to you the Orange County finalist for California's Cox Conserves Heroes program is our own Brea Olinda High School teacher, Andrea Ramos.

Applause

Chariton: I'd like Andrea and Superintendent Brad Mason, Superintendent of the Brea Olinda Unified School District, just to come up front while we honor you. Andrea's volunteerism is distinguished by partnership, innovation, and integration. Under her leadership, students at the Brea Olinda High School created a campus recycling program, planted a school garden, and performed habitat restoration at Randolph Creek. Her efforts with students have been recognized through the Inside the Outdoors being honored with a CSBA Golden Bell award and the governor's Environmental Education Leadership award. Andrea partners with local organizations to expose students to environmental careers and adult mentors. She encourages students to become environmental ambassadors as her enduring legacy. Cox is currently awarding each of the 3 finalists a \$5,000 donation for their environmental nonprofit of choice, which Andrea has named as Inside the Outdoors. Applause. Let me ask board vice president Linda Lindholm and superintendent Mijares to make the presentation and then we'll go on with the awarding of the check.

Lindholm: We are so happy that you've done this. One of three finalists..when will you know? This week? (*Inaudible*) I'm excited for you.

Mijares: Yes, congratulations as well. I read a little bit about the superlative things said about you, it's wonderful. Magnanimous, it's wonderful, thank you for serving our kids.

Lindholm: On behalf of the board members, superintendent Mijares, and myself, congratulations.

Applause

Laughter

Ramos: Nobody told me I was speaking today – and you are all a lot bigger than my kids. You know, I have this passion, and I'm just so thankful I have an outlet for my passion. And that's all I could hope for any of my students. Um, I had a goal at the beginning of my teaching AP Environmental Science that I would get kids outdoors as much as possible and you all know with funding being as difficult as it can be, there's no way I could do this without outside partners. And Inside the Outdoors has just been phenomenal to work with and there's no doubt in my mind that of course my donation would go to such a wonderful organization. So, thank you.

Applause

Chariton: Let me introduce Lacey to make the check presentation to Andrea. Whoa...careful.

Sound of something falling.

Chariton: A giant check.

Applause

Chariton: And we'd like Manny Kiesser who has served as board president of Inside the Outdoors Foundation to accept that. Applause. And then, as we do that, thank you, I know vice president Lindholm has one more presentation to make for Cox, and then we'll introduce the guests.

Lindholm: Lacey, thank you so much. This is recognition to Cox for your contributions to this great cause. We are very grateful and (*inaudible*) what you contribute to the students, what she contributes...and so we would like to present you with this certificate.

Applause

Chariton: Here to support Andrea are her husband David and daughter Emma, Applause. And 2 vice principals (*inaudible*) and also from Brea Olinda High school assistant principals Pam Valenti, Joey Cordea as well as from our own Inside the Outdoors program Stephanie Smith, our Operations Manager.

Applause and voices

Chariton: Thank you. We thank both Cox Communications as well as Andrea Ramos for the spirit of generosity in support of Inside the Outdoors as well as outstanding STEM opportunities for Orange County students. Thank you.

Applause

Lindholm: As you can see we are all very excited about the wonderful employees we have. We hope those that are retiring the absolute best, I think you look the happiest. Laughter. And, thank you for the award you have gotten and to Cox to contribute, it's just a wonderful day here and we're all working together to try and do the best we can for all the students of Orange County. With that, we have nothing further...

N. Boyd: Can I make just one final comment? I know the board was surprised when we mentioned the fact that when Renee introduced Ellin Chariton as a retiree...but Ellin has supported the Board and she has been the division lead for School and Community Services for some time here at the Department. Her last day is next week, and she has also supported the Orange County School Boards Association, countywide with all of the board members. So she will be dearly missed and we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge her service to all of the boards in the county at this last meeting.

Lindholm: Thank you.

Applause

Lindholm: With that we have no further comments from the board or the superintendent so we will stand adjourned until our next meeting. Thank you all, let's go celebrate.