

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting and Public Hearing
December 16, 2020

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 6:02 p.m., December 16, 2020 via teleconferencing and Zoom pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20.

2. FLAG SALUTE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kathy Moffat.

3. ROLL CALL
Present:
Sheila Benecke, Chairperson Francine Scinto
Marilyn Buchi Suzie Swartz
Meg Cutuli Virginia Wilson
Kathryn Moffat Karin Freeman (arrived late)
Josephine “Joey” Van Camp (retiring member)
Kathleen Heard (incoming member)
Absent:
Jackie Filbeck Jo-Ann Purcell

4. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comment cards received

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Joey Van Camp, and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all members present to adopt the agenda as presented.

County Committee Member Karin Freeman arrived after the adoption of the agenda at 6:08 p.m.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES Meg Cutuli requested a change on page 4, third paragraph from the bottom paragraph, to replace the reference from \$30 to \$30,000. Motion to approve minutes as amended by Karin Freeman, seconded by Meg Cutuli, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote of all members present to approve the County Committee minutes of the April 29, 2020 meeting as presented.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Organizational Meeting

1. Nominating Committee Results:

Sheila Benecke introduced Howard Marinier, Executive Director, at Orange County Department of Education, who took over the role as Secretary to the County Committee.

Mr. Marinier reported that on Wednesday, November 18th the Nominating Committee members met for the annual County Committee elections. Elections were held for the 1st, 3rd, and At-large Supervisorial seats. Nominating Committee Members were given the option to vote via absentee ballot or in-person ballot. All of the 23 ballots received were absentee ballots.

Mr. Marinier introduced and congratulated Kathleen Heard, newly elected member, representing the 1st Supervisorial District; Kathy Moffat, returning member, representing the 3rd Supervisorial District; and, Francine Scinto, returning member, representing the At-Large district. The County Committee recognized and thanked outgoing member, Josephine “Joey” Van Camp, for her service on the County Committee.

2. Administer Oath of Office:

Sheila Benecke administered the Oath of Office to Kathleen Heard, Kathy Moffat, and Francine Scinto.

3. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:

Mr. Marinier sought nominations for the position of Chairperson. Karin Freeman nominated Sheila Benecke, seconded by Suzie Swartz, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

Chairperson Sheila Benecke then conducted the election for Vice Chairperson. Suzie Swartz nominated Karin Freeman, seconded by Meg Cutuli, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote of all members present.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. State Board of Education Update:

Mr. Marinier explained that the State Board of Education received Orange Unified School District’s appeal for the transfer of territory from Orange Unified School District to Tustin Unified School District, known as Panorama Heights II, in January 2018. On December 7, 2020, the Orange County Department of Education received an update from Larry Shirey, a representative from the State Board of Education. Mr. Shirey stated that he anticipated that the appeal will be presented to the State Board of Education at either the November 2021 or January 2022 meeting.

B. School District Method of Election Update:

Mr. Marinier provided each County Committee Member a document entitled “Orange County Method of Voting for District Governing Boards,” that provides information regarding trustee areas, method of election, and number of trustees for each Orange County K-12 school district,

community college district, and the county office of education. Currently there are nine school districts that are still using the at-large method of election. Chairperson Benecke inquired if any of the at-large districts have received letters from attorneys. Mr. Marinier responded that they have not received letters.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No presentations from the public.

10. NEXT MEETING:

No future meeting date set at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Chairperson Benecke requested to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Suzie Swartz, seconded by Meg Cutuli and approved unanimously by a roll call. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.