

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Annual Organizational Meeting and
Special Meeting and Public Hearing
October 25, 2017

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., October 25, 2017 in the Board Room of the Cypress School District, 9470 Moody Street, Cypress, California, 90630.
2. FLAG SALUTE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jo-Ann Purcell.
3. ROLL CALL
Present:
Sheila Benecke, Chairperson Robert Singer
Karin Freeman Suzie Swartz
Jo-Ann Purcell Josephine "Joey" Van Camp
Francine Scinto Virginia Wilson

Absent:
Meg Cutuli Kathryn Moffat
4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Robert Singer, 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 Virginia Wilson, seconded by Karin Freeman, and approved by a 7-0 vote, with Robert Singer abstaining, to approve the County Committee minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting.
6. NEW BUSINESS Chairperson Sheila Benecke asked if there were any members of the public present that wish to address the County Committee. No members of the public were present therefore the explanation of the public comment process was not provided at this time.

A. Annual Organizational Meeting

1. Nominating Committee results and welcome of elected returning members

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Chris Lombardo, County Committee Secretary, to give the results from the Nominating Committee meeting.

Mr. Lombardo explained that on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 the Nominating Committee met for the annual County Committee elections. Elections were held for the 1st, 4th, and 5th Supervisorial member seats. Nominating Committee Members were given the option to vote via absentee ballot or in-

person ballot. In total 19 ballots were cast, 12 voted using absentee ballots and 7 voted using in-person ballots.

Mr. Lombardo congratulated the re-elected County Committee Members: Jo-Ann Purcell representing the 1st Supervisorial District, Robert Singer representing the 4th Supervisorial District, and Sheila Benecke representing the 5th Supervisorial District.

2. Administer Oath of Office for the returning members

Vice-Chairperson Karin Freeman administered the oath of office to Jo-Ann Purcell, Robert Singer, and Sheila Benecke.

3. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Lombardo sought nominations for the position of Chairperson. A nomination was made by Suzie Swartz for Sheila Benecke to continue to serve as Chairperson, seconded by Joey Van Camp, and carried by a unanimous vote of all members present. Chairperson Benecke conducted the election for Vice-Chairperson. A nomination was made by Virginia Wilson for Karin Freeman to continue as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Robert Singer, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

B. County Committee Staff Report on the Cypress School District's Request to Approve and Establish Trustee Areas from which Cypress 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 on the Cypress School District's proposal to establish trustee areas and change the method of election to a "by-trustee area" election. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the County Committee must either approve or disapprove the District's proposal.

Mr. Lombardo explained that on June 15, 2017 the District submitted a waiver request to the State Board of Education (SBE) to waive a districtwide election to approve a by-trustee area method of election. SBE approved the waiver of the election on September 13, 2017. As a result, 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, the District would forgo the election required by the Education Code, and move forward with the by-trustee area method of election at the next general election for governing board members in November 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.

C. Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke explained the format of the hearing as set forth in the County Committee Bylaws. Chairperson Benecke noted that no members of the public are present and no comment cards have been filled out to speak on this agenda item.

Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

District representatives present for the public hearing included Ms. Anne Silavs, Superintendent, Mr. Douglas Johnson, National Demographics Corporation, and Ms. Tiffany M. Tran, Attorney at Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo.

Ms. Silavs gave a power point presentation beginning with an overview of the district consisting of six schools serving approximately 4,000 students in grades TK-6 which feed into the Anaheim Union High School District. Ms. Silavs explained how the district initiated the by-trustee area election process voluntarily. Ms. Silavs presented the transition timeline, explained the various methods of public outreach, and the stakeholder groups that were consulted during the process. She also reported that the State Board of Education approved the district's election waiver request.

Mr. Johnson continued the presentation with an overview of the demographics and diversity of the district. Mr. Johnson reported that errors were discovered in the census boundary maps and that the maps were corrected in February 2017 to include areas left off in the initial maps. Mr. Johnson explained the process behind developing the four district map options and the multiple public hearings which provided opportunity for public feedback. Mr. Johnson explained how the District Board adopted the map 2B, how each school attendance area was divided into a least two trustee areas, and when each trustee area would hold elections.

There were no speakers for public comment and no rebuttals. Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

D. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

Ms. Silavs and Mr. Johnson answered additional questions from the County Committee members regarding the public notification of the revised maps due to the discovery of the census error, how trustee areas will be redrawn when the 2020 census data comes out and people in newly developed areas will be

included, why map 1b was eliminated, the reason for initiating the change to by-trustee area elections, and communications with the City of Cypress.

E. Vote to Approve/Disapprove the Proposal of the Cypress School District

Chairperson Benecke asked for a motion. Suzie Swartz moved to adopt a resolution approving the proposal of the Cypress School District establishing the "Map 2b" and changing the method of election to a by-trustee area election process, and that this action shall not constitute an order of election as the State Board of Education granted the District's request for a waiver, therefore trustee area elections shall become effective the next succeeding board members election in November 2018. The motion was seconded by Francine Scinto. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

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

Mr. Lombardo reported that on September 6, 2017 the County Committee determined that the nine criteria were substantially met and voted to approve the petition. The County Committee agreed to meet at a subsequent meeting to determine the area of election and finalize action. Mr. Lombardo also reported that on September 8, 2017 he received a letter from the State Clearinghouse confirming compliance with the State Clearinghouse review requirements pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In addition, on September 18, 2017 he received notification from the Orange County Clerk-Recorder's Office verifying receipt of the Notice of Determination. At the next County Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 the County Committee will determine the area of election for the transfer of territory petition.

B. Newport-Mesa Unified School District's Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and Change the Method of Election to a By-Trustee Area Election Process

Mr. Lombardo reported that the Newport-Mesa Unified School District board members are currently elected through an at-large voting system in which each board member is elected by the entire school district voting population. On February 28, 2017 the Board voted on a resolution to readjust the trustee areas and change the method of election to a by-trustee area election. The District is continuing to hold public hearings. The County Committee will be notified once a resolution has been received from Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

Mr. Lombardo also mentioned that Lisa Jordan, County Committee member from the 4th Supervisorial District, resigned her position effective October 24, 2017. The County Committee has until January 2, 2018 to fill the vacancy.

8. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

9. NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Benecke reported that the next County Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the Orange County Department of Education at 6:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business Chairperson Benecke requested to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Suzie Swartz, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 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.