

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting and Public Hearing
January 31, 2018

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 6:05 p.m., January 31, 2018 in the Board Room of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, 1301 E. Orangethorpe Avenue, Placentia, California, 92870.
2. FLAG SALUTE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marilyn Buchi.
3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Sheila Benecke, Chairperson	Francine Scinto
Marilyn Buchi	Robert Singer
Meg Cutuli	Suzie Swartz
Karin Freeman	Virginia Wilson
Kathryn Moffat	

Absent:

Jo-Ann Purcell	Josephine "Joey" Van Camp
----------------	---------------------------
4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW MEMBER Chairperson Sheila Benecke administered the Oath of Office to Marilyn Buchi.
5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Suzie Swartz, 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 approved by a 7-0 vote with Marilyn Buchi and Robert Singer abstaining, to approve the County Committee minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting.

Chairperson Benecke explained the process for public comment.
7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Report

Mr. Lombardo reported that the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a public hearing within the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District regarding the proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the County Committee must either approve or disapprove the District's proposal.

Mr. Lombardo explained that should the County Committee approve the District's proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election process, and the State Board of Education grants a waiver of the election requirements, as requested by the District, the District would forgo the required election, and move forward with the by-trustee area method of election at the next general election for governing board members in November of 2018.

Mr. Lombardo indicated that the Education Code does not provide specific criteria to apply in determining whether to approve or disapprove the District's proposal to establish trustee areas, resulting in broad discretion by the County Committee. The role of the County Committee is to approve or disapprove the District's proposed by-trustee area map and the change to a by-trustee area election process. The County Committee cannot make changes to the District's proposed plan.

B. Public Hearing

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

Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

District representatives present for the public hearing included: Gregory Plutko, Ed.D, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Superintendent; Richard McAlindin, Executive Director; Shawna McKee, Attorney at Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; and Dr. Justin Levitt, Vice President of National Demographics Corporation.

Dr. Plutko began the power point presentation explaining the District's mission and core values as well as thanking the district staff and the community for their support and involvement. Dr. Plutko explained that the district received a demand letter on graduation day and the District's transition timeline.

Mr. McAlindin explained the District's public outreach efforts including the District website, google forms, parent letters, notification in the Orange County Register, and posted public hearing notices.

Ms. McKee explained the stakeholder groups consulted and the process for preparing the draft trustee area maps. Additionally, Ms. McKee explained how each draft map contained a majority Latino area, and that each trustee area has portions of multiple attendance areas.

Dr. Levitt spoke regarding the demographics of the three draft maps considered by the District and how the maps were developed, in accordance with the District criteria in Resolution No. 9.

Ms. McKee then explained the election cycle for the trustee areas and the current trustees in each trustee area.

Chairperson Benecke noted that no members of the public filled out a card to speak on this agenda item. Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

C. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

Dr. Plutko, Mr. McAlindin, Dr. Levitt, and Ms. McKee answered questions from the County Committee members regarding: the election cycle, public outreach to stakeholders in the communities who are not parents, and the types of questions received from the public. They also responded to questions regarding the District's criteria for determining the trustee areas, input received from Latino and Asian-American community members, and attendance at the public hearings. Several County Committee members commended the District on its process and the detail involved.

Karin Freeman introduced fellow Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Board member, Judi Carmona, who was in the audience for tonight's meeting.

D. Vote to Approve/Disapprove the Proposal of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Chairperson Benecke asked for a motion. Karin Freeman moved to adopt a resolution approving the proposal of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District establishing the map "Green" and changing the method of election to a by-trustee area election process, and that this 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 Robert Singer. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved 9-0.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Lombardo to give an update on the Discussion Items.

A. Update on Transfer of Territory from the Orange Unified School District to the Tustin Unified School District (Panorama Heights II): Orange Unified School District Appeal

Mr. Lombardo reported a Notice of Appeal from the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) was received on December 12, 2017 regarding the action taken by the County Committee to approve the transfer of territory and the determination of election area. The filing of the Notice of Appeal by OUSD stayed the action of the County Committee. On December 22, 2017, the Statement of Reasons and Factual Evidence were received from OUSD. On January 5, 2018 the Notice of Appeal, Statement of Reasons and Factual Evidence along with an Index of Documents and the complete administrative record were submitted to the State Board of Education and California

Department of Education. Copies of the correspondence were sent to the County Committee members, Orange Unified School District, Tustin Unified School District, and the Chief Petitioners. Currently the State Board of Education has a backlog of approximately two and a half years before they review the appeal.

One speaker came forward to thank the County Committee for its prior action and expressed disappointment that OUSD filed an appeal prolonging the process.

B. Westminster School District's Anticipated Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and Change the Method of Election from an "At-large" to a "By-trustee" Area Process

Mr. Lombardo reported that the County Committee has not received a formal proposal from Westminster School District. However, on January 18, 2018 the Westminster School District adopted a resolution to amend action previously taken and initiate the adoption of a Trustee Area Map and sequence of elections for submission to the County Committee. Additionally, the district adopted a resolution to request a waiver from the State Board of Education of the election requirements. It is anticipated a formal proposal will be submitted soon and a County Committee meeting will be scheduled.

C. Huntington Beach Union High School District's Anticipated Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and Change the Method of Election from an "At-large" to a "By-trustee" Area Process

Mr. Lombardo reported that on December 12, 2017 the Huntington Beach Union High School District adopted a resolution to initiate the process to establish trustee areas and elections by trustee areas for the November 2020 election. The County Committee will be updated as information becomes available. It is anticipated a proposal to establish trustee areas and change to the by-trustee area method of election process will be received within the year.

D. Los Alamitos Unified School District's Anticipated Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and Change the Method of Election from an "At-large" to a "By-trustee" Area Process

Mr. Lombardo reported that on December 12, 2017 the Los Alamitos Unified School District adopted a resolution to initiate the process to establish trustee areas and elections by trustee areas for the November 2020 election. The County Committee will be updated as information becomes available. It is anticipated a proposal to establish trustee areas and change to the by-trustee area method of election process will be received within the year.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE None

PUBLIC

10. NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Benecke reported that the next County Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the Newport-Mesa Unified School District at 6:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Chairperson Benecke requested to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Karin Freeman and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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.