

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting and Public Hearing
August 16, 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 6:04 p.m., August 16, 2017 in the Board Room of the Tustin Unified School District, 300 South "C" Street, Tustin, California, 92780.

2. FLAG SALUTE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Singer.

3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Sheila Benecke, Chairperson	Robert Singer
Meg Cutuli	Suzie Swartz
Kathryn Moffat	Josephine "Joey" Van Camp
Jo-Ann Purcell	Virginia Wilson
Francine Scinto	

Absent:

Karin Freeman	Lisa Jordan
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Chairperson Sheila Benecke asked Chris Lombardo to introduce Orange County Department of Education's staff. Mr. Lombardo, Executive Director of Business Services, explained that he is replacing Wendy Benkert, who retired December 2016, as the Secretary to the County Committee. Mr. Lombardo introduced Dean West, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Lysa Saltzman, Legal Counsel, and Laurie Weiss, Manager of Business Services.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Virginia Wilson, 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 Meg Cutuli, and approved by a unanimous vote of all members present, to approve the County Committee minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS Chairperson Sheila Benecke asked if there were any members of the public present that wish to address the County Committee. The member of the public in attendance stated she had already filled out a card to speak, therefore an explanation of the public comment process was not provided.

A. Staff Report

Mr. Lombardo reported that the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a public hearing within the Tustin Unified School District on the District's 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 noted that no members of the public filled out a card to speak on this agenda item.

Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

District representatives present for the public hearing included Dr. Gregory Franklin, Superintendent; Jonathan Salt, Attorney at Fagen, Friedman and Fulfrost, LLP, and Justin Levitt, Vice President of National Demographics Corporation.

Dr. Franklin began the power point presentation beginning with an overview of the district that consists of 18 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 1 K-8 school, 4 high schools, and 1 adult education school and approximately 24,130 students. Dr. Franklin explained how the district received a demand letter and began the process to establish trustee areas and transition to a by-trustee area election system.

Mr. Salt and Mr. Levitt explained the process behind developing the four district map options, the various methods of community outreach, and the multiple public hearings which provided opportunity for public feedback. They

explained how the District Board adopted the Trustee Voting Area option “Orange” and how the map was updated to correct the outer boundary resulting in a map being adopted with annexations.

There were no speakers for public comment and no rebuttals. Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

C. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

Mr. Levitt and Mr. Salt answered additional questions from the County Committee members regarding the change in law (AB 350), the reasoning behind the representation in Area 4 not being up for election until 2020, the built out trustee areas, bargaining unit notification, and legal requirements for community notification regarding the election in 2020.

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

Chairperson Benecke asked for a motion. Suzie Swartz moved to adopt a resolution approving the proposal of the Tustin Unified School District establishing the “Trustee Plan Orange Version with Annexations” 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 Virginia Wilson. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved 9-0.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

A. Petition for Transfer of Territory from the Orange Unified School District to the Tustin Unified School District, Panorama Heights II

Mr. Lombardo reported that a petition for the transfer of territory from the Orange Unified School District to the Tustin Unified School District, which will be referred to as Panorama Heights II was received on June 14, 2017 and determined to be legally sufficient. A copy of the petition was forwarded to County Committee members. The County Committee will hold a public hearing on the petition on September 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tustin Unified School District at 6:00p.m. in the Board Room, followed by the second public hearing at 8:00p.m. in the Board Room of the Orange Unified School District.

One speaker came forward to address the County Committee and explained the reason for the petition.

B. Cypress School District’s 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 Cypress School District has submitted a request for the County Committee to consider its’ proposal to establish trustee areas and change to a by-trustee area election process. A copy of the Cypress School District’s correspondence was previously forwarded to each County Committee member. The County Committee meeting at Cypress School District will be on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the District’s Board Room.

8. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC None

9. NEXT MEETING Chairperson Benecke reported that the next County Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at the Tustin Unified School District at 6:00 p.m. and at Orange Unified School District at 8:00 p.m.

Then on October 25, 2017 the County Committee will meet at Cypress School District at 6:00p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business Chairperson Benecke requested to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Virginia Wilson, seconded by Joey Van Camp, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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.