

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 12, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.
San Diego County Office of Education
Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr. Board Room
(Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center)
6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, California

I. OPENING PROVISIONS

A. Call To Order And Roll Call

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

B. Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag

C. Introduction Of Student Representative On County Board Of Education

Principal Yvette Davis introduced Azjah Hallion from San Pasqual Academy as the student representative for the month of March. Member Robinson presented Azjah with an engraved plaque on behalf of the Board and welcomed her participation in the meeting.

D. Public Comment On Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Public comment cards were collected. Public speakers included Gabby Hines and Stephanie Cruz, on the subject of the continued need for teacher assistants in the Juvenile Court and Community Schools. Public speakers in support of Thrive Public School addressed the Board, including: Dr. Nicole Assisi, Jacquie Furtado and Ashley Treadwell.

E. Approval Of Agenda

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

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Member Neylon asked to pull consent item II.E. for separate consideration. Member Jones asked to pull consent item II.H. for separate consideration

MSC (Anderson/Jones) to approve Items II. A. through D. and Items F. and G. on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

The Board then considered Item II.E. Dr. Neylon noted that the County Office of Education has made a concerted effort not to raise costs whenever possible as outlined in the Contracted Services Fee Schedule for services that the County Office provides to the districts.

MSC (Neylon/Robinson) to approve Item II.E. on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

The Board then considered Item II.H. Member Jones explained that her absence from the Special Meeting held on February 27, 2014 was due to a pre-arranged non-refundable trip out of the country; however, all pertinent information addressed at this meeting was provided to her.

MSC (Anderson/Neylon) to approve Item II.H. on the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by the following (4-1) vote: YES: Anderson, Hartley, Neylon, Robinson. ABSTAIN: Jones.

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS (Continued)

- A. Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 12, 2014.
- B. Approved Minutes of Special Meeting, County Committee on School District Organization, February 27, 2014.
- C. Approved real property lease agreements.
- D. Approved acceptance of a donation to the Migrant Education Program.
- E. Approval adoption of Contracted Services Fee Schedule.
- F. Approved SDCOE Holiday Calendar 2014-15.
- G. Adoption Resolution #2014-05 honoring retiring staff member Kathryn Lahdya.
- H. Adopted Resolution #2014-06 to compensate Board Member for missed meeting.

III. RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Recognition: Southern California Alger National Scholars
Board Vice President Mark Anderson introduced the 2014 Horatio Alger National Scholars: Richard Boyer from Santana High School in the Grossmont Union High School District; Brandon Brizuela from San Diego Met Career/Tech High School in the San Diego Unified School District; and Mekenna Brown from San Marcos High School in the San Marcos Unified School District. These students are among only 106 students in the country selected for this award. All have committed to use their college degrees in service to others. Mr. Anderson congratulated the students and presented certificates of recognition to each.
- B. Presentation: Overview of the Progress on Board Goal 2
Debbie Beldock, Assistant Superintendent, Learning and Leadership Services division and Scott Sypkens, Senior Director, Curriculum and Instruction reported on the progress of Board Goal 2: Assist districts to accelerate achievement for all students and eliminate the achievement gap, with a focus on English language learners, low-performing schools, and the health and well-being of students. The presentation included an update regarding the work we are doing this year in each specific results area and demonstrated how we continue to support districts to eliminate the achievement gap. The Powerpoint presentation has been posted with the online agenda for this meeting and can be accessed at <http://www.sdcoe.net/Board/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>
- C. Presentation: Update of the Local Control Accountability Plan
Assistant Superintendent Debbie Beldock and Jean Madden-Cazares, Senior Director, District and School Improvement presented. The division of Learning and Leadership Services has provided continued support and leadership to facilitate a process to collect data that will be utilized to develop the San Diego County Office of Education's Local Control Accountability Plan, to ensure all students leave our schools college and career ready and to address student groups to eliminate the achievement gap. An update on the process and next steps, both internally for the SDCOE and externally for our districts was presented. The Powerpoint presentation has been posted with the online agenda for this meeting and can be accessed at <http://www.sdcoe.net/Board/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING – Approval of the Deferred Maintenance Five-Year Plan

President Hartley opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. Assistant Superintendent Lora Duzyk provided opening remarks. There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed.

MSC (Anderson/Neylon) to approve the County Office of Education Deferred Maintenance Five-Year Plan. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

B. Interim Financial Report and Certification

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Lora Duzyk, presented the second interim financial report and certification for the Board's review.

MSC (Neylon/Jones) to accept the County Superintendent's positive certification that the County Office will be able to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the current fiscal year and the two subsequent years. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

C. Request for Waiver of the Election Required for the Establishment of Trustee Areas in the Sweetwater Union High School District and for a By-Trustee-Area Election System for Governing Board Members

Lora Duzyk provided opening comments. The County Board of Education held two properly noticed and widely publicized public hearings in the Sweetwater Union High School District on February 27, 2014 and March 6, 2014 to receive testimony on the waiver request. Public support of the waiver request expressed at both of the public hearings was overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the district bargaining units and advisory committees are supportive of the waiver request.

A successful waiver request would allow the change in the election system for the Sweetwater Governing Board to be implemented beginning in November 2014 and be completed at the November 2016 election. Full implementation of the new system would be achieved in two election cycles over a period of two years (2014-2016).

In the absence of a waiver, an election would be required to put the change in election system before the voters in November 2014. If approved, the implementation of the new election system would commence in November 2016. Full implementation would be achieved in three election cycles over a period of four years (2014-2018).

Implementing the new election system at the earliest possible date is important for two reasons. First, in recent years, many districts throughout California that use at-large election systems, like Sweetwater's, have faced costly lawsuits alleging violation of the California Voting Rights Act. A change to a by-trustee-area election system will protect the Sweetwater District from this threat. Second, the support of the waiver expressed by participants in the public hearings suggests that the community is eager for a change in the way the district's governing board members are elected.

If the proposed change in election system is required to be placed on the ballot in November 2014, the district will be responsible for the significant election costs that would be incurred.

Request for Waiver of Election (Continued)

It is the recommendation of the County Superintendent that the County Board authorize submission of the request to the State Board. If the Board authorizes the waiver request, staff will prepare and submit the request immediately, thus allowing for placement of the waiver on the State Board's agenda for its May meeting. The office of the Registrar of Voters has been notified of the possible waiver request. If the waiver is approved, that office will be prepared to implement a by-trustee-area election system for the governing board member elections in November 2014.

The Board noted that the overwhelming support of the waiver expressed by participants in the public hearings suggests that the community is eager for a change in the way the district's governing board members are elected.

MSC (Robinson/Anderson) to authorize and direct the County Superintendent of Schools, or designated staff, to prepare a request seeking a waiver by the State Board of Education of the election requirement imposed by the Education Code, and further directs that the request be submitted in a timely manner so as to provide for implementation of a by-trustee-area election system in the Sweetwater Union High School District commencing with the November 2014 election.

The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

V. CONVENE A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

A. Transmittal of Petition to Unify Alpine Union School District and that Portion of the Grossmont Union High School District

Lora Duzyk, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Division provided opening comments. On October 23, 2013, a petition was submitted to this office for the unification of the Alpine Union School District and that Portion of the Grossmont Union High School District. The petition was certified to be sufficient by the Registrar of Voters. The petition is being transmitted to the County Committee as the first step in the role the County Committee will play in the unification process.

Outline of the Unification Process

Within 60 days of the transmittal of a petition for unification, the County Committee is required to hold public hearings in the affected districts. Within 120 days of the first public hearing, the County Committee will be required to recommend to the State Board of Education the approval or disapproval of the petition. The 120th day is August 27, 2014.

Education Code section 35753 presents the nine criteria that must be substantially met for a unification proposal to be approved:

1. The new district will be adequate in terms of number of pupils enrolled.
2. The districts are each organized on the basis of a substantial community identity.
3. The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district.
4. The reorganization of the districts will preserve each affected district's ability to educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.
5. Any increase in costs to the state as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

Outline of the Unification Process (Continued)

6. The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization.
7. Any increase in school facilities costs as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.
8. The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values.
9. The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district or any existing district affected by the proposed reorganization.

School Services of California, an education consulting agency with extensive experience in school district organization, has been selected to conduct a feasibility study in which each of the nine criteria is examined and evaluated.

At a future meeting, to be held on a date prior to August 27th, the County Committee will be asked to determine, as required by Education Code section 35707, whether the unification would adversely affect the school district organization of the county, and whether the unification substantially meets the nine criteria specified in Education Code section 35753. The feasibility study and the recommendations of the County Committee are then transmitted to the State Board of Education.

The petition, a unification flowchart, and unification timeline were provided for the Board's information. No action on the petition was required at this time.

Public comment was taken from Albert Haven, an Alpine resident who supports the Alpine unification.

- B. Establish Date, Time and Guidelines for Public Hearings on the Proposed Unification of Alpine Union School District and that Portion of the Grossmont Union High School District

MSC (Robinson/Jones) to set the dates for public hearings on the Alpine Unification matter for Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Alpine Union School District, and on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Grossmont Union High School District, and to approve the public hearing guidelines as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

VI. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING – INFORMATION ITEMS – NO ACTION

- A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Ward discussed key issues affecting education. A copy of the full report is posted with the online agenda materials for this meeting and can be accessed at <http://www.sdcoe.net/Board/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

VI. BOARD REPORTS

Member Robinson congratulated SDCOE staff and thanked the Board of Supervisors for resolving issues around the San Pasqual Academy rent matter. Dr. Robinson met with San Diego Unified staff on issues connected to funding, and he shares the concern around flexibility in the LCFF that those funds end up with the students and the needs they are targeted to. Dr. Neylon expressed that she is very impressed with the number of parents, community members, faculty staff, etc. who have been participating in the Sweetwater District public hearings on the request for waiver of election and the draft trustee area plans. President Hartley added that to see the feeder districts and their board members and other elected officials participating was welcomed. Member Jones discussed her trip to the Panama Canal that was very educational. Vice President Anderson had the opportunity to participate on the South County Economic Development Council meeting where the Local Control Funding Formula was discussed with business leaders throughout the county.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Hartley and Member Anderson expressed concern over elimination of Teacher Assistants in the JCCS and requested a report when available.

IX. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Special Board Meeting, County Committee on School District Organization, Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Sweetwater Union High School District Board Room, 1130 Fifth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA.

Special Board Meeting, Thrive Charter School Decision, Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m., Jack Port Board Room #508.

Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.