

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES  
Special Meeting and Public Hearing  
January 7, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Special Meeting and Public Hearing of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Vice Chairperson Karin Freeman at 6:00 p.m., January 7, 2015 in the Annex Building, Annex Conference Room of the Garden Grove Unified School District, 10331 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, California, 92840.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Janice Wagner.

3. ROLL CALL

*Present:*

Karin Freeman, Vice Chairperson	Joey Van Camp
Meg Cutuli	Janice Wagner
Lisa Jordan	Sharon Wallin
Jo-Ann Purcell	Virginia Wilson
Suzie Swartz	

*Absent:*

Sheila Benecke	Robert Singer
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4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE  
TO RE-ELECTED MEMBER

This item was not addressed as the re-elected member was absent.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Suzie Swartz, seconded by Meg Cutuli, and carried by a unanimous vote of all members present to adopt the agenda as presented.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by Janice Wagner, seconded by Meg Cutuli, and carried by a 6 to 3 vote, with Suzie Swartz, Sharon Wallin, and Virginia Wilson abstaining, approving the minutes of the November 5, 2014 meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairperson Freeman explained the process for public comment on an agenda item or general public comment.

A. Staff Report

Dr. Wendy Benkert reported that on November 6, 2014, the Orange County Department of Education received a request from the Garden Grove Unified School District for the County Committee to consider and approve the District's proposal to establish trustee areas and to change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process as set forth in the District's Board Resolution No. 11. On December 16, 2014 the Garden Grove Unified School District adopted Board Resolution No. 16 indicating its intent to seek a

waiver of the election requirements from the State Board of Education to facilitate the District's transition to the new by-trustee area election process for the next regularly scheduled election in November 2016.

Dr. Benkert explained the process for establishing trustee areas under Education Code section 5019 and the role of the County Committee to conduct at least one public hearing in the district. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the County Committee must either approve or disapprove the District's proposal.

Dr. Benkert also explained the process for establishing the alternative methods of electing governing board members when trustee areas are established in a district, in accordance with Education Code section 5030, including the "by-trustee area" method of election in which one or more members residing in each trustee area are elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area.

Dr. Benkert further explained that a resolution of the County Committee approving a proposal to establish trustee areas and to adopt one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members constitutes an order of election, and the proposal must be presented to the electors of the district not later than the next succeeding election for members of the governing board, which is November 8, 2016. However, the Garden Grove Unified School District intends to submit a waiver of the election requirements to the State Board of Education. If the waiver is granted, the District will forgo the election requirements and move forward with the by-trustee area method of election at the next general election for governing board members (November 2016). In the event the waiver is not granted, then the District would need to move forward with an election in accordance with the Education Code requirements.

Dr. Benkert indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to conduct a public hearing within the Garden Grove Unified School District on the District's proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a "by-trustee area" election process. At the conclusion of the hearing, the County Committee must either approve or disapprove the District's proposal.

#### B. Public Hearing

Vice Chairperson Freeman explained the format of the public hearing as set forth in the County Committee bylaws.

Vice Chairperson Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. to receive testimony.

District representatives present for the public hearing included Larry Ferchaw of Dolinka Group, Dr. Gabriela Mafi, Superintendent of Garden Grove Unified, and Mark Bresee, District Legal Counsel. Mr. Ferchaw provided a PowerPoint presentation to the County Committee.

Vice Chairperson Freeman then opened the floor for public comments. No speaker cards from the public were received.

Vice Chairperson Freeman closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

C. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

Members of the County Committee then asked several clarifying questions of Mr. Ferchaw and Dr. Mafi.

D. Vote to Approve/Disapprove the Proposal of the Garden Grove Unified School District of the Establishment of Trustee Areas and Change the Method of Election to a By-trustee Area Election Process (Action)

Vice Chairperson Freeman asked for a motion to either approve or disapprove the District's proposal.

County Committee member Virginia Wilson made a motion to approve the proposal of the Garden Grove Unified School District establishing trustee areas in accordance with the District's Scenario 2 and changing the method of election to a by-trustee area election process, and further that such action shall not be deemed to constitute an order of election if the State Board of Education grants the District's request for a waiver, in which case trustee area elections shall become effective the next succeeding board member election in November 2016.

The motion was read and moved by Virginia Wilson. The motion was seconded by Suzie Swartz. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved by 9-0.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Vice Chairperson Freeman adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

All documents submitted to the County Committee prior to, during and subsequent to this public hearing have been posted on the County Committee's website at <http://www.ocde.us/CCSDO/Pages/Meeting-Agendas.aspx> and are available for viewing and/or downloading. An audio recording of this meeting is also available upon request.