

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION  
REVISED MINUTES  
Annual Organizational Meeting  
November 8, 2021

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

The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Sheila Benecke at 6:05 p.m., November 8, 2021 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 Jo-Ann Purcell.

3. ROLL CALL Chairperson Benecke asked Ms. Laurie Weiss if she would take roll.

*Present:*

Sheila Benecke, Chairperson	Marilyn Buchi
Meg Cutuli	Jackie Filbeck
Karin Freeman, Vice-Chairperson	Kathleen Heard
Jo-Ann Purcell	Francine Scinto
Suzie Swartz	Virginia Wilson

*Absent:*

Kathy Moffatt

Brief introduction by each County Committee member and Orange County Department of Education staff who were present, which included: Howard Marinier, Laurie Weiss, Jeff Riel, Ruth Brewda, and Dean West.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Meg Cutuli, seconded by Karin Freeman, 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 Virginia Wilson, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present, approving the County Committee minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting.

Chairperson Benecke noted that no members of the public were present for public comment.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Organizational Meeting

1. Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Howard Marinier, Secretary to the County Committee, to please report on the results from the Nominating Committee meeting.

Mr. Marinier stated that on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, the Nominating Committee met for the annual County Committee elections. Elections were held for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial member seats. Nominating Committee Members were given the option to vote via absentee or traditional in person paper ballot. In all, 28 ballots were cast, 16 ballots were cast via absentee, and 12 ballots were cast in-person.

Mr. Marinier then congratulated the re-elected members:

- Jo-Ann Purcell representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisorial District
- Jackie Filbeck representing the 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District
- Sheila Benecke representing the 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District

2. Chairperson Benecke asked Ms. Karin Freeman, Vice Chairperson to administer the oath of office to re-elected members who were present: Jo-Ann Purcell, Jackie Filbeck, and Sheila Benecke. The Committee congratulated the re-elected members. Ms. Freeman administered the oath.
3. Mr. Marinier then sought nominations for the position of Chairperson. A nomination was made by Virginia Wilson for Sheila Benecke to continue to serve as Chairperson, seconded by Suzie Swartz, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

Chairperson Benecke then conducted the election for Vice-Chairperson. A nomination was made by Virginia Wilson for Karin Freeman to continue as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Suzie Swartz, and carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Update on District Elections By-Trustee Area

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Marinier to give the County Committee an update on the District Elections By-Trustee Area.

Mr. Marinier reported that each County Committee member was provided a document entitled "Orange County Method of Voting for District Governing Boards," which lists all Orange County K-12 school districts, community college districts, and the County Board of Education, as well as the method of election. Mr. Marinier also reported that currently, nine of the thirty-two K-12 school districts and community college districts elect their governing board by the at-large method of election. Of the nine districts, four are elementary school districts, one is a high school district, three are unified school districts, and one is a community college district. One of the three school districts considering transitioning to a by-trustee area method of election will be discussed later at this meeting.

B. 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.

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Marinier to please give the Committee an update on the status of the Orange Unified School District Appeal.

Mr. Marinier explained that on July 28, 2021, the California Department of Education (CDE) requested additional information from the County Committee regarding the territory transfer appeal in order to prepare its analysis and recommendation to the State Board of Education. Mr. Marinier also reported that CDE anticipates that the State Board of Education will hear the appeal in the first half of 2022 but will give all affected parties approximately two-month's notice of when the appeal will be heard. He also reported that under Education Code section 35752, the SBE is required to provide at least 30-day's notice of its hearing of the proposal.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Marinier to provide the Committee an update on the status of the Santa Ana Unified School District's proposal.

Mr. Marinier explained that on August 10, 2021, the Santa Ana Unified School District's Board adopted a resolution to initiate the process of establishing Trustee Areas and elections By-Trustee Areas to take effect commencing with the November 2022 election. Based on the District's timeline, he reported that staff anticipated a formal proposal will be submitted in January 2022 to the County Committee.

B. Legislative Update and Decennial Federal Census Data Adjustment to Trustee Area Boundaries

Chairperson Benecke asked Ms. Ruth Brewda, OCDE Legal Counsel, to provide information on the Legislative Update and Decennial Federal Census Data Adjustment to Trustee Area Boundaries.

Ms. Brewda began with a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of SB 442, specifically Education Code 5020, and how it will impact the County Committee, and then the Decennial Federal Census Adjustments to Trustee Area Boundaries, specifically Education Code section 5019.5 for school districts and community college districts, and Education Code section 1002 for the County Board of Education. Ms. Brewda also provided an overview of Constitutional and Federal Considerations in Adjusting Trustee Area

Boundaries, and reviewed the Orange County Board of Education’s progress and proposed timeline for redistricting.

Ms. Brewda and Mr. Riel answered questions from the County Committee members regarding: the impact of SB 442, change in Education Code 5020, and the scope of the County Committee’s responsibility as to school districts, if school districts do not meet the March 1, 2021 deadline to adjust trustee areas following the decennial federal census.

County Committee members asked questions regarding the scope of the County Committee’s authority under Education Code section 1002, and the deadline to submit maps to the Orange County Registrar of Voters for the June 2022 elections. Mr. Riel answered that his office will look further into the questions to provide more information.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Benecke reported that there are no meetings scheduled at this time. However, the County Committee will be required to review the trustee area boundaries of the County Board of Education. Chairperson Benecke explained that it is anticipated that the County Board of Education may request that the County Committee approve its proposed maps by December 15, 2021. The County Committee agreed that they would like to begin the next meeting at an earlier time.

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 Suzie Swartz, and unanimously approved by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.