

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

Minutes of the Special Meeting February 6, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.
Sweetwater Administration Center – Board Room
1130 Fifth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91911

I. OPENING PROVISIONS

- A. Call to Order and Roll Call – 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Anderson, Hartley, Jones, Neylon, Robinson
Secretary: Ward
Recording Secretary: Bowers

- B. Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag

- C. Convene The Meeting Of The County Committee On School District Organization

President Hartley convened the meeting of the County Committee on School District Organization.

- D. Approval Of Agenda

MSC (Jones/Anderson) to approve the agenda. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

- E. Review Of Guidelines For Public Hearing

President Hartley welcomed the audience and read the guidelines that included procedures to be followed for the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. A Spanish-speaking translator (Ana Gomezgil-Hirsch) was introduced to the audience to assist anyone needing English/Spanish interpretation. President Hartley announced that the no action would be taken to approve or disapprove the proposal at this meeting. The County Board of Education, acting as the County Committee on School District Organization, is scheduled to take action at a regular meeting of the board on February 12, 2014.

- F. Collect Public Speaker And Comment Cards

Public speaker cards and comment cards were collected now and throughout the meeting.

II. OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Petition for the Establishment of Trustee Areas in the Sweetwater Union High School District and for the Election of One Member of the Governing Board Residing in Each Trustee Area by the Registered Voters in that Area

President Hartley opened the public hearing. San Diego County Office of Education's Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Lora Duzyk, provided opening remarks describing the proposed change in the election process for the Sweetwater Union High School District. Currently, Sweetwater Union High School District board members are elected by voters from the entire district. The requested changes include creating trustee areas with one board member residing in each trustee area and who would be elected by the registered voters in that area.

B. Spokesperson for the Chief Petitioner

Eugene Chavira, member of the Citizens for a Better Sweetwater, asked for the County Committee's help to establish areas of representation to better serve the students in South San Diego that are without adequate representation. The desired goal is to ensure that trustees are representative of the community that they serve and to make Sweetwater a more transparent and democratic district.

C. Spokesperson(s) for the Sweetwater Union High School District

At the request of the Sweetwater Union High School District, President Hartley read their February 4, 2014 news release for the record: "Sweetwater Union High School District supports the will of the community with regards to establishing trustee areas within its geographic boundaries. The district will support the decision made by the San Diego County Board of Education [County Committee on School District Organization] after the public hearing to be held on February 6, 2014. In a democratic society, the will of the people is critical to the election process and the Sweetwater Union High School District will work with the San Diego County Office of Education and the residents of South County to ensure that trustees are representative of the community that they serve."

D. Public Comment – Speakers Called from Cards

Public speakers included eighteen citizens who unanimously support the proposed change in the election process and promotion of areas of community representation. Some concern was expressed regarding how areas will be designed. Speakers included Lauren McLennan, Kevin O'Neil, Colleen Cooke-Salas, Bernardo Vasquez, Roberto Rodriguez, John Orcott, Aurura Murillo-Clark, Francisco Tamayo, Jose Preciado, Paul Walker, Michelle Krug, Chandra Goodnough, Adrian Arancibia, Jaime Mercado, Ramon Leyba, Siri Forsman-Sims, Frank Tarentino, and Alberto Velasquez on behalf of Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, 80th District. Additionally, seventeen citizens submitted information cards with comments to be considered by the County Committee prior to taking any action on the proposal.

E. Questions from County Committee Members

Assistant Superintendent Lora Duzyk was asked to describe the next steps in the process. Mrs. Duzyk explained that the County Committee is scheduled to take action to approve or disapprove the proposal at a regular meeting of the County Board of Education on February 12, 2014. If the proposal is approved, the proposal would be presented to the electorate as early as November, 2014. As an alternative to presenting the proposal to the electorate at the November 2014 election, a request for a waiver of the election requirement may be submitted to the State Board of Education. If the request is approved, the change in election system would be implemented commencing with the November 2014 election and would be completed at the 2016 election. Several more public hearings will be noticed and conducted in the district over the next six weeks to receive input on draft trustee area plans, consideration of submission of waiver of election, legal criteria, and final trustee area plans.

F. Close the Public Hearing

There being no further speakers, Member Hartley closed the public hearing.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.