

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Public Hearings and Special Meeting
March 14, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Special Meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Shelia Henness at 6:06 p.m., March 14, 2012 in the Board Room of the Orange Unified School District Education Center, 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California, 92867.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Meg Cutuli.

3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Shelia Henness, Chairperson	Dean McCormick
Sheila Benecke	Jo-Ann Purcell
Meg Cutuli	James Reed
Karin Freeman	Robert Singer
Barbara Michel	

Absent:

Carolyn McNerney and Virginia Wilson

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Sheila Benecke, 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 Sheila Benecke, seconded by Karin Freeman, and approved by an 8-0 vote, with Dean McCormick abstaining, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting.

6. 1st PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Henness gave a brief background on the County Committee and then asked Dr. Wendy Benkert, Secretary to the County Committee, to give a brief staff report on the transfer of territory petition.

Dr. Benkert explained that on December 16, 2011 chief petitioner, Mr. Bob Winters, delivered a completed petition package along with 171 signatures. The package was submitted to the Registrar of Voters office for signature verification. On January 13, 2012 staff received official notification from the Registrar that the petition was valid.

Dr. Benkert explained that tonight, the County Committee members would hear public comments on the transfer of territory from the Orange Unified School District to the Tustin Unified School District. No decision would be made during tonight's hearings as the County Committee is required to conduct an environmental review to determine if a significant effect on the environment would occur. Only after that process is completed can a determination be made by the Committee.

Chairperson Henness opened the public hearing and explained that the purpose of the hearing is to obtain information from the chief petitioner(s), affected school districts and the local community in order to assist the County Committee members in making a determination regarding the possible transfer of territory from Orange to Tustin.

Testimony on transfer of territory by chief petitioner

Mr. Bob Winters gave a presentation to the County Committee asking for their support of the transfer. Mr. Winters discussed the reasons why residents want to transfer: unification of the neighborhood, residents identify themselves as Tustin community members and the social well-being of their children.

Testimony on transfer of territory by representatives from the Orange Unified School District

Michael Christensen, Superintendent, spoke on behalf of the Orange Unified School District. He informed the County Committee that the Orange USD Governing Board had taken action on March 8, 2012 to approve a neutral position on the transfer request. The vote was 5-1 (with 1 absent). The Board has decided to leave the decision up to the County Committee.

Testimony on transfer of territory by representatives from the Tustin Unified School District

No representative was present from the Tustin Unified School District.

Public Comments

There were 7 people who made public comments. Each individual was given 3 minutes to speak. 6 people spoke in favor of the transfer and 1 person spoke in opposition to the transfer.

Chairperson Henness called for rebuttals from the chief petitioner, OUSD and TUSD. Mr. Winters spoke, no rebuttals given for OUSD or TUSD.

Chairperson Henness closed the public comment period and gave the County Committee the opportunity to discuss and ask any questions in order to help clarify arguments heard. Members of the County Committee asked a few questions that were answered by staff, the chief petitioner and the District representatives.

7. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

8. RECESS

Chairperson Henness recessed the meeting at 6:54p.m. in order for Committee members and staff to travel to the 2nd public hearing in the Multi-Purpose Room at Columbus Tustin Middle School in the Tustin Unified School District at 17955 Beneta Way, Tustin, California, 92780.

9. 2nd PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Henness opened the 2nd Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m. in the Multi-

Purpose Room at Columbus Tustin Middle School in the Tustin Unified School District and repeated the introduction about the County Committee, the purpose of the hearing and the process for public comments.

Dr. Wendy Benkert gave the staff report again on the events leading up to tonight's hearing on the proposed transfer of territory from Orange USD to Tustin USD.

Testimony on transfer of territory by chief petitioner(s)

Mr. Bob Winters gave the same presentation in support of the transfer.

Testimony on transfer of territory by representatives from the Tustin Unified School District

Kathie Nielsen, Chief Academic Officer, spoke on behalf of the Tustin Unified School District. She reaffirmed that the district was taking a neutral position on this topic.

Testimony on transfer of territory by representatives from the Orange Unified School District

Kevin Emenaker, Director Facilities Planning & Technology, spoke on behalf of the Orange Unified School District. He restated that the Orange USD Governing Board had taken action on March 8, 2012 to approve a neutral position on the transfer request. The vote was 5-1 (with 1 absent).

Public Comments

There were 6 people who made public comments. Each individual was given 3 minutes to speak. All 6 people spoke in favor of the transfer.

Chairperson Henness called for rebuttals from the chief petitioner, OUSD and TUSD. No rebuttals were given.

Chairperson Henness closed the public hearing and gave the County Committee the opportunity to discuss and ask any questions in order to help clarify arguments heard. Members of the County Committee asked a few questions that were answered by staff, the chief petitioner and the District representatives.

10. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None

12. NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Henness stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at the Orange County Department of Education, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, California 92626.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sheila Benecke, seconded by Karin Freeman and carried by a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business Chairperson Henness adjourned the meeting at 8:37 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.