

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Annual Organizational Meeting
November 6, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Shelia Henness at 6:05 p.m., November 6, 2013 in the Board Room of the Orange County Department of Education, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, California, 92626.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Meg Cutuli.

3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Shelia Henness, Chairperson	Joey Van Camp
Sheila Benecke	Karin Freeman
Meg Cutuli	Janice Wagner

Absent:

Barbara Michel	Sharon Wallin
Jo-Ann Purcell	Virginia Wilson
Robert Singer	

Chairperson Henness then introduced Lysa Saltzman, OCDE Legal Counsel, who would now be assisting the County Committee.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by Karin Freeman, seconded by Meg Cutuli, and carried by a 5-0 vote with Shelia Benecke abstaining, the County Committee approved the minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(A) Chairperson Henness asked Dr. Wendy Benkert, Secretary to the County Committee to give a brief staff report on the results from the Nominating Committee meeting held on October 16, 2013.

Dr. Benkert explained that on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 the Nominating Committee met for the annual County Committee elections. Elections were held for the 1st, 4th and 5th supervisorial member seats. Nominating Committee Members were given the option to vote via absentee ballot or traditional paper ballot. In all, 27 ballots were cast, 20 ballots were cast via absentee and 7 ballots were cast in-person.

Dr. Benkert then congratulated re-elected members Jo-Ann Purcell representing the 1st supervisorial district, Robert Singer representing the 4th supervisorial district and Sheila Benecke representing the 5th supervisorial district.

(B) Chairperson Henness then administered the oath of office to re-elected member Sheila Benecke and previously elected member Joey Van Camp who was not able to attend the November 7, 2012 annual organizational meeting.

(C) Chairperson Henness then asked Dr. Benkert to conduct the election of Chairperson. A nomination was made by Meg Cutuli for Shelia Benecke to serve as Chairperson, seconded by Joey Van Camp, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

Chairperson Benecke then conducted the election for vice-chairperson. A nomination was made by Meg Cutuli for Karin Freeman to continue as vice-chairperson, seconded by Janice Wagner, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Benecke asked Dr. Benkert to give a brief update on the appeal of the Silverado Transfer of Territory.

Dr. Benkert explained that since the last County Committee meeting on November 7, 2012, the State Board of Education (SBE) held a hearing on May 9, 2013 regarding the appeal of the denied Silverado transfer of territory from Orange USD to Saddleback Valley USD. She explained that on May 13, 2013, staff notified the County Committee members of the action taken by the SBE denying the appeal and reaffirming the County Committee's decision.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Shelia Henness announced that she regrettably was resigning from the County Committee because she and her husband were moving out-of-state. She said she will miss everyone and that she has enjoyed her time on the committee.

Chairperson Benecke asked about the process of filing the vacancy.

Lysa Saltzman, Legal Counsel, explained that there is a process detailed in the Education Code and the committee has 70 days to fill the vacancy in the 5th supervisorial district for the remainder of the unexpired term, through November 2015.

Dr. Benkert indicated that staff would be contacting committee members to schedule a future meeting date and explained the nomination process for potential candidates.

Karin Freeman then asked about information she had heard regarding Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) exploring the change to trustee-area board member elections and if that would come before the County Committee.

Dr. Benkert confirmed that AUHSD is exploring the process, but has not taken any action to adopt a plan. If the AUHSD Board adopts a plan, it would then come to the County Committee and should it be approved, then it would go to

the voters for an election, unless the election is waived by the State Board of Education.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

10. NEXT MEETING

TBD – within a couple of months to fill the recent County Committee vacancy.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Karin Freeman, seconded by Sheila Benecke and carried by a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business Chairperson Benecke adjourned the meeting at 6:25 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.