SONOMA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Sonoma County Office of Education

5340 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

JANUARY 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – ADOPTED

MEETING Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Sonoma County

Committee on School District Organization to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Sonoma County Office of Education

in the Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT Ron Abler, Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Rick Call, James DeWilder, Ronald Kristof, Mary

Schafer, Russ Wigglesworth, and Jennifer Wiltermood

MEMBERS ABSENT Jeremy Brott, Sandra Elliott, and Rick Massell

STAFF PRESENT Jim Cerreta, Patti Springer, and School and College Legal Services representative, Frank

Zotter

1. OATH OF OFFICE Mr. Cerreta administered the Oath of Office to Ron Abler, Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Rick

> Call, James DeWilder, Mary Schafer, Russ Wigglesworth, and Jennifer Wiltermood. Due to Mr. Brott's and Ms. Elliott's absence, the Oath of Office will be administered to them at

the next scheduled meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS Mr. Cerreta introduced himself and staff; and Committee members introduced themselves.

2. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Bassett Fernandes expressed her willingness to again serve as Committee Chairperson. On motion by Ms. Schafer, seconded by Mr. DeWilder, the motion carried to select Ms.

Bassett Fernandes as the County Committee Chairperson.

3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. DeWilder expressed his willingness to again serve as Committee Vice-Chairperson. On motion by Ms. Schafer, seconded by Mr. Wigglesworth, the motion carried to select Mr.

DeWilder as the County Committee Vice-Chairperson.

4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 26, 2015 AGENDA On motion by Mr. DeWilder, seconded by Ms. Schafer, the motion carried to approve the January 26, 2015 agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE **FEBRUARY 21, 2012 MINUTES**

Mr. DeWilder motioned to approve the minutes, with Mr. Kristof seconding. Discussion ensued regarding Item 7 Public Hearing and Item 8.1 The Committee will consider trustee areas seven-member and five-member board. Mr. Abler suggested that the minutes should clarify what Item 7 Public Hearing was concerning. Mr. Zotter suggested that the minutes for Item 7 be amended to read "Ms. Bassett Fernandes called the Public Hearing to order at 5:38 p.m. regarding the reduction in size to the County Board of Education from seven members to five. Due to the lack of public, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 5:39 p.m."

On motion by Mr. DeWilder, seconded by Mr. Kristof, the motion carried to approve the February 21, 2012 minutes with the amendment from those who were present at the meeting – Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, James DeWilder, Ronald Kristof, and Mary Schafer.

7. OVERVIEW & ORIENTATION

Mr. Zotter and Mr. Cerreta provided an overview of the Committee, comparing it to Lafco. They discussed recent issues that the Committee has addressed i.e., the reduction of County Board members from 7 to 5, whereas this Committee made the final decision for the reduction but submitted a request to the CDE to waive the election, which the CDE approved. Mr. Zotter commented that decisions made by the Committee might also be overturned by the State. Mr. Zotter also reviewed several sections of the School District Organization Handbook with the Committee. If members should receive calls from the public regarding this Committee, Mr. Cerreta suggested that they refer the callers to him. Mr. Abler asked about the annual election, county committee voting delegates, and alternates. Ms. Bassett Fernandes explained that the Board voting delegates only vote for representatives to the County Committee via mail-in ballots during the election. It was suggested that staff provide a letter of explanation to the Boards regarding the role of the County Committee Voting Delegates.

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8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS None.

9. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Kashia School District – Possible Lapsation Mr. Cerreta provided an overview of Kashia School District in regards to Ed Code ADA requirements and possible lapsation of the school district if it is determined that the school district had less than six students during the 2013-14 school year. Mr. Cerreta stated that the audit report would not be available until January 31, 2015. At that time he will notify the Committee of the results and, if applicable, the possible lapsation of Kashia. The audit will reveal if Kashia is entitled to funding; if the ADA was six students; and if the teacher was properly credentialed. The Committee would initiate the lapsation process with the hearing process beginning after the end of the 2014-15 school year. If the district lapses, students would be absorbed into Horicon School District. Upon receipt of the audit, Mr. Cerreta will send an update to the Committee members.

9.2 Santa Rosa Junior College District – Trustee Area Representation Mr. Zotter briefly reviewed the California Voting Right Act (CVRA). Mr. Call, who is also a trustee on the SRJC Board, stated that three of the trustees, including himself, represent the same areas - Areas 3, 4, and 5; with two terms ending in 2016, and one term ending in 2018. Mr. Call also provided a brief history of the SRJC areas, stating that Santa Rosa areas 3, 4, and 5 are small, but have large populations. Mr. Zotter commented that there should be the same number of people voting in each area and that the concern of the CVRA is majority/minority issues. In addition, he provided information regarding the Sonoma Valley trustee areas that were addressed by this Committee in 2012. The Committee discussed demographics, minority representation, etc. Mr. Call commented that the consensus of the SRJC Board was that there needed to be a change to the representation. Mr. Zotter stated that the SRJC Board would need to initiate the change, and further described what would happen with the representatives and their terms if there were to be a change.

9.3 Small School District
Board Structure – Reducing
from 5 to 3 Members

Mr. Zotter reviewed the criteria for 3, 5, or 7 member Boards – 7-member boards can reduce to 5; 3-member boards can increase to 5; but there is no statutory authority for a 5-member board to reduce to 3. Mr. Zotter stated that he and Dr. Herrington are working with our local assemblyman to draft legislation for reducing a 5-member board to a 3-member board. The Committee members expressed their adverse viewpoints on 3-member boards, one being, Brown Act issues. Mr. Cerreta commented that Boards have difficulty finding 5 members. Mr. Zotter stated that Dr. Herrington favors 3-member boards, and he has had a conversation with our assemblyman and the process for it to potentially become a law will take 6-9 months.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The Committee scheduled three future meetings to be held on: Monday, April 20, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. (Cancelled) Monday, September 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. (Cancelled) Monday, December 14, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Bassett Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Cerreta, Secretary S.C.C.S.D.O.