

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 9-1-2020 TRANSCRIPTION

[PRESIDENT WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL THREE TIMES TO SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING]

Williams: Okay, good afternoon. Today is September 1. The time is now about 3:12 in the afternoon. Welcome to the special meeting of the Orange County Board of Education. For the benefit of the record, this is a special meeting and it is called to order. Usually in the sequence of events of how we do our meetings, we have an invocation and a Pledge of Allegiance. I am going to lead an invocation in an entirely different and unique way. I am going to read from a book written by Dr. Grants called, "The Patriot's Handbook." It is dealing with a farewell address of George Washington to his country. We have to understand a little bit of backdrop.

This was the farewell address that was given at the end of his second term. As you know, he was a farmer by his love and capacity in life. He wanted to do nothing but that, but he got pressed into being the president of the United States. At that time, there was a little bit of federalism that was going on, as well as the development of political parties. In this fail farewell address, the good general, our first president says some words. I'm just going to read excerpts from it. Let us think and ponder upon the words of this great man.

"The unity of government, which constitutes you, one people, is now dear to you. For it is the main pillar of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad and of your safety and prosperity and that of the very liberty which you so highly prize. The name of America, which belongs to your national capacity must always exalt the just pride of patriotism. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and peoples' efforts, and they talk about the dangers and sufferings of our success. Here, every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the union of the whole. Of all the depositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. The substantially true of the virtue of morality as it is necessary for the spring and foundations of a popular government."

George Washington goes on. "Observe good faith and justice towards all nation, cultivate peace and harmony with all." At this time, we will also now transition to the Pledge of Allegiance, which will be led by our kind Trustee Tim Shaw.

Shaw: Thank you. Please stand if you're able. Please face the flag, and join me in reciting the pledge. Ready, begin.

Shaw, Board and Audience: 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.

Williams: Okay. Moving on. Roll call, Nina.

Boyd: Trustee Gomez?

Gomez: Present.

Boyd: Trustee Shaw?

Shaw: Here.

Boyd: Vice President Barke?

Barke: Present.

Boyd: President Williams?

Williams: I am here.

Boyd: Trustee Sparks?

Barke: She'll be late, we hope.

Williams: Very good. Moving on with our Board Agenda items. Introductions, Nina, are there any introductions?

Boyd: There are no introductions at this meeting.

Williams: Very well. We have the adoption of our Agenda, and I now look to Nina for self-corrections to what we have on record. Nina, if you can help us out?

Boyd: Sure. Board members, please note that item number two will now be taken after item number three at the district's request. They had a board meeting this evening, also. I'd also like for point of reference at the dais, there is a page 87 that is there for your fourth hearing today. When we get there, I'll remind you that there is a map that is page 87 that should be substituted. Additionally, I wanted to point out that the Savannah School District, or, excuse me. We had a parent who contacted us earlier today that was not feeling well and was questioning a possible postponement. Since then she has said that she is going to continue and participate, but we wanted the Board to be aware ahead of time in case it comes up during the hearing. Just as a full disclosure, don't anticipate any challenges or issue. The district is prepared, and she's saying that she will continue as well. That's it. Ken?

Williams: Very, very good, Nina. Thank you. The reference case is number three regarding that parent. Is that correct?

Boyd: Yes.

Williams: Okay, very good. That is the current written three, which is now the two. I will move that we adopt this Agenda with the changes that were so noted.

Barke: I'll second that.

Williams: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Barring none, all those in favor? Nina, roll call.

Boyd: Trustee Gomez?

Gomez: Yes.

Boyd: Trustee Shaw?

Shaw: Yes.

Boyd: Vice President Barke?

Barke: Yes.

Boyd: President Williams?

Williams: Yes.

Williams: Okay. Moving on to minutes.

Boyd: There are no minutes at this meeting.

Williams: There are no minutes for this meeting? I didn't see any. Okay, let's move on to public comments. Are there any public comments?

Boyd: There are no public comments.

Williams: No public comments? Very good. Moving on with the Agenda, we're going to go to

time certain number one. This is a closed hearing. The Board will step out for the staff to do what is necessary. We will be on a break for approximately four to five hours.

Boyd: Four to five minutes.

Barke: Hours.

Williams: Hours.

Boyd: Thank you.

[THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDS INTO RECESS AND STAFF SETS UP THE ROOM FOR THE CLOSED SESSIONS. UPON CONCLUSION, THE BOARD MEMBERS RETURN AND THE SPECIAL MEETING PROCEEDS AFTER PRESIDENT WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL ONCE]

Williams: At this time, we will adjourn. May I have a motion for adjournment?

Barke: Motion to adjourn.

Shaw: Second.

Williams: Thank you. We are adjourned.

[DR. WILLIAMS STRIKES THE GAVEL ONCE TO SIGNAL THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING]