

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting/Public Hearing
January 21, 2022

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 Sheila Benecke at 3:00 p.m., January 21, 2022 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 Marilyn Buchi.

Chairperson Benecke explained the face mask mandate from the California Department of Public Health and the Orange County Health Care Agency requiring face masks to be worn inside the building. An outdoor location has been set up to allow remote viewing for those individuals who cannot wear a mask or choose not to wear a mask.

3. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Benecke asked Ms. Laurie Weiss to take roll.

Present:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sheila Benecke, Chairperson | Marilyn Buchi |
| Meg Cutuli | Jackie Filbeck |
| Karin Freeman, Vice Chairperson | Kathleen Heard |
| Kathy Moffat | Virginia Wilson |
| Suzie Swartz | |
| *Francine Scinto (arrived late) | |

Absent:

Jo-Ann Purcell

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by Marilyn Buchi, seconded by Karin Freeman, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present, approving the County Committee minutes of the January 14, 2022 meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Benecke explained the opportunities available for members of the public who wish to address the County Committee. There was no public comment related to closed session.

7. CLOSED SESSION

At 3:05 p.m., Chairperson Benecke explained the County Committee would now meet in closed session with legal counsel and will report out when they return. Ms. Lysa Saltzman, Counsel for the Orange County Department of Education, further explained that the County Committee was meeting in closed session

under the authority of Subdivision (d) of Government Code 54956.9 based on the fact that there has been a threat of litigation.

At 4:41 p.m. Chairperson Benecke reconvened the open session. Mr. Jeff Riel, General Counsel for the Orange County Department of Education, reported that the County Committee met in closed session to discuss a threat of litigation with counsel which became pending litigation as a result of the Writ filed by the Orange County Board of Education against the Orange County Committee on School District Organization on January 20, 2022. No reportable action had been taken in closed session.

Chairperson Benecke again explained the face mask mandate and that face masks must be worn inside the building.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Report – Adjustment to Orange County Board of Education Trustee Area Boundaries following 2020 Federal Census

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Howard Marinier, Secretary to the County Committee, to give a staff report.

Mr. Marinier explained that in follow-up to the January 14, 2022 County Committee Meeting, four maps were being presented as part of the public hearing: (1) OCBE Map 5 Modified by Redistricting Partners, Option 1; (2) OCBE Map 5 Modified by Redistricting Partners, Option 2; (3) Map C, created by Redistricting Partners; and (4) Map 9B, submitted by Billie Joe Wright and converted into Maptitude by Redistricting Partners. Mr. Marinier further explained that the maps were available for the public to review on the County Committee's web page and that hard-copies were available in the back of the room. Additionally, Mr. Marinier noted that the County Committee web page includes links to web maps so that members of the public may zoom into each map for more detailed information.

Mr. Riel provided further information on the redistricting process, timeline, and options available to the County Committee. He was joined via Zoom by Robin Johansen, Senior Counsel, Olson Remcho LLP and Paul Mitchell, demographer and President of Redistricting Partners.

Mr. Mitchell then provided a presentation on the current/existing Orange County Board of Education trustee area boundaries and the 2020 Federal Census data.

B. Public Hearing – Proposed Plans to adjust the Orange County Board of Education trustee area boundaries following the 2020 Federal Census:

Chairperson Benecke explained the format of the hearing as set forth in the County Committee Bylaws and as reflected on the agenda. Chairperson Benecke also explained the public comment section.

1. Open Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 4:58 p.m. She explained that the public hearing has been called to receive public testimony/input on the proposed plans to adjust the Orange County Board of Education trustee area boundaries following the 2020 Federal Census.

2. Demographics and Plan Presentation

Chairperson Benecke invited the first presenter from to give their presentation.

Mr. Mitchell provided a presentation in which he reviewed each of the proposed maps and explained the different map overlays created to show school district and city boundaries for: OCBE Map 5 Modified by Redistricting Partners, Option 1; OCBE Map 5 Modified by Redistricting Partners, Option 2; Map C, created by Redistricting Partners; and Map 9B, submitted by Billie Joe Wright and converted into Maptitude by Redistricting Partners. Mr. Mitchel explained the range in population based on the 2020 federal census date and the need to adjust the trustee area boundaries given the total range in population is now at 24% and the total plan deviation should be no more than 10%.

Chairperson Benecke then invited the second presenter Mr. Billy Joe Wright to give his presentation on proposed Map 9B.

Mr. Wright provided a presentation on Map 9B. He shared that he is a teacher, resident of Anaheim, and that proposed Map 9b was modified based on the comments and input from the Orange County Board of Education meetings.

3. Public Comment

Chairperson Benecke asked for public comment cards and stated twenty-seven speaker cards had been submitted. Each person was given one and a half minutes for public comment.

4. Rebuttal

There was no rebuttal from the presenters. Chairperson Benecke allowed rebuttal public comments from representatives of the Orange County Board of Education. The Orange County Board of Education demographer and legal counsel each addressed the County Committee.

5. Questions from County Committee Members

County Committee members asked questions regarding the various maps and about the criteria for redistricting. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Wright answered various questions about

each of the proposed maps. Ms. Johansen responded to questions about the legal requirements under the state and federal constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act and the criteria under Education Code section 1002 for adjusting the Orange County Board of Education’s trustee area boundaries following the 2020 federal census.

Chairperson Beneke provided several reminders to meeting attendees of the need for decorum and to wear a face covering.

6. Close Public Hearing

The public hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m.

C. Discussion from County Committee Members

County Committee members discussed each of the maps that were presented and how to move forward in consideration of the various options. There was a motion by Francine Scinto to bring back OCBE Map 5 Modified by Redistricting Partners, Option 1 and Map 9B for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Suzie Swartz and unanimously approved by all County Committee members present.

County Committee members then provided instructions to staff on additional information they would like to receive for the next meeting, including adjustments to OCBE Map 5 Modified by Redistricting Partner Option 1 and technical modifications to Map 9B.

D. Vote on the Redistricting Plan submitted by Orange County Board of Education – No action taken

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No presentations from the public.

10. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Marinier reported that the next meeting will be held on January 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

11. 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 by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.