September 21, 2018

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, October 3, 2018

The next regular meeting of the County Committee will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, in the Board Room of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, at 9300 Imperial Highway in Downey. 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 October 3, 2018.

If you have questions, please call me at (562) 922-6131.

KDC/AD/EH:ah
Attachments
AGENDA

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

Regular Meeting

Los Angeles County Office of Education
October 3, 2018
9:30 a.m.

I  Information
D  Discussion
A  Action

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Mr. AJ Willmer

II. FLAG SALUTE – Mr. Willmer

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Mr. Willmer  I, D, A

The minutes of the September 5, 2018 regular meeting of the County Committee will be submitted for approval. (Enclosure I)

IV. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Secretary Crafton  I, D, A

Any persons present desiring to address the County Committee on any proper matter. (Form to be completed and submitted to the secretary) - Secretary Keith Crafton

V. COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Crafton  I, D, A

The Secretary will review any pertinent informational correspondence or newspaper articles.

VI. COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION – Mr. Crafton  I, D, A

The Secretary will apprise the County Committee about the Fall Annual County Committee Election.
VII. CEQA HEARING ON THE PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) TO THE LA CANADA USD – Mr. Willmer

The County Committee Chair will open a Public Hearing to receive public comment on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to consider the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

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

The Secretary will give the County Committee additional information on the petition to transfer territory from the Glendale USD to the La Canada USD. The County Committee will conduct a further review and vote on the petition at a future regularly scheduled meeting.

IX. UPDATE ON PETITION TO FORM A MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) FROM TERRITORY WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD - Mr. Crafton

The complete update is: The City of Malibu has petitioned to form a Malibu USD out of territory currently within the Santa Monica-Malibu USD. Following the introduction of the petition in November, 2017, the city submitted additional material to the petition rationale, including a trustee area map, a description of the fiscal impact of the unification, and letters requesting that the scheduling of the County Committee’s preliminary public hearing be postponed until after further discussions occur related to the petition. In September 2018, the County Committee received their requested update from the parties on their negotiations, and will receive a further update at a future meeting.
X. UPDATE ON REVIEW OF COUNTY COMMITTEE POLICIES – Mr. Willmer

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

XI. UPDATE ON THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA), TRUSTEE AREA AND ELECTION ISSUES – Mr. Crafton

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

XII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Mr. Crafton

There are no bills to report.

XIII. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES USD REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS – Mr. Crafton

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

XIV. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS, EXCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE LOS ANGELES USD – Mr. 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]”). (Enclosure 3)

XV. ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, CONCERNS, OR ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

XVI. ADJOURNMENT
The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met on Wednesday, September 5, 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**

Frank Bostrom  
Maria Calix  
Ted Edmiston  
Owen Griffith  
Cherise Moore (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)  
John Nunez  
Frank Ogaz  
Suzan Solomon  
AJ Willmer

**Members Absent**

Susan Andriacchi  
Nicole Kluft

**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.

It was **MOVED** by Mr. John Nunez and **SECONDED** by Mr. Frank Bostrom that the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 6, 2018 be approved. Motion carried. Votes are:

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<td>Mr. Frank Bostrom</td>
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<td>Mr. John Nunez</td>
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<td>Mr. Frank Ogaz</td>
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<td>Ms. Suzan Solomon</td>
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<td>Dr. Cherise Moore</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Mr. AJ Willmer</td>
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Presentations from the public will occur during the Whittier City SD petition agenda item, in the Inglewood Unified School District (USD) agenda item, and the update on petition to form a Malibu USD from territory within the Santa Monica-Malibu USD.
Secretary Crafton directed the Committee to their folders for recent news related to the California Voting Rights Act impacting local districts, other school reorganization issues and elections. Included in the folders are copies of the feasibility studies available for those who didn’t bring their copy, these reports will be addressed later in the agenda.

Secretary Crafton informed the Committee that the application period has ended for those interested in running for the County Committee. In the 1st Supervisorial District, Mr. Ogaz will run for reelection, and he has one opponent, Mr. John Quintanilla, a member of the Rosemead School District. In the 4th Supervisorial District, Dr. Owen Griffith has announced that he will not seek reelection. We will have a celebration of Dr. Griffith’s long service at the annual luncheon meeting in January. Heather Ashcraft, a Torrance USD board member is a candidate for the 4th Supervisorial District.

Secretary Crafton stated this petition is to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting in the Whittier City School District was presented to the Committee on May 2, 2018 and a public hearing was held in the district on June 6, 2018. At that hearing the Committee members in attendance heard from the district and from members of the public.

Representatives of the Whittier City School District addressed the Committee: Maria Martinez, Superintendent of the Whittier SD, Dr. Doug Johnson and Dr. Justin Levitt from National Demographics, Warren Kinsler, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo and Valerie Martinez from VMO, a communications firm.

Dr. Allison Deegan presented a feasibility report. The staff recommended that the petition be approved and the map presented be approved.

It was MOVED by Mr. Bostrom and seconded by Ms. Solomon that the petition to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting in the Whittier City SD be approved. Votes are:

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It was MOVED by Mr. Bostrom and seconded by Ms. Solomon that the map presented be approved. Votes are:

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Secretary Crafton stated the petition is to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting in the Inglewood USD. It was presented to the County Committee on May 2, 2018, and a public hearing was held in the district on June 26, 2018. At that hearing, the Committee members in attendance heard from the district and from members of the public. Representatives from the Inglewood Unified School district, including Dr. Thelma Melendez, State Administrator, Margaret Evans, Board President, and Dr. Doug Johnson, National Demographics, conducted their presentation.

Dr. Allison Deegan presented a feasibility report. The staff recommended that the petition be approved and the map presented be approved.

It was MOVED by Mr. Bostrom and seconded by Dr. Moore that the petition to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting in the Inglewood USD be approved. Votes are:

- Mr. Frank Bostrom: Yes
- Ms. Maria Calix: Yes
- Dr. Ted Edmiston: Yes
- Dr. Owen Griffith: Yes
- Dr. Cherise Moore: Yes
- Mr. John Nunez: Yes
- Mr. Frank Ogaz: Yes
- Ms. Suzan Solomon: Yes
- Mr. AJ Willmer: Yes

It was MOVED by Dr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Bostrom that the map presented be approved. Votes are:

- Ms. Frank Bostrom: Yes
- Ms. Maria Calix: Yes
- Dr. Ted Edmiston: Yes
- Dr. Owen Griffith: Yes
- Dr. Cherise Moore: Yes
- Mr. John Nunez: No
- Mr. Frank Ogaz: No
- Ms. Suzan Solomon: Yes
- Mr. AJ Willmer: Yes

Secretary Crafton stated that at the May 2018 County Committee meeting, both the City of Malibu, the petitioner, and the Santa Monica-Malibu USD, the impacted district, were instructed to continue their ongoing negotiations and to report back to the Committee at its September meeting. We have been informed that their negotiations have been productive.

Representatives that addressed the Committee on this petition are attorney for the Santa Monica-Malibu USD (SMMUSD), David Soldani, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Shin Green, Fiscal Analyst for SMMUSD, and Christine Wood, attorney for the City of Malibu from Best Best & Krieger.

Both parties agreed to continue working together on the prospective unification, and have requested an extension to continue their negotiations. The Committee agreed to grant an extension.
Secretary Crafton reported that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) study, prepared by Terry A. Hayes and Associates, has been completed. The CEQA study has been released on August 30, 2018, and the consultants have opened the comments period to gather information from the public. After the comments period, the CEQA public hearing will be conducted at the October 3, 2018, County Committee meeting. The petitioners and impacted districts and members of the public, may offer comments in person. At a later County Committee, staff will deliver a report on additional information that the County Committee requested. It is expected that the Committee will make a final decision on the petition at a later meeting.

Jennifer Freeman, Vice President of the Glendale USD Board, addressed the Committee on behalf of all who are opposed to the transfer of territory from Glendale USD to the La Canada USD.

Nick Karapetian, Chief Petitioner, addressed the Committee on behalf of those who support the transfer of territory from Glendale USD to the La Canada USD.

Chairperson Willmer stated that several members of the committee have been having discussions, they will continue with their review and will have something to report soon.

Secretary Crafton stated that CVRA issues are still very active in Los Angeles County. He also stated there are now 21 districts governed via trustee areas, staff continues to do outreach to other districts to assist them if they move to trustee areas.

Secretary Crafton stated that AB1840 is before the Governor and that it may have an impact on the school district organization process. We will continue to watch this bill and will inform the Committee when the bill is signed and what impact it will have, if any, on the County Committee’s process.

Secretary Crafton stated there are no updates to report.
Secretary Crafton stated there is an upcoming School District Fiscal Training Summit to be held at LACOE on September 28, 2018. County Committee members are invited to attend. We would also like to encourage representatives from your local school districts to attend. This will be a great presentation that includes information about school district and the local economic outlook. We will be sending an email with more information shortly.

Mr. Bostrom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Nunez. Motion was approved. Votes were:

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Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

October 2018

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 September 18, 2018.

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)

October 2018

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 September 18, 2018.

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

On September 1, 2017, LACOE received a petition in the form of a 2015 resolution from the City of Malibu to form a separate Malibu USD from territory within the boundaries of the existing Santa Monica-Malibu USD. The petition was introduced at the November 1, 2017 regular County Committee meeting, and at least one public hearing will be scheduled. After this local agency petition was introduced, however, the City of Malibu sent a letter requesting that the County Committee postpone the scheduling of its preliminary hearing to allow the stakeholders more time to discuss further options and details regarding the petition. On February 28, 2018, however, the City of Malibu apprised the committee of their interest in pursuing the preliminary public hearing. Then, in April 2018, the City resolved to further investigate options before asking the County Committee to proceed. At its May 2, 2018 regular meeting, the County Committee voted to delay scheduling the preliminary public hearing until after getting an update on negotiations at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 5, 2018. On September 5, 2018, representatives from the City of Malibu and the Santa Monica-Malibu USD apprised the County Committee of their negotiations and shall return with a further update in early 2019.

*Status: Preliminary public hearing to be scheduled, pending negotiations
Status Date: September 18, 2018
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). In mid-February, 2017, the two districts resumed negotiations in an attempt to find amicable solutions, but as of mid-April, were not able to resolve issues. A feasibility study was presented to the County Committee at the May 3, 2017 meeting, after which the Committee gave a preliminary approval to the proposal.

In Fall 2017, staff concluded the Request For Proposal (RFP) process, evaluated vendors, and selected an environmental consultant, for whom a contract was agreed upon. The environmental analysis concluded with the report’s comment period spanning August 30 – September 18, 2018. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Public Hearing shall convene on October 3, 2018, at the County Committee’s regular scheduled meeting, with a final decision on the petition to occur at a future regularly scheduled meeting.

*Status: CEQA Public Hearing scheduled for October 3, 2018
Status Date: September 18, 2018

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. A joint committee appointed by both the district and the City of Malibu has released a study addressing the implications of this petition. Staff is reviewing this study.

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

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

• Malibu USD (Santa Monica-Malibu USD)/April 2018

Trustee Areas and Governing Board Size/Last Activity Date

• El Monte City SD / August 2017
• El Monte Union HSD / March 2016
• Torrance USD / July 2018
• Walnut USD / May 2016
• *Whittier Union HSD / September 2018

* = indicates activity since last meeting

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.