The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in Downey. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairperson Mr. Ben Allen.

Members Present

Ben Allen
Frank Bostrom
Maria Calix
Ted Edmiston
Owen Griffith
Joan Jakubowski
Suzan T. Solomon

Members Absent

John Nunez
Frank Ogaz
Joel Peterson
AJ Willmer

Staff Present

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

Mr. Ben Allen led the flag salute.

It was MOVED by Mr. Frank Bostrom and SECONDED by Ms. Maria Calix that the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 8, 2014 be approved. Motion carried with two abstentions: Joan Jakubowski and Owen Griffith.

Mr. Keith Crafton reviewed and discussed correspondence contained in the County Committee agenda packets and member folders.

Mr. Warren Kinsler, Counsel for the ABC Unified School District (USD) addressed the Committee with reference to their petition to implement trustee areas and trustee area voting. He asked the Committee that the public hearing be held in September since the ABC USD Board feels that would be best.

Dr. Tom Johnstone, the Superintendent of the Wiseburn Unified School District (USD) addressed the Committee. He requested that he be a part of the dialogue pertaining to anything happening in the Centinela Valley Union High School District (UHSD).
Mr. Crafton reported that Wiseburn will become a unified school district effective July 1, 2014.

Discussion occurred regarding a Lawndale School District (SD) petition for a territory transfer and a letter from Hawthorne School District (SD) to study a possible reorganization in their area.

Dr. Helen Morgan, Superintendent of Hawthorne SD addressed the Committee and informed the group that they are in the beginning stages of reviewing reorganization. They are in the process of looking at the possibility of doing a feasibility study in order to gain knowledge, so as to whether or not to continue moving forward.

Mr. Allen gave a report of his meeting with Dr. Arturo Delgado and Dr. Alex Cherniss with regards to the elementary districts requesting assistance from LACOE to look into reorganization. Mr. Allen stated that LACOE would be fully supportive and cooperative towards these districts and provide them with as much information and data as needed.

Dr. Allison Deegan added that Hawthorne SD and Lawndale SD are in the exploration phase and that they are setting in motion their own processes. At the present time, these districts have concerns regarding facilities and governance, there are many unknowns. LACOE and the County Committee staff are ready to assist them in any way possible.

Mr. Bostrom stated that the feasibility study for these districts should include the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

Dr. Deegan added that there is a unification protocol from the California Department of Education (CDE), in conjunction with LACOE. There are calendar and procedures to follow.

Mr. Crafton stated that included in the folders, are several articles with regards to CVRA. He informed them to pay close attention to an article regarding Palmdale School District.

Copies of the ABC USD petition were provided to the Committee.

Mr. Allen stated that he would like the Committee to receive the maps that are attached to the petition in color.

Dr. Deegan stated that ABC USD had done extensive outreach to the public and that we will try to schedule a public hearing in September. She has asked County Counsel, Danielle Drossel, to research whether or not ABC USD has to follow the 60 day requirement or if the 60 days can be delayed.
Mr. Crafton reported that the County Committee website has been upgraded to reflect CVRA related articles broken down by areas, such as Northern California, Southern California, Central California and out of state.

Mr. Bostrom informed the Committee that there are no developments at this time. He suggested that the Chairperson of the Committee on Policies set up a meeting to include Danielle Drossel.

Mr. Crafton stated that we have four bills that are being watched: AB2715, AB1365, SB1021, and AB2710.

No updates to report.

Discussion occurred regarding the state of Centinela Valley UHSD’s challenges.

11:06 a.m.