

SONOMA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
Sonoma County Office of Education – SCOE Board Room
5340 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - UNADOPTED

Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Sonoma County Committee on School District Organization to order at 5:33 p.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Sonoma County Office of Education in the SCOE Board Room. MEETING

Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Jeremy Brott, Vernon Calsy, Larry Haenel, Ronald Kristof, Rick Massell, and Mary Schafer MEMBERS PRESENT

James DeWilder, Sandra Elliott, Kathy Hayes, and Robert Smith MEMBERS ABSENT

Denise Calvert, Patti Springer, and School and College Legal Services representatives, Marko Fong, and Frank Zotter STAFF PRESENT

On motion by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Brott, the motion carried to approve the September 12, 2011 agenda.

1. ACTION ITEMS
 - 1.1 *Approval of the September 12, 2011 Agenda*

On motion by Mr. Brott, seconded by Ms. Schaefer, the motion carried to approve the August 8, 2011 minutes.

- 1.2 *Approval of the August 8, 2011 Minutes*

None.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Calvert reviewed the information requested by the Committee at the August 8, 2011 meeting: 1) *Summary of Board Meetings*, and 2) comparison of Board expenses to the adopted budget. The *Summary of Board Meetings* was discussed including the need for closed sessions/appeals, etc., and the Board's responsibilities and involvement with Career Development (ROP) and Alternative Education. Ms. Calvert presented the 2011-12 Adopted Budgets -- comparing costs for a seven-member board to costs for a five-member board, and comparing SCOE's Board expenses to larger school districts' Board expenses. The Committee discussed the fiscal impact of a reduction in members; and reviewed and discussed a letter to the Committee from Superintendent, Dr. Steven Herrington, regarding this issue.

- 3.1 *Grand Jury Recommendation: County Board-Number of Members five versus seven*

Discussion ensued regarding the need to be fiscally responsible; other County Offices that recently reduce the number of their Board of Trustees, i.e., Mendocino; the fact that population determines the trustee boundaries; Ms. Calvert and Mr. Zotter's meeting with the County in regards to boundary options; and the costs to redraw the boundaries, which would have been incurred anyway because of the census. Mr. Fong discussed Ed Code requirements with the Committee, specifically Ed Code 1002 and 1003.

On motion by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Kristof, the motion carried, with a six to one vote, to propose the reduction of the County School Board membership from seven to five and to call a hearing on this proposal. Staff will prepare a resolution for committee consideration, after the public hearing, at the November 7, 2011 meeting.

The timeline information that Ms. Calvert had provided was for a seven-member board of trustees, and is now irrelevant with the motion that was made in Item 3.1 to propose a reduction to five members. The Committee discussed the March 2012 deadline to file the changes to the trustee area boundaries and a proposed reduction in members of the County Board to the County Board of Supervisors and the timeline for a November 2012 election.

Ms. Calvert stated the final responses were being provided to the Committee just for their information.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2011, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Bassett Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

4. INFORMATION &
DISCUSSION ITEMS

*4.1 Discuss Timelines for
County Board of
Trustee Boundary
Changes*

4.2 Grand Jury Responses

5. NEXT MEETING DATE
AND TIME

6. ADJOURNMENT