December 19, 2016

TO: Members of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee)

FROM: Keith D. Crafton, Secretary

SUBJECT: Regular Meeting of the County Committee - Wednesday, January 4, 2017

The next regular meeting of the County Committee will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, in the Board Room of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, at 9300 Imperial Highway in Downey. This is the annual organizational meeting, and following at 12:00 p.m. will be the annual luncheon, also in the Boardroom. Reserved parking spaces will be available on the east side of the building for County Committee members.

Attached is the agenda for the meeting of January 4, 2017.

If you have questions, please call me at (562) 922-6110.

KDC/AD/EH:ah
Attachments
AGENDA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION (COUNTY COMMITTEE)

Regular Meeting

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Board Room
January 4, 2017
11:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Ms. Suzan Solomon

II. FLAG SALUTE – Ms. Solomon

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Ms. Solomon I, D, A

The minutes of the regular meeting of the County Committee, held on October 5, 2016, will be submitted for approval. (Enclosure)

IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEW OFFICERS – Ms. Solomon

The Nominating Committee, comprising of Mr. Frank Bostrom (Chair), Ms. Susan Andriacchi, and Dr. Ted Edmiston, will submit its recommendations for chairperson and vice-chairperson for 2017. The County Committee will vote on the nominating committee’s recommendations. The new officers will assume their duties immediately.

V. RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION OF MEMBERS CONDUCTED IN FALL, 2016–Secretary Crafton

The Secretary will provide the results of the annual election of members to the County Committee conducted via online balloting between October 1 - November 14, 2016.
VI. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE – County Committee Chairperson

The County Committee Chairperson will administer the oath of office to the re-elected County Committee members for the First, Fourth, and Fifth supervisorial districts.

VII. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Secretary

Mr. Keith Crafton

Any persons present desiring to address the County Committee on any proper matter may do so at this time. (Form to be completed and submitted to the secretary)

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – Secretary Crafton

IX. PETITION TO ESTABLISH TRUSTEE AREAS AND TRUSTEE AREA VOTING IN THE LAWNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD) – Secretary Crafton

The Secretary will present a petition to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting within the Lawndale SD.

X. PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE LAWNDALE SD AND THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (HSD) TO THE WISEBURN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) – Secretary Crafton

The Secretary will present an update on the petition to transfer territory from the Lawndale SD and Centinela Valley Union HSD to the Wiseburn USD.

XI. PETITION TO ESTABLISH TRUSTEE AREAS AND TRUSTEE AREA VOTING, WITHIN THE CASTAIC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD) – Secretary Crafton

The Secretary will provide an update on the Castaic Union SD’s process to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting.

XII. PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) TO THE LA CANADA USD – Secretary Crafton

The Secretary will provide an update on a petition to transfer territory from the Glendale USD to the La Canada USD.
XIII. **UPDATE ON THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA) AND TRUSTEE AREA ISSUES** – Secretary Crafton  

The Secretary will provide an update on CVRA activities in Los Angeles County.

XIV. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – Secretary Crafton  

The secretary will provide an update on current legislation and will introduce Ms. Pamela Gibbs, the Director of LACOE’s Government Relations Office in Sacramento, to discuss the legislative advocacy process. (Attachment 1)

XV. **UPDATE ON COUNTY COMMITTEE WEBSITE** – Secretary Crafton  

The Secretary will provide an update on the County Committee website.

XVI. **UPDATE ON REVIEW OF COUNTY COMMITTEE POLICIES** – County Committee Chairperson  

The Chairperson will request a report from the County Committee policy review subcommittee.

XVII. **UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES USD REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS** – Secretary Crafton  

The Secretary will provide an update on school district reorganization proposals affecting the Los Angeles USD. (“Summary of Los Angeles USD Reorganization Proposals”). (Attachment 2)

XVIII. **UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS, EXCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE LOS ANGELES USD** – Secretary Crafton  

The Secretary will provide an update on school district reorganization proposals affecting Los Angeles County school and community college districts, other than the Los Angeles USD. (“Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals [excluding those affecting the Los Angeles USD]”). (Attachment 3)

XIX. **ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, CONCERNS, OR ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

XX. **ADJOURNMENT**
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Regular Meeting
October 5, 2016

The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in Downey. The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m., by Ms. Susan Solomon.

Members Present
Susan Andriacchi
Frank Bostrom
Maria Calix
Ted Edmiston
Owen Griffith
John Nunez
Suzan Solomon

Members Absent
Nicole Kluft
Frank Ogaz
Joel Peterson

Staff Present
Keith D. Crafton, Secretary
Allison Deegan, Staff
Eric Hass, Staff
Anna Heredia, Staff

Ms. Susan Solomon called the meeting to order.

Ms. Griffith led the flag salute.

It was MOVED by Mr. Frank Bostrom and SECONDED by Mr. John Nunez that the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 7, 2016 be approved. Motion carried. Votes are:

Ms. Susan Andriacchi    Yes    Dr. Owen Griffith    Yes
Mr. Frank Bostrom       Yes    Mr. John Nunez      Yes
Ms. Maria Calix         Yes    Mr. Suzan Solomon  Yes
Dr. Ted Edmiston        Yes

Secretary Crafton introduced the Assistant Director of Business Advisory Services, Mr. Jeff Young to the Committee. Secretary Crafton directed the Committee to review the articles in their folders that pertain to CVRA activity.

There were no presentations from the public.
Secretary Crafton stated that staff will continue to update the Committee on this matter. It is anticipated that the public hearings will be held in January or February of 2017.

Secrecy Crafton informed the Committee there are two upcoming public hearings, one on October 26 and the other on November 2.

Secretary Crafton informed the Committee that this petition has generated a legal case, and there is a court hearing scheduled for October 14, 2016, which County Counsel will attend.

Secretary Crafton stated that we are in the 30 day waiting period for an appeal. The deadline to receive the appeal is October 7, 2016. If an appeal is filed, the petition record will be conveyed to the State Board of Education. This process may take 18-24 months.

Secretary Crafton stated that AB 350 was signed by the Governor, this bill gives districts a time period to respond when they are served with a petition to move to trustee areas, and it also limits the initial damages to $30,000. If the district chooses not to move to trustee areas, or takes an extensive time to do so, they will be subject to additional damages.

Secretary Crafton stated that all bills that staff was watching have been signed by the Governor, except SB 1288, which the Senate is considering over-riding.

Secretary Crafton stated that the website continues to be updated.

Mr. AJ Willmer stated that Ms. Vibiana Andrade has been reviewing by-laws and policies from other County Committees. Progress is being made, and more information will be provided at the next County Committee meeting.

Secretary Crafton stated there are no updates to report.
Ms. Solomon appointed the Nominating Committee as follows:
Mr. Bostrom, Chair
Ms. Susan Andriacchi
Dr. Ted Edmiston

Ms. Solomon stated this activity is suspended until County Committee reviews the evaluation policy.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION (COUNTY COMMITTEE) 
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – JANUARY 2017

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: 
Senate Bill 1288 / Leno

INTRODUCTION DATE: 
02/19/16

LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 
11/30/16: Senate deadline elapsed for veto override.

DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would authorize a city, county, or local educational agency to conduct an election using ranked choice voting, in which voters rank the candidates for office in order of preference.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

It is not yet clear how this bill would impact Los Angeles County school districts and school district elections.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

☑️ Watch  Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
☐ Approve  County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
☐ Support  County Committee actively supports the bill.
☐ Oppose  County Committee actively opposes the bill.
☐ Disapprove  County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.

AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

If staff’s recommended position is based on the need for amendments to the bill language, suggested alternative language is attached.

CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRED

If staff’s recommended position is based on the need for correspondence to the bill’s author, the Governor or other governmental officials, a draft of suggested language is attached.

Please direct all comments to Mr. Keith D. Crafton, County Committee Secretary at (562) 922-6131.
Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

January 2017

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD) that were at various stages in the school district organization process as of December 13, 2016.

RECENT INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION (within the last two years)

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Inner City USD / January 2016

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

- None
Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals
(Excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District)

January 2017

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals [exclusive of those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD)] that are at various stages in the school district reorganization process as of December 13, 2016.

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS AND TRUSTEE AREA VOTING, WITHIN THE LAWNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD)

The Lawndale SD submitted a petition on December 13, 2016, to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting. It is being presented to the County Committee on January 4, 2017. The County Committee will schedule a public hearing held in the district, and a feasibility study will be conducted which will be presented to the County Committee at a later date.

Status: Public hearing to be scheduled
*Status Date:  December 13, 2016

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) TO THE LA CANADA USD

On November 23, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §35700, to transfer certain territory from the Glendale USD to the La Canada USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Ms. Nalini Lasiewicz, Mr. Thomas G. Smith, and Mr. Nick P. Karapetian. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On January 13, 2016, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioners on January 15, 2016.

On June 29, 2016, the chief petitioners submitted signed petitions for review. On June 30, 2016, staff conveyed the signed petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification. On July 18, 2016, staff received notice from the Registrar-Recorder that there were sufficient signatures to move the petition forward. Chief Petitioner Smith subsequently resigned from his role.

The petition was presented to the County Committee on September 7, 2016. The County Committee held two public hearings (October 26, 2016, in the La Canada USD, and
November 2, 2016, in the Glendale USD) after which a feasibility study commenced which will be presented to the County Committee at a later date.

Status: Public hearings have been conducted in both districts
Status Date: November 18, 2016

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS AND TRUSTEE AREA VOTING, WITHIN THE CASTAIC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD)

The Castaic Union SD submitted a preliminary petition on March 10, 2016, to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting. It was presented to the County Committee on May 4, 2016. After the district completes its public hearings and map development process, the County Committee will schedule a public hearing held in the district, and a feasibility study will be conducted which will be presented to the County Committee at a later date.

Status: Public hearing to be scheduled after district turns in final map
Status Date: November 18, 2016

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (HSD) AND LAWNDALE SD TO THE WISEBURN USD

On May 15, 2014, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §35700, to transfer territory from the Centinela Valley Union HSD and the Lawndale SD to the Wiseburn USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Ms. Shavonda Webber-Christmas and Mr. Bill Magoon. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On June 20, 2014, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioners on June 23, 2014.

On October 15, 2014, the chief petitioners submitted signed petitions for review. On October 15, 2014, staff conveyed the signed petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification. On November 6, 2014, staff received notice from the Registrar-Recorder there were insufficient signatures to move the petition forward. Staff notified the chief petitioners, who elected to gather additional signatures. On December 4, 2014, the chief petitioners submitted additional signatures, which were submitted to the Registrar-Recorder on December 5, 2014 for signature verification. On December 22, 2014, the Registrar Recorder notified staff that the additional signatures were validated, and the petition had sufficient signatures to move forward.

The petition was presented to the County Committee on January 7, 2015. Two public hearings were held March 2, 2015, one in each of the affected districts. A feasibility study was presented on July 8, 2015, at which time the County Committee preliminarily approved
the transfer, pending further collection and review of additional fiscal data, and an environmental review. Supplemental requests for information were sent to the affected districts and to the chief petitioners, with replies received from all parties. The supplemental information, and the results of a CEQA consultant’s review of the petition’s environmental impact was presented to the County Committee on May 4, 2016. Additional information brought forward on May 4, 2016, resulted in additional questions and further information gathering, after which the proposal was reexamined at the County Committee meeting on September 7, 2016. At that meeting, the proposal’s preliminary approval was affirmed, and the petition area was selected to be the voting area.

On October 5, 2016, the Lawndale SD filed a Notice of Appeal with the County Committee, and on October 18, 2016, submitted their rationale and evidence for the appeal of the County Committee’s decision. Staff has forwarded the administrative record and oral recordings of the proceedings to the California Department of Education, who will prepare the matter to go before the California State Board of Education at a future meeting.

Status: Future ballot measure preparations suspended until appeal process concludes
Status Date: November 18, 2016

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

On July 23, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioner Mr. Seth Jacobson, a community member who is a Malibu resident. Mr. Jacobson, along with two other chief petitioners, wants to form a separate Malibu USD from territory within the boundaries of the existing Santa Monica-Malibu USD.

Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on July 27, 2015, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. We received notification on July 30, 2015, from County Counsel informing us that the draft petition was legally acceptable. The petition was mailed to the chief petitioner on July 31, 2015, for circulation within the petition area. Staff is informed that signatures have been gathered, but not yet presented for signature verification, as the petitioners negotiate with the district. Staff is informed that a joint committee appointed by both the district and the City of Malibu is studying the implications of this petition.

Status: Petitioners in negotiation.
Status Date: March 18, 2016
PETITION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN WITHIN THE POMONA USD

On April 8, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5020 to increase the number of trustees from five to seven within the Pomona USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner Mr. John Mendoza. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On April 27, 2015, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on April 29, 2015, for circulation.

This is a separate petition, distinct from the other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, and requests some of the same changes within the Pomona Unified School District (the addition of two governing board members). It was submitted under EC §5020(c) and, based on the number of registered voters in the Pomona USD, requires valid signatures from at least 10% of the registered voters within the petition area. If valid and certified by the County Committee, this petition would trigger a vote within the district, before which the County Committee may hold one or more public hearings on the proposal.

Status: Petitioner is gathering signatures.
Status Date: May 26, 2015

FORMATION—ALTADENA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PASADENA USD)

On January 17, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioners Ms. Maurice Morse, Ms. Shirlee Smith, and Mr. Bruce Wasson, three community members who are residents of the area known as Altadena. The chief petitioners want to form an Altadena USD from territory within the boundaries of the Pasadena USD. The petition request was returned to the chief petitioners on January 20, 2006, because it lacked an adequate description of the area pursuant to EC §35700.3.

On February 10, 2006, LACOE received a revised request for a petition. Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on February 22, 2006, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. We received notification on March 6, 2006, from County Counsel informing us that the draft petition was legally acceptable.

On March 7, 2006, staff forwarded the draft petition to the Registrar-Recorder for verification that the description of the proposed boundaries of the Altadena USD was sufficiently clear (so registered voters residing within the proposed petition area could be identified with specificity). The Registrar-Recorder confirmed that the description was sufficient on March 10, 2006.
The petition was mailed to the chief petitioners on March 14, 2006, for circulation within the petition area. The Registrar-Recorder estimated the chief petitioners must collect approximately 7,000 valid signatures to meet the criteria set forth in EC §35700(a).

On September 23, 2010, chief petitioners delivered signed petitions to LACOE. Staff submitted the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder on September 27, 2010, for signature verification. On October 22, 2010, the Registrar-Recorder notified staff there were insufficient valid signatures (less than the required 25 percent of the registered voters within the petition area). Staff notified the chief petitioners of the insufficiency, and at Mr. Wasson’s request, returned the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for a signature audit. Staff also advised the chief petitioner regarding the collection of additional signatures. Upon notification by the Registrar-Recorder of a sufficient number of valid signatures, staff will present the petition to the County Committee at the next regular meeting.

On January 4, 2011, staff conferred with a representative from the Registrar-Recorder’s office, who informed us that no audit of petition signatures had been done yet, and they clarified the cost of signature verification. On February 15 and March 1, 2011, staff contacted the Registrar-Recorder and were informed that the signature audit had still not been done. On May 12, 2011, staff from the Registrar-Recorder’s office advised LACOE that an audit of the petition’s signatures was underway. On November 28, 2011, the chief petitioner Mr. Wasson notified LACOE of the death of one of the co-chief petitioners, Ms. Morse. Mr. Wasson stated that another chief petitioner would not be named.

In August of 2014, staff confirmed that petitioner is still interested in collecting additional signatures.

Status: Petition insufficient; chief petitioners may gather additional signatures.
Status Date: December 5, 2011

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: February 21, 2008

FORMATION—LA MIRADA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORWALK – LA MIRADA USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: March 20, 2007

Unification Proposals/Last Activity Date
None

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Azusa USD to Glendora USD/October 2016
- Monrovia USD to Arcadia USD/September 2015
- Pasadena USD to La Canada USD/April 2013
- Temple City USD to Arcadia USD/March 2012

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Malibu USD (Santa Monica-Malibu USD)/August 2015

Trustee Areas and Governing Board Size/Last Activity Date

- Snowline Joint USD / April 2016
- El Monte Union HSD / March 2016
- Walnut USD / May 2016
- Pomona USD / June 2015

* = indicates activity since last meeting

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.