

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting and Public Hearing
March 21, 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 6:07 p.m., March 21, 2018 in the Board Room of the Westminster School District, 14121 Cedarwood Avenue, Westminster, California, 92683.
2. FLAG SALUTE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Karin Freeman.
3. ROLL CALL
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Present:</i> | |
| Sheila Benecke, Chairperson | Robert Singer |
| Marilyn Buchi | Suzie Swartz |
| Meg Cutuli | Josephine "Joey" Van Camp |
| Karin Freeman | Virginia Wilson |
- Absent:*
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Kathryn Moffat | Jo-Ann Purcell |
| Francine Scinto | |
4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Suzie Swartz, seconded by Meg Cutuli, and carried by a unanimous vote of all members present to adopt the agenda as presented.
5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES Motion by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Karin Freeman, and approved by a 7-0 vote with Suzie Swartz abstaining, to approve the County Committee minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting.
6. NEW BUSINESS

B. Public Hearing*

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

Chairperson Benecke asked if there were any members of the public wanted to make public comments, and explained the process for public comment as well as the public hearing.

District representatives present for the public hearing included: Dr. Tony Wold, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Tiffany Tran, Attorney, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo.

Dr. Wold began the District's presentation explaining the Westminster School District's mission and the process utilized for public outreach to ensure community input before voting on a final map.

Ms. Tran explained the transition timeline the Westminster School District utilized for the transition to by-trustee area method of election. She further explained the public outreach methods such as board briefs, a dedicated District webpage, social media, phone messages, letters, and press releases. Additionally, she mentioned how the stakeholder and bargaining units were consulted.

The presentation by the District was paused.

*Agenda item taken out of order.

A. County Committee Staff Report on the Westminster School District's Request to Approve and Establish Trustee Areas from which Westminster School District Governing Board Members will be elected in a By-Trustee Area Election Process

Mr. Lombardo reported that the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a public hearing within the Westminster 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 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.

It was moved by Meg Cutuli, seconded by Joey Van Camp, and voted unanimously to move on to agenda Item number 7 pending the arrival of the District's demographer.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS*

A. Update on Irvine Unified School District's anticipated proposal to establish trustee areas and change to a by-trustee area method of election

Mr. Lombardo reported that the County Committee has not yet received a formal proposal from the Irvine Unified School District. However, the District has adopted a resolution to initiate the process and applied for a waiver of election from the State Board of Education. It is anticipated the District will conclude the process on May 29th and a County Committee meeting will be held in June.

B. Update on Fountain Valley School District's anticipated proposal to establish trustee areas and change to a by-trustee area method of election

Mr. Lombardo reported that the County Committee has not yet received a formal proposal from the Fountain Valley School District. However, the

District has adopted a resolution to initiate the process of establishing trustee areas. The District would like to commence their transition in time for the election in November 2020.

*Agenda item taken out of order.

6. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

Chairperson Benecke explained the process for public comment.

B. Public Hearing - Continued

The public hearing resumed with Ms. Tran and Dr. Wold answering a question regarding the bargaining unit's stance which they explained was neutral.

Ms. Lysa Saltzman, County Committee Legal Counsel, then suggested County Committee members hold their questions until the conclusion of the District presentation.

Mr. Justin Levitt, Vice President of National Demographics Corporation, arrived and spoke on the draft maps and feedback on the maps. Mr. Levitt explained the process used to divide schools into each trustee area. He further explained the demographics of the district population and percentages of Latinos and Asian-Americans in the various trustee areas.

Ms. Tran then spoke regarding the elections sequence.

One member of the public spoke in favor of the Green Map. There was no rebuttal.

Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

C. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

Ms. Tran, Dr. Wold, and Mr. Levitt answered questions from the County Committee members regarding: how trustee area one has currently more than one trustee, how the attendance areas of elementary and intermediate schools fall into more than one trustee area, and the main differences between the Green and Orange maps.

D. Vote to Approve/Disapprove the Proposal of the Westminster School District

Chairperson Benecke asked for a motion. Virginia Wilson moved to adopt a resolution approving the proposal of the Westminster 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 as the State Board of Education granted the District's request of a waiver. The motion was seconded by Suzie Swartz. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved 8-0.

8. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

9. NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Benecke reported that the next County Committee meeting date has not been determined.

10. 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 6:46 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.