

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, California 95131

Minutes of Regular Meeting #1-2012
Board Room
February 1, 2012

1. Call to Order

Chair Mandy Lowell called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

a. Roll Call

Members Present:

Nick Gervase
Brett Barley
Pam Parker
Josephine Lucey
Mandy Lowell
Ernest Guzman (until 4:20 p.m.)
Frank Biehl
Teresa O'Neill

Members Absent:

Rich Garcia
Nejleh Abed

b. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Mandy Lowell made clarifying remarks about agenda item 2 and the process for public comments and the time limit of three minutes.

The agenda was adopted as noticed.

Motion #1-2012:1 was made by member Ernest Guzman to adopt the agenda. Member Teresa O'Neill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Public Comments of Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

Chris Stampolis spoke of his concern regarding the contract between Tom Griffin and the County Office of Education and also regarding a conflict of interest for demographer Joshua Newman. Attached is a handout provided by Mr. Stampolis.

Email, 1/28/12, Ellen Wheeler, subject: County Committee process for redistricting
Email, 2/1/12, Andres Quintero, Latino Leadership Alliance, request for support for the creation of an East and Central San Jose board trustee area

Emails, 1/17/12, 1/21/12, 1/26/12, 1/27/12, 1/31/12, J Nakamura, map options for redistricting and consideration by the county committee

3. Information Items

a. Report on Redistricting Consultant Contract and Potential Conflict of Interest

Dr Weis, County Superintendent of Schools, provided the county committee with the opinion from county counsel regarding the contract with attorney Tom Griffin. Attached is the handout from Dr. Weis.

b. County Counsel Opinion for County Committee Member Participation

Dr Weis, County Superintendent of Schools, provided the county committee with the opinion from county counsel regarding the participation of Member Nejleh Abed in the redistricting discussions. Attached is the handout from Dr. Weis.

c. County Committee Updates

Ms. Suzanne Carrig, staff to the county committee, provided an update on territory transfers and appeals.

d. County Committee Vacancy

Ms. Carrig provide the county committee with updates on the process for filling the seat left vacant by Steve Glickman.

e. Voting Rights Act Information

County committee members reviewed summary information regarding the federal Voting Rights Act. Attorney to the committee for redistricting, Tom Griffin, reviewed the Voting Rights Act with committee members and answered questions from the committee.

CHANGE IN AGENDA

4. Consent Action Items

a. Request Approval of Minutes of County Committee Meeting of December 14, 2011.

Due to several changes to the minutes and discussion of those changes, staff asked that the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2011 be pulled from consent and added to action items.

The item was pulled from consent.

Chair Mandy Lowell requested that the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2011 be amended to read that the county committee requested county counsel opinion regarding the spousal issue and redistricting.

Chair Mandy Lowell also requested that the under item 5(b) that clarified that Tom Griffin's statement be amended to read that "neither Josh Newman, nor himself..."

County Office of Education trustee Anna Song asked the committee to amend the statement attributed to her under item 5(b). Staff read member Song's statement to the committee. Member Brett Barley asked for clarification on the process of accepting changes from members of the public. Staff responded that this was the first time for such a request. Member Barley suggested that staff listen to the meeting recording for accuracy and amend the records to match the recorded record.

MOTION #1-2012:2 was made by Member Frank Biehl to approve the minutes with all of the changes that have been proposed. Member Teresa O'Neill seconded the motion.

Member Brett Barley asked for clarification on the process of accepting changes from members of the public. Staff responded that this was the first time for such a request.

Member Frank Biehl suggested that staff listen to the meeting recording for accuracy and amend the records to match the recorded record.

AMENDED MOTION #1-2012:2 was made by Member Frank Biehl to approve the minutes changes provided they are consistent with the record. Member Teresa O'Neill seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0 with member Ernest Guzman abstaining.

5. Discussion and Action Item

a. County Committee Statement of Criteria Regarding the County Board of Education Redistricting Process

The following individual(s) spoke regarding the redistricting criteria:

- Bill Hughes, Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council Neighborhood Association, stated that the committee had good criteria and added that community identity such as neighborhood associations should be considered.

The county committee reviewed the criteria for the redistricting process and created a statement of criteria.

MOTION #1-2012:3 was made by member Brett Barley to accept proposed criteria as amended. The motion was seconded by member Josephine Lucey and unanimously approved.

Member Frank Biehl made a statement regarding the arbitrary nature of school district boundary lines and how they may not always makes sense it terms of community of interest which is one of the committee's criteria for redistricting.

b. Discussion and Review of Redistricting Options

Member Guzman stated that he was only able to stay until 4:00 p.m. and the issue of choosing an option would likely be put off until a future meeting.

Staff recommended that the committee work to meet the March 1st deadline for submitting a final plan. Staff also recommended that the committee remove from discussion the options they did not consider feasible.

Committee members discussed the redistricting process and timelines as well as the process in getting additional information with each map option. Staff was asked by committee members to provide larger maps and additional data with each map scenario.

It was recommended by member Jo Lucey to begin the map discussion with options 4 and 5A/5% (December).

Prior to review of the redistricting options the committee discussed options to remove from consideration.

MOTION # 1-2012:4 was made by member Ernest Guzman to remove from consideration redistricting options 1 and 5. The motion was seconded by member Teresa O'Neill.

Member Frank Biehl stated that he would vote against this motion and would rather voter to pick one option.

The motion passed on a vote of 7-1.

MOTION #1-2012:5 made by Member Pam Parker requested that the committee focus on options 4 and 5A/5% for the meeting. (No action was taken)

Discussion followed and Mr. Josh Newman was asked to review option 5A December for the committee.

The following individual(s) spoke regarding the redistricting options:

- Andres Quintero, Office of County Supervisor Shirakawa
- Eddie Garcia, Latino Leadership Alliance

- Bill Hughes, Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council Neighborhood Association
- Javier Gonzalez, Latino Leadership Alliance (LLA)
- J Nakamura
- Christ Stampolis

The committee asked Mr. Nakamura to clarify the map options he provided for the committee.

Mr. Gonzalez clarified the LLA position stating that they would rather see one strong Latino area rather than two areas with just a plurality.

After public comments on agenda item 5.B. the committee discussed redistricting option 5A/5% and looking at a trustee area with the LLA recommendation (keeping together Alum Rock, Franklin-McKinley, Mt. Pleasant and small portion of San Jose Unified).

Member Brett Barley suggested that for more direction than just the LLA recommendation, the committee devise a list of school districts that stay together for trustee areas and devise an option on that list. A suggested list was created.

After some additional discussion a motion was made to eliminate from discussion redistricting option 2.

MOTION # 1-2012:5 was made by member Josephine Lucey to eliminate option 2 from consideration. The motion was seconded by member Pam Parker and passed unanimously.

The committee decided on dates for the next two meetings in February – February 15th and February 29th; both meetings to be held at 2:00 p.m.

The committee discussed a meeting of three committee members to work directly with Josh Newman to take a more in-depth look at map options to be discussed at the next two meetings. Members Jo Lucey, Frank Biehl, and Brett Barley volunteered to meet on February 10th with staff and Josh Newman.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Carrig, Administrative Program and Evaluation Specialist
County Committee Secretary