

San Mateo County Committee on
School District Organization (CCSDO)
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

Date: September 13, 2021

Place: Held Remotely via Zoom

County Committee on School District Organization Members Present:

Lynne Esselstein, Bill Lock, Lillian Markind, Dennis McBride, Hilary Paulson, Rosie Tejada, Melchoir Thompson, Colleen You

County Committee on School District Organization Members Absent:

Virginia Bamford, Greg Dannis, Maria Hilton

Staff Present

Niambi Clay, Secretary
Timothy Fox, Deputy County Counsel

Chief Petitioners Present:

Hilary Gibson

Members of the Public Present:

Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Counsel
Douglas Johnson, Demographer, National Demographics Corporation
Ilana Mandelbaum, Deputy County Counsel
Rosendo Padilla, Deputy County Counsel
Scott Rafferty, Community Member

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Paulson asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 13, 2021, meeting. After a motion by Committee Member Markind and a second by Committee Member Esselstein, the CCSDO approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Esselstein, Lock, Markind, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, and You), three absent (Bamford, Dannis, and Hilton), and one abstention (Thompson), by roll call vote, the September 13, 2021, agenda as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Paulson asked for questions on or edits to the Minutes of the August 9, 2021, regular CCSDO meeting. Secretary Clay requested that Committee Member McBride's comment on page 13 be changed from "will" to "probably." After a motion by Committee Member You and a second by Committee Member McBride, the CCSDO approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Esselstein, Lock, Markind, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, and You), three absent (Bamford, Dannis, and Hilton), and one abstention (Thompson), by roll call vote, the Minutes of the August 9, 2021, regular CCSDO meeting with the above correction.

4. General Staff Report

Secretary Clay announced that she received an email from Larry Shirey, California Department of Education, informing that the October 2021 School District Organization (SDO) Summit will be held on October 15 and hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Mr. Shirey also sent a list of school districts which have submitted waiver requests to the State Board of Education (SBE) to eliminate the requirement that proposals to establish a by-trustee-area method of election be submitted to voters for final approval. The San Mateo-Foster City School District was on the list and will be discussed later in the meeting. There were four other districts which applied previously: the Cabrillo Unified School District and the South San Francisco Unified School District applied in May 2020 and the Sequoia Union High School District and Redwood City School District applied in March 2018.

Secretary Clay updated that the Hillsborough City School District is going to replace their CCSDO representative, and will vote on this at their Board meeting.

Secretary Clay reminded of a petition which had been sent out prematurely because it did not have any signatures. She shared that she met with the potential petitioners, they are obtaining signatures, and a petition may be forthcoming. The petition requests a territory transfer from the Redwood City School District to the Las Lomas Elementary School District.

Secretary Clay informed that the minutes would move to become more action item-oriented, shorter, and less detailed. This will help get the minutes to the CCSDO in a timelier manner and allow for quicker review. The detail which has been provided is not necessary.

Secretary Clay announced that the utilization of BoardDocs is almost ready to go and may be ready for the next meeting. Documents for the meetings will be officially placed in BoardDocs, aligned with County Board of Education practice.

Secretary Clay then answered questions from CCSDO members related to the General Staff Report.

5. Public Comment

There were no persons wishing to address the CCSDO on unagendized topics.

6. Skyline Transfer of Territory Resolution Discuss and Take Action

Deputy County Counsel Fox shared a brief staff report updating on steps taken since the August CCSDO meeting, including the resolution denying the Skyline Blvd. territory transfer.

Ms. Gibson provided comments on behalf of the Skyline Blvd. petitioners, who asked for reconsideration of the decision regarding their petition. Deputy County Counsel Fox informed it is in the CCSDO's discretion to decide what to do with the agendized item, which is to adopt the resolution. Holding a vote on the agendized matter, adoption of the resolution, will inform of next steps.

Chairperson Paulson noted that Committee Member Thompson had exited the meeting due to technical issues. Secretary Clay added he had returned to the meeting.

After a motion by Committee Member You and a second by Committee Member Tejada, the CCSDO approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Esselstein, Lock, Markind, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, and You), three absent (Bamford, Dannis, and Hilton), and one abstention (Thompson), by roll call vote, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-01 of the San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization to deny the petition to transfer territory of the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District to the Portola Valley School District and Sequoia Union High School District.

7. Resolution and Public Hearing to Establish and Implement Trustee Area District Elections for San Mateo-Foster City School District

a. Staff Report

Secretary Clay shared a brief introduction and Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham presented a staff report on the establishment and implementation of trustee area district elections for the San Mateo-Foster City School District. This included an overview of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), the CCSDO's role in this process, and information on redistricting after the Census. She, along with Douglas Johnson, Demographer, then answered questions from CCSDO members on the process.

b. District Remarks

Ilana Mandelbaum, Deputy County Counsel representing the San Mateo-Foster City School District, presented an overview of the district's process, timelines followed, and maps drawn to establish and implement trustee area district elections. She, along with Mr. Johnson, then answered questions from CCSDO members on the process.

c. Public Comment

Chairperson Paulson opened the public hearing to establish and implement trustee area district elections for the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

Scott Rafferty, Community Member, commented that CCSDO approval is the last step in this process and asked the CCSDO to take their responsibility in approving the map seriously and ensuring the transition is done correctly with real data. He asked the district to wait three months in order to complete the process with integrity. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham, Mr. Johnson, Deputy County Counsel Mandelbaum, and Deputy County Counsel Padilla answered questions from CCSDO members related to the public comment.

Receiving no further public comment, Chairperson Paulson declared the public hearing closed.

d. Discuss and/or Take Action

After a motion by Committee Member McBride and a second by Committee Member Thompson, the CCSDO approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Esselstein, Lock, Markind, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, Thompson, and You), and three absent (Bamford, Dannis, and Hilton), by roll call vote, to approve the resolution from the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

8. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Paulson adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.