

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES  
Special Meeting and Public Hearing  
June 4, 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 Chairperson Sheila Benecke at 6:07 p.m., June 4, 2015 in the Board Room of the Buena Park School District, 6885 Orangethorpe Avenue, Buena Park, California, 90620.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Virginia Wilson.

3. ROLL CALL

*Present:*

Sheila Benecke, Chairperson	Robert Singer
Karin Freeman, Vice Chairperson	Suzie Swartz
Meg Cutuli	Josephine "Joey" Van Camp
Lisa Jordan	Janice Wagner
Jo-Ann Purcell	Virginia Wilson

*Absent:*

Sharon Wallin

4. ADMINISTER OATH  
OF OFFICE

Chairperson Benecke administered the Oath of Office to returning County Committee member Dr. Robert Singer.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Karin Freeman, and carried by a unanimous vote of all members present to adopt the agenda as presented.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Suzie Swartz, and carried by a vote of 8-0 with 2 abstentions, approving the County Committee minutes of the January 7, 2015 meeting. Sheila Benecke and Dr. Robert Singer abstained.

Chairperson Benecke explained the process for public comment.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Wendy Benkert reported that on May 7, 2015, the State Board of Education approved the Waiver of Election Request from Garden Grove Unified School District. The Orange County Registrar of Voters has been notified of the waiver and the Garden Grove Unified School District will use the by-trustee area election process at the November 2016 general election.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Report

Dr. Benkert reported that on May 7, 2015, the Orange County Department of Education received a request from the Buena Park School District for the

County Committee to approve the District's proposal to establish trustee areas and to change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process. The District also intends to seek a waiver of the election requirements from the State Board of Education.

Dr. Benkert explained the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a public hearing within the Buena Park School District on the District's proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a "by-trustee area" election process in accordance with the Education Code requirements and the County Committee Bylaws. Thereafter, the County Committee must either approve or disapprove the District's proposal.

Dr. Benkert also 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. Should the County Committee approve the District's proposal, and the State Board of Education grants a waiver of the election requirements, the District would forgo the election required by the Education Code and move forward with the by-trustee area method of election at the next general election for governing board members in November 2016. In the event the County Committee approves the District's proposal, but a waiver is not granted, then the District would need to move forward with an election in accordance with the Education Code requirements.

#### B. Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke explained the format of the public hearing as set forth in the County Committee Bylaws.

Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. to receive testimony.

District representatives present for the public hearing included Doug Johnson, President of National Demographics Corporation, Greg Magnuson, Superintendent of Buena Park School District, and David Soldani, District Legal Counsel. Mr. Magnuson began the presentation with a brief explanation of the timeline the district followed including the dates and details of the community forums and public meetings. Mr. Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation including the demographic data and the process in developing the different proposed maps. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Soldani answered clarifying questions from the County Committee.

Chairperson Benecke requested public comments. No speaker cards from the public were received.

Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.

C. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Magnuson responded to additional questions from the County Committee members.

D. Vote to Approve/Disapprove the Proposal of the Buena Park School District

Chairperson Benecke asked for a motion. Meg Cutuli moved to adopt a resolution approving the proposal of the Buena Park School District establishing trustee areas in accordance with its Plan 2 and changing the method of election to a by-trustee area election process, and that such action shall not be deemed to constitute an order of election if the State Board of Education grants the District's waiver request. The motion was seconded by Virginia Wilson. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved 10-0.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Benkert provided a brief update regarding the Centralia School District's proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process. A special meeting/public hearing of the County Committee is scheduled in the Centralia School District on June 24, 2015 to consider this proposal.

10. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the County Committee on School District Organization will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Centralia School District.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chairperson Benecke requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Karin Freeman, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 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.