The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in Downey. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m., by Chairperson AJ Willmer.

Members Present

Susan Andriacchi
Frank Bostrom
Maria Calix
Ted Edmiston
Owen Griffith
John Nunez
Frank Ogaz
Suzan Solomon
AJ Willmer

Members Absent

Nicole Kluft
Cherise Moore

Staff Present

Keith D. Crafton, Secretary
Jeff Young, Staff
Dr. Allison Deegan, Staff
Eric Hass, Staff
Anna Heredia, Staff
Diane Tayag, Staff
Victoria Bernstein, Staff

Chairperson Mr. AJ Willmer called the meeting to order.

Chairperson Willmer led the flag salute.

It was MOVED by Mr. Frank Ogaz and SECONDED by Ms. Suzan Solomon that the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 5, 2018 be approved. Motion carried. Votes are:

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

Presentations from the public will occur during the CEQA hearing and on the petition to transfer territory from the Glendale Unified School District (USD) to the La Canada Unified School District (USD).
Secretary Crafton directed the Committee to their folders for recent articles relating to matters currently before the committee and other related school district organization issues. There are also two additional communications related to the Glendale/La Canada USD transfer of territory that came in this week. An additional copy of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for members to review during the upcoming CEQA public hearing and lastly a flyer related to the upcoming LACSTA meeting, which will be discussed in the next item.

Secretary Crafton informed the Committee that the LACSTA event will be held on October 22, 2018, and that the RSVP’s should be coordinated with Anna Heredia. The bulletin for this has been sent out with instructions on how to vote: the voting representative may vote by mail, electronically or cast their vote at the LACSTA event.

Mr. Kevin Ferrier, Consultant with Terry A. Hayes and Associates made a presentation on the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. He explained the process and the legal requirements.

Members of the public including the petitioners and the impacted districts addressed the Committee.

Secretary Crafton stated that now that the CEQA review and public hearing have concluded, the Committee will continue to review the materials it has received. At a later County Committee meeting, to be determined by the Chair, the petition will be review. At that time, the Committee will review the nine conditions, review the CEQA report and adopt it, and then take a final vote on whether to approve or deny the petition.

Secretary Crafton further stated that if the Committee denies the petition, the process ends pending any appeal to the State Board of Education, and if the Committee approves the petition, they will adopt a voting area for the petition and an election will be scheduled, again pending any appeal to the State Board of Education.

Secretary Crafton pointed out that despite inaccurate reports in the press and by individuals, the Committee has not yet voted on this petition. At its May 3, 2017 meeting, a number of preliminary votes were taken, all of which were non-binding. The request to let the petition move forward and to have a CEQA report conducted is in no way an approval of the petition. After the Committee reviews the petition at an upcoming meeting, the Committee may also request additional information it may need to make a final decision. The official or binding vote will be taken at a meeting in the future.

Members of the public, including the petitioners and the impacted districts addressed the Committee.
Secretary Crafton stated that parties continue their negotiations in the hopes of coming to an agreement. It is expected that we will hear from the parties in the next several months. We will keep the Committee apprised if any new information is provided before that time.

Mr. Frank Bostrom stated that the review is ongoing.

Secretary Crafton indicated that we continue to receive information on districts, both local and statewide, related to the CVRA. He directed the Committee to the folders where two articles about legal action around CVRA related to the City of Santa Monica. He reminded the Committee that Santa Monica-Malibu USD is a city charter school district, so any changes to the governance in the school district is dependent on the outcome of a trial to put trustee areas into the City.

Secretary Crafton stated that there are no items at this time.

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Secretary Crafton stated that other than the districts which have already been discussed, there are no other updates.

Mr. Frank Bostrom suggested that we have a workshop session to include a demographer presentation which would help the Committee understand the maps and the process they use. He also suggested a refresher workshop of the petition process and lastly Mr. Ogaz suggested that discussion occur with regards to our Superintendent taking over the LACSTA meeting in the future.
Mr. Frank Bostrom made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Adjournment Ms. Susan Solomon. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Votes are:

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