

San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2019

APPROVED MINUTES

Date: January 14, 2019

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

County Committee on School District Organization Members Present:

Greg Dannis; Bill Lock; Dennis McBride; Hilary Paulson; Rosie Tejada; Melchior Thompson;
Colleen You

Committee Members Absent:

Virginia Bamford; Maria Hilton; George Robinson

Staff Present:

Tim Fox, Deputy County Counsel; Mefula Fairley, Secretary to County Committee and
Administrator for Board/Superintendent Support and Community Relations

Members of the Public Present:

Nancy Kohn Hsieh; Lynne Esselstein

Call to Order

Chairperson Paulson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed all present.

Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Paulson asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the January 14, 2019 meeting. Member Tejada made a motion and Member Thompson seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of six in favor (Dannis, Lock, Paulson, Tejada, Thompson; You), none opposed and four absent (Bamford, Hilton, McBride, Robinson).

Approval of the Minutes

Chairperson Paulson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019, meeting with changes submitted by members You and Tejada. Member Tejada made a motion and Member You seconded. The committee voted four in favor (Dannis, Paulson, Tejada, You), none opposed, two abstentions (Lock, Thompson) and four absent (Bamford, Hilton, McBride, Robinson). Six votes are required to pass a motion, and no action was taken on the December 3, 2019, meeting minutes.

General Staff Report

Committee Secretary, Mefula Fairley, reported the election for the La Honda Road Territory Transfer will take place on May 7, 2019 by mail-in ballot and will include only the residents in

the territory involved in the transfer. Ms. Fairley shared that the election office requested a revised resolution from the San Mateo County Office of Education. Mr. Fox added he would work with Secretary Fairley to ensure the San Mateo County Elections Office has all required information. He further shared the Committee might consider including ballot measure language in its resolutions to approve petitions for territory transfers. This would create a cleaner packet for the parties to consider when considering appeal because the totality of the action will have been approved all at once. Mr. Fox said he would research the process used by neighboring committees and recommend a method of moving forward with future petitions.

Review of Appointment Process for Committee Vacancy

Chairperson Paulson explained the process for the appointment of a committee member for the vacant seat in Supervisorial District 1(Dave Pine). She reminded the committee they received written statements for each of the candidates in advance so that they would have an opportunity to review them. She said that after each candidate had been given an opportunity to address the committee, the committee could ask questions of the candidate.

Chairperson Paulson then shared the method for voting. She said each committee member would be given a card. She instructed the members to place their names at the top of the card and to write the name of the person for whom they wished to vote in the middle of the card. She then said Ms. Fairley would collect the cards and tally the votes. She reminded the committee the vote could not be secret and emphasized that the voting card must include their names.

Discussion

Mr. Fox clarified that this time may be used for discussion of the appointment process or the candidates. Chairperson Paulson explained that there were three people interested in the vacant seat and that Paul Linden had withdrawn his name for consideration.

Dennis McBride joined the meeting.

Appointment of New Member

Chairperson Paulson thanked Lynne Esselstein and Nancy Kohn Hseih for attending the meeting. She shared that the meetings can be very quiet or not quiet at all. She additionally explained that territory transfers can be one house issues, include parts of a district, or involve combining districts. She shared the County Committee members come from a variety of backgrounds. She also pointed out that the committee sometimes does not meet for month or it can be very busy and require more than the scheduled monthly meetings. Finally, Chairperson Paulson invited the candidates to speak to the committee.

Ms. Esselstein thanked the committee for the opportunity to apply for the vacant seat. She shared that in addition to the information provided in her written statement, she has a long track record of service in the community beyond her time on the Hillsborough School Board. She disclosed that she is a current member of the CuriOdyssey Museum Board, has volunteered at Legal Aid for over ten years, and has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a child from South San Francisco. She said these experiences have given her a perspective on schools beyond her own experiences in Menlo Park and Hillsborough. Ms. Esselstein further shared that although she has not actively practiced municipal and public law in the last few

years, she has a background as an attorney in this area and has had a successful case in Special District Organization which is analogous to the County Committee on School District Organization.

Ms. Esselstein said California and the Bay Area are unique in that they have many small governmental agencies that create some inefficiencies but also allow people to have control over the important governmental services that impact their lives with education being the one most familiar to many families. She closed by stating she is willing to provide her talents and resources to the committee if she is selected for the vacant seat.

Ms. Kohn Hsieh said she had a prepared statement but would forego sharing it. She stated she believes she has a lot to offer to the committee but has nothing to add to the statement she already submitted to the committee. She said she was honored to have been asked to come before the committee, and she thanked the committee for reading her statement and considering her for the vacant seat.

After the committee members voted, Chairperson Paulson assisted Ms. Fairley in tallying the votes. Chairperson Paulson then announced Lynne Esselstein as the new County Committee member for Supervisorial District 1 (Dave Pine) with six votes (Dannis, Lock, McBride, Paulson, Thompson, You) and one vote for Nancy Kohn Hsieh (Tejada).

Chairperson Paulson thanked Ms. Kohn Hsieh for her interest in the committee and for attending the meeting.

Member Comments

Member Thompson stated he was pleased to have interest from two candidates who would both make good additions to the committee.

Member Tejada stated both candidates have demonstrated their dedication to their communities and to the county as a whole and thanks Ms. Kohn Hsieh and Ms. Esselstein for their interest in the committee.

Adjournment

Chairperson Paulson asked for a motion to adjourn the January 14, 2019 meeting. Member Thompson made a motion and Member Tejada seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of eight in favor (Dannis, Esselstein, Lock, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, Thompson; You), none opposed and three absent (Bamford, Hilton, Robinson).

Chairperson Paulson adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.