

.....San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization  
Meeting of District Governing Board Representatives  
Monday, November 5, 2018

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Date: November 5, 2018

Place: San Mateo County Office of Education  
101 Twin Dolphin Drive  
Redwood City, CA 94065

**District Governing Board Representatives Present:**

Sixteen district Governing Board Representatives were present.

**County Committee on School District Organization Members Present:**

Virginia Bamford; Hilary Paulson; Colleen You

**Staff Present**

Nancy Magee, Superintendent-Elect  
Mefula Fairley, Senior Administrator, Board/Superintendent Support and Community Relations  
Timothy Fox, Deputy County Counsel

**Call to Order**

Ms. Fairley called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**Overview of Agenda**

Ms. Fairley reviewed the agenda items for the meeting.

**Responsibilities of the County Committee and Current Topics**

Ms. Magee reminded the Governing Board Representatives that their responsibility is to attend this meeting and to elect new members to the County Committee on School District Organization.

Ms. Magee stated that the County Committee oversees school districts in three areas: 1) territory transfers, 2) unification of school districts, and 3) voting by trustee area. She explained that the County Committee has 11 members with two members representing each of the five supervisorial districts and one member at-large. Ms. Magee also explained that members of the County Committee serve four-year terms. She shared that when a mid-term vacancy occurs, the County Committee can nominate someone to fill the open seat, and if the County Committee does not act, the County Superintendent of Schools may appoint someone. Ms. Magee clarified that a person on the County Committee representing a supervisorial district must live in the district s/he represents. She further clarified that active school board members may serve as County Committee members.

Ms. Magee stated that the County Committee is also charged with increasing or decreasing the number of governing board members in a district and rearranging trustee areas based on census data.

Ms. Magee provided an update on two petitions heard by the County Committee and subsequently appealed to the State Board of Education. The La Honda Road petition, heard by the County Committee in 2013, was a transfer of 10 properties from La Honda-Pescadero School District to Portola Valley School District and Sequoia Union High School District. The County Committee approved the transfer in 2014. La Honda-Pescadero School District appealed the decision to the State Board of Education, and the State Board heard the appeal four years later in September 2018. The State Board concurred with the County Committee that the territory should be transferred. The State Board also upheld the County Committee's decision to make the area of election the 10 homes included in the territory transfer. La Honda-Pescadero School Board was initially in opposition to this decision. The Board wanted the area of election to include the entire school district, but rescinded its opposition, allowing the election to go forth. The election will occur by mail ballot in May 2019.

The second appeal heard by the State Board of Education, the O'Connor Street petition, includes 31 homes on one side of O'Connor street in Menlo Park. In 2015, the County Committee voted to deny the transfer of the 31 homes from Ravenswood City Elementary School District to the Menlo Park City School District. The petitioners appealed this decision to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education denied the appeal in September 2018 citing racial isolation of students in Ravenswood as well as the district ongoing fiscal problems. The State Board stated this boundary issue represented a larger regional concern and advised the district superintendents to work together to resolve the boundary issues.

Ms. Magee stated the County Committee could potentially receive petitions from the Brisbane and Bayshore area. The Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park is another area from which the County Committee may possibly receive a petition.

Ms. Magee announced that she will become County Superintendent of Schools at 12:00 a.m. on November 6, 2018 and gave an overview of her priorities. She stated that as educational leaders, Board members across the county need to work together with the County Office of Education as advocates for full and fair funding to ensure districts have the resources need to serves students. She stated her priority is being a thought partner in making difficult decisions using the best information available. She also shared that she plans to personalize the way in which the County Office of Education responds and provides services to districts. Ms. Magee additionally expressed an interest in providing more technical assistance to Board members by having a governance symposium over the course of 2019.

### **Public Comment**

Alisa MacAvoy, Region 5 Director of California School Boards Association (CSBA), spoke about full and fair funding. She asked Board members to go the [fullandfairfunding.org](http://fullandfairfunding.org) website to learn about the issue and to sign a petition of support that will be presented to state legislators. She explained that CSBA is working to get California into the top ten list of states in terms of school funding and to be in the average of state funding by 2020. She asked Board members from Basic Aid districts to support the effort to increase funding to Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) districts.

Ms. MacAvoy asked that Ms. Magee coordinate and collaborate with San Mateo County School Boards Association on the Governance Symposium. She also asked Ms. Magee to consider addressing the issue of affordable housing for teachers.

### **Election Process**

Ms. Fairley explained the election process. She stated that the required quorum of the Governing Board Representatives were present, and explained that the County Superintendent would be required to appoint people to the County Committee if a quorum was not present.

Ms. Fairley explained that nominees for the County Committee must be registered voters and reside in the supervisorial districts they wish to represent. She further explained that the two nominees for this election were confirmed by the San Mateo County Elections Office to be registered voters living in the appropriate supervisorial districts.

Ms. Fairley stated that employees of school districts are not eligible to serve on the County Committee and confirmed that school district governing board members may serve on the County Committee.

Ms. Fairley stated that six candidates would be elected, two from District One, two from District Three, one from District Four, and one from District Five. She explained the terms for the newly elected candidates would begin on December 1, 2018, and end on November 30, 2022.

### Nominations and Discussion

Ms. Fairley called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.

Ms. Magee asked the Governing Board Representatives present to email Ms. Fairley recommendations for the vacant seat in District One.

Ms. Virginia Bamford, incumbent for District Three, stated that there have been a number of new members on the County Committee recently. She said having been on the County Committee for a long time, she adds value, consistency, longevity, and experience. She said her background as an attorney is helpful to County Committee because she has a lot of experience with the *California Code of Regulations* and the *California Education Code*, both of which are used by County Committee in making decisions. She asked the Governing Board Representatives to vote for her so that she can continue to help the children of San Mateo County.

Ms. Rosie Tejada, candidate for District Three, stated District Three would have more full representation if someone from North County were elected. She stated this is an exciting opportunity for her to enrich this governing body.

Mr. Jay Siegel, candidate for District Three, stated he grew up in the Bay Area and served five year on Los Lomitas School Board and volunteered for four years in the Ravenswood City School District. He stated that these experiences gave him a very good understanding of the issue of the well to do districts and the districts struggling under different pressures. He stated his background is in finance and that while the issues addressed by the County Committee involve legal issues, they also involve financial issues. He stated his experience in finance and on a school board will contribute to better understanding the issues impacting territory transfers.

## **Election of Members**

Ms. Fairley distributed ballots to the Governing Board Representatives. Ballots were collected and tallied by Ms. Hilary Paulson, Chairperson, and Ms. Fairley.

## **Election Results and Adjournment**

Ms. Fairley announced the newly elected County Committee members:

- Supervisorial District 1
  - Greg Dannis (incumbent)
  - Vacant
- Supervisorial District 3
  - Virginia Bamford (incumbent)
  - Rosie Tejada
- Supervisorial District 4
  - Maria Hilton (incumbent)
- Supervisorial District 5
  - William “Bill” Lock

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.