

SONOMA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Sonoma County Office of Education
5340 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

MAY 14, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – UNADOPTED

- 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 James DeWilder led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Sonoma County Office of Education in the Board Room **MEETING**
- Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Jeremy Brott, Vernon Calsy, James DeWilder, Sandra Elliott, Larry Haenel (arrived at 5:45 p.m.), Ronald Kristof, Mary Schafer, and Robert Smith **MEMBERS PRESENT**
- Kathy Hayes, and Rick Massell **MEMBERS ABSENT**
- Denise Calvert, Patti Springer, and School and College Legal Services representative, Marko Fong **STAFF PRESENT**
- On motion by Mr. Brott, seconded by Mr. DeWilder, the motion carried to approve the May 14, 2012 agenda. **1. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 14, 2012 AGENDA**
- On motion by Mr. Kristof, seconded by Ms. Schafer, the motion carried to approve the February 21, 2012 minutes. **2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2012 MINUTES**
- None. **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. ACTION ITEMS**
- 4.1 The Committee will consider the modification of the terms of office for the County Board of Education to align with the County Board of Supervisor's terms of office for each respective trustee area.*
- Ms. Calvert reviewed the letter from Frank Zotter, Sr. Associate General Counsel, and the list of terms for both the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the County Board of Education in regards to the impact of reducing the number of County Board Members on elections and terms. The intent is to align the seats of the Board of Education with the County Board of Supervisors' districts and election cycles. The Committee reviewed the current terms of the County Board of Education versus the new trustee areas and term expirations. Two seats in the new trustee areas 3, 4, and 5 (currently 3, 4, and 5) would require a one-time additional two-year term to bring them inline with the term expirations of the County Board of Supervisors.
- Ms. Calvert explained that two of the County Board of Education terms expire in November of 2012 and will be on the ballot; new trustee area 1 will be for a four-year term and, if the Committee approves, area 4 will be for a two-year term. She added that from 2012-2014 we would have six Board members; beginning in December 2014 we will have five.
- Ms. Calvert reminded the Committee that the Grand Jury recommended the alignment and reduction in elections. There is a savings in lining up the elections as the Board of Education would be on the same ballot as the Board of Supervisors. She added that the County Registrar of Voters has agreed that after the 2020 census, they will take the school district boundaries into consideration when realigning the Board of Supervisors' boundaries.
- On motion by Mr. Kristof, seconded by Ms. Elliott, the motion carried, with an 8 to 1 vote, to align the County Board of Education seats with the terms of the Board of Supervisors to run in conjunction with the ballots and adding a one-time, two-year term to new trustee areas as follows:
- Area 3 – one-time, two-year term in 2014
 - Area 4 – one-time, two-year term in 2012
 - Area 5 – one-time, two-year term in 2014

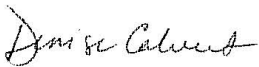
Ms. Calvert reviewed the letter from Sonoma Valley Unified School District's Superintendent, Louann Carlomagno, which was in response to the Committee's request for additional information. In the letter Ms. Carlomagno provided a summary of the demographics analysis, whereas the Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population in the District is so low, they were advised that it is not possible to create a legally appropriated majority-Hispanic voting area; and it is even difficult to draw a majority-Hispanic voting area using the larger Hispanic Voting Age Population data. Ms. Carlomagno ended by stating that in light of this information, she does not believe that further resources need to be dedicated to pursuing a transition to a by-trustee area election system at this time. Mr. Fong briefly reviewed the California Voting Right Act (CVRA).

Ms. Calvert provided information on three district studies that Dr. Herrington conducted in consolidating high school districts. 1) Geyserville and Healdsburg – Ms. Elliott commented that she has heard that the community as a whole is very much against it; 2) West Sonoma County, Forestville, and Guerneville cooperative programs for 7th and 8th grade graduates – the district was okay with this, but the Department of Education had problem with funding issues; and 3) Old Adobe and Petaluma – study hasn't progressed, the education portion of the study has been suspended while they study their basic aid status.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 17, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Bassett Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Calvert, Secretary
S.C.C.S.D.O.

5. INFORMATION &
DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. *Response to potential risk of Sonoma Valley Unified School District continuing to vote at-large.*

b. *Consolidation Studies - Update*

6. NEXT MEETING DATE
AND TIME

7. ADJOURNMENT