Regular Meeting  
March 4, 2015

The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in Downey. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Frank Bostrom.

Members Present

Frank Bostrom  
Maria Calix  
Ted Edmiston  
Owen Griffith  
Frank Ogaz  
Suzan Solomon  
AJ Willmer

Members Absent

Joan Jakubowski  
John Nunez  
Joel Peterson

Staff Present

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

Mr. Ted Edmiston led the flag salute.

It was MOVED by Mr. Owen Griffith and SECONDED by Mr. AJ Willmer that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 4, 2015 be approved. Motion carried.

Secretary Keith Crafton stated that we will have representatives from the following districts speak when their agenda item is being discussed: Pomona Unified School District (USD), Sulphur Springs Union School District (SD), Lawndale SD, and Wiseburn USD.

Mr. Crafton reviewed and discussed correspondence contained in the County Committee agenda packets and member folders.
Mr. Crafton reported that there is a vacancy in the County Committee due to the resignation of Mr. Ben Allen. A LACOE bulletin was distributed to all school districts with information regarding nominations for the vacancy. The deadline was January 15, 2015, and no applicants for the vacancy were received. At this time an outreach is being made for nominations. It is now up to Dr. Arturo Delgado, LACOE Superintendent, to appoint someone to this vacancy.

Mr. Crafton stated that there are two resolutions in the folder and a final map adopted by Lancaster SD. Lancaster has had a series of public hearings. Staff will advise of a public hearing in March. A van pool will be available to transport County Committee members.

Mr. Crafton stated that we anticipate receiving a petition at the next April meeting. They have had a series of public hearings and are working with a demographer at this time.

Superintendent Richard Martinez from Pomona USD addressed the committee and stated his appreciation for staff who have been guiding him through the process. He stated that Pomona USD has had 5 public hearings that were highly promoted on social media. Mr. Martinez stated that the turnout at the last meeting was the greatest of all, having at least 100 people present.

Demographer, Doug Johnson presented the map that was adopted.

Dr. Deegan stated that the adopted map is in the folders.

Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi, Superintendent, addressed the Committee and gave them a brief description of the Sulphur Springs Union SD.

Dr. Kerry Clegg, Board President, also addressed the Committee and informed the County Committee that a complaint was filed. He described the process of going forward with the petition.

Demographer, David Ely from Compass Demographics, explained the process he used to reach an adoptable map.

Attorney Milton Foster from Fagen, Friedman & Fulfrost also gave a brief report on the process of going forward with the petition.

Dr. Allison Deegan presented the feasibility study to the Committee.

Ms. Maria Calix made a motion to approve the petition, seconded by Suzan Solomon, all in favor.

The Committee also voted to adopt the map submitted by the Sulphur Springs Union SD.
Dr. Tom Johnstone, the Superintendent of Wiseburn USD, thanked the Committee for their participation. Two handouts depicting Wiseburn then and Wiseburn USD now and also a document regarding the choice block agreement. He stated that the agreement is centered around the two families that have special needs students. Dr. Johnstone stated that all students from choice blocks will be treated as residents at Wiseburn USD. The other point he made was that Centinela Valley Union HSD is making some improvements and that Wiseburn USD has a good relationship with the current superintendent, however his district still has issues with Centinela Valley Union HSD’s instability.

Mr. Bill Magoon, Chief Petitioner, addressed the Committee and expressed his dissatisfaction with Centinela Valley Union HSD and Lawndale SD and stated that the community is ready for a change to happen. He expressed that the transfer of territory would be a positive move.

Ms. Shavonda Webber-Christmas, Chief Petitioner, addressed the Committee and also expressed her appreciation. She urged the Committee to consider the transfer of territory as a benefit to the community.

Dr. Ellen Dougherty, the Superintendent of the Lawndale SD, addressed the Committee and thanked the staff for the Committee’s participation.

Dr. Dougherty inquired as to who will be preparing the feasibility study. She stated that Lawndale SD’s Board has concerns as to whether the report will be prepared with fairness and impartiality. She stated that there is doubt on behalf of Lawndale SD and surrounding districts that it will be done as such.

Mr. Crafton responded that the feasibility study will be prepared by the County Committee Staff, he stated that we are an impartial body and that all studies are done based on facts.

Ms. Suzan Solomon inquired as to what type of support Centinela Valley Union HSD receiving to move this district to a better state of being.

Dr. Dougherty stated that surrounding districts are meeting and working together to discuss what benefits the students’ academics.

Mr. Frank Bostrom stated that in preparing the feasibility study, there are nine mandated conditions to report on. These nine conditions guide the process. There is great integrity in the staff that prepares the study as only the facts are reported.

Mr. Willmer added that this is a fact driven process and suggested Dr. Dougherty to look at reports that have been presented in the past as examples of impartial feasibility studies.
Mr. Crafton reported on the CVRA Forum, there were as many as 50 attendees at this very successful event. He reported that all documents presented at the forum will be posted on our County Committee website.

Dr. Deegan stated that the law firm of Atkinson, Adelson, Ruud & Loya is interested in hosting another CVRA Forum.

Discussion occurred regarding location, speakers, and law firms that could participate in the next CVRA forum.

Mr. Bostrom would like to have the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder come speak to the Committee about cumulative voting.

Dr. Deegan responded that we could ask the Registrar Recorder to speak to the Committee.

Mr. Crafton stated that the website continues to be updated and that the CVRA Forum documents will be uploaded.

Mr. Crafton made a reference to Attachment 2 which references AB 182, at this time, it is in a “watch” position.

Ms. Solomon stated that she has names that the Subcommittee can reach out to with regards to legislative concerns. Next step is to set dates with legislators such as Ben Allen and Autumn Burke.

Mr. Willmer has created a Google doc in order to communicate through this process. No other updates to report.

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Mr. Crafton requested a change for the April meeting date. After discussion, it was determined that April 8, 2015 will be the date for the April County Committee meeting.

Mr. Willmer has concerns regarding voter turnout.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.