

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting
October 5, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Sheila Benecke at 6.03 p.m., October 5, 2023 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 Virginia Wilson.

3. ROLL CALL Chairperson Benecke asked Laurie Weiss to take roll.

Present:

Sheila Benecke, Chairperson	Paulette Chaffee
Jackie Filbeck	Karin Freeman
Kathleen Heard	David Johnson
Kathy Moffat	Francine Scinto
Suzie Swartz	Virginia Wilson

Absent:

Marilyn Buchi

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Karin Freeman, seconded by Suzie Swartz, and carried by unanimous vote to adopt the agenda as presented.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES Motion by Suzie Swartz, seconded by Karin Freeman, and carried by a vote of 8 – 0 with David Johnson and Virginia Wilson abstaining, to approve the County Committee minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson Benecke explained the opportunities available for members of the public who wish to address the County Committee.

No public comment cards were received for Agenda Item 7.

7. CLOSED SESSION At 6:10 p.m. Chairperson Benecke explained the County Committee would now meet in closed session to conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation under the authority of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of the Government Code 54956.9 The name of the case is Orange County Board of Education et al. v. Orange County Committee on School District Organization, Case Numbers: OCSC 30-2022-01242499-CU-WM-CJC / California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate Dist., Div. 3, No. G061395_and to conference with legal counsel on anticipated litigation under the authority of paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of the Government Code 54956.9 (one potential case).

At 7:06 p.m. Chairperson Benecke reconvened the open session.

Jeffrey Riel, Legal Counsel for the County Committee, reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of Appointed County Committee Member to 1st Supervisorial District

Chairperson Benecke asked Ms. Weiss if there were any comment cards related to Agenda Item 8A. No comment cards were received.

1. Staff Report on Appointment of County Committee Member to 1st Supervisorial District:

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Howard Marinier, Secretary to the County Committee, to report on the appointment to the 1st Supervisorial District.

Mr. Marinier explained the process for appointing Mr. David Michael Johnson to fill the vacancy in the 1st Supervisorial District following the resignation of JoAnn Purcell. Mr. Marinier introduced Mr. Johnson who took the Oath of Office on September 28, 2023. Mr. Johnson was welcomed by the County Committee.

B. Orange County Board of Education's Petition to Transfer the Duties and Powers of the County Committee

Chairperson Benecke asked Ms. Weiss if there were any comment cards related to Agenda Item 8B. Two comment cards were received and both members of the public provided public comments.

1. Staff Report on the Petition to Transfer the Duties and Powers of the County Committee to the Orange County Board of Education:

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Marinier to provide a staff report regarding the Petition to Transfer the Duties and Powers of the County Committee to the Orange County Board of Education.

Mr. Marinier reported that on August 2, 2023 the Orange County Board of Education approved a resolution constituting a petition to the State Board of Education pursuant to Education Code Section 4020 to transfer the powers and duties of the County Committee to the Board. It is anticipated that the State Board of Education will hear the petition on November 8 or 9, 2023. Mr.

Marinier then introduced Mr. Riel, Legal Counsel to the County Committee, to provide additional information.

Mr. Riel provided an overview of the staff report which included a review of applicable Education Code provisions, the history and background of county committees, the duties and powers of county committees as well as the process the State Board of Education may use for considering the County Board of Education's petition.

2. Discussion and Questions from the County Committee Members:

Mr. Riel responded to questions from the County Committee members.

3. Vote by the County Committee on Resolution (Attachment B)

There was a motion to adopt the County Committee Resolution opposing the Orange County Board of Education's Petition to Transfer Duties and Powers of the County Committee by Suzie Swartz, seconded by Virginia Wilson, and carried unanimously by roll call vote of 10 - 0.

9. COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Benecke invited County Committee members to share any announcements.

Ms. Wilson shared her experience as a long time County Committee member and that this would be her last County Committee meeting. She acknowledged and thanked her colleagues on the County Committee. County Committee members and OCDE staff thanked Ms. Wilson for her outstanding service and commitment to the County Committee.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON ANY PROPER MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

11. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Marinier reported staff is looking to schedule a meeting on November 15, 2023 for purposes of holding the Annual Organizational meeting and to consider the Huntington Beach Union High School District Proposal to Establish Trustee Area Boundaries and Change to a By-Trustee Area Method of Election.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chairperson Benecke requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Karin Freeman, seconded by Virginia Wilson, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.