

SONOMA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
Sonoma County Office of Education – C&I Conference Room
5340 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2010

Chairperson, Mary Schafer, called the meeting of the Sonoma County Committee on School District Organization to order at 5:38 p.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Sonoma County Office of Education in the C&I Conference Room.	MEETING
Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, Jeremy Brott, Vernon Calsy, Larry Haenel, Kathy Hayes, and Mary Schafer. Rick Massell arrived at 5:53 p.m.	MEMBERS PRESENT
Ms. Calvert distributed the 2008-09 Statistical Report to the committee for their information. She briefly reviewed the Basic Aid districts in the report and the new districts falling into Basic Aid.	
Dan Bunting, and James DeWilder	MEMBERS ABSENT
Denise Calvert, Susanne Reed, Patti Springer; and guest Marko Fong	STAFF PRESENT
Ms. Calvert administered the Oath of Office to Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, and Larry Haenel.	1. OATH OF OFFICE
On motion by Ms. Bassett Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Calsy, the motion carried to select Ms. Schafer as the County Committee Chairperson.	2. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
On motion by Mr. Haenel, seconded by Ms. Bassett Fernandes, the motion carried to select Mr. DeWilder as the County Committee Vice Chairperson.	3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRPERSON
On motion by Ms. Bassett Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Brott, the motion carried to approve the March 22, 2010 agenda.	4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2010 AGENDA
On motion by Mr. Calsy, seconded by Mr. Brott, the motion carried to approve the June 8, 2009 minutes.	5. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 8, 2009 MINUTES
None	6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
	7. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS
Ms. Calvert reported that the consolidation is on hold right now. Due to new legislation being approved since the consolidation was originally submitted, if Guerneville and Monte Rio should resubmit their plans to consolidate with both districts still in support of the consolidation, it would come directly to the County Committee for action.	7.1 <i>Update on Guerneville and Monte Rio Consolidation</i>
Ms. Reed explained that as a result of the 2010 Census, trustee area boundaries are required to be rearranged based on population for the districts that have trustee areas. If districts fail to rearrange them, the County Committee has only 30 days to rearrange the boundaries for them.	7.2 <i>2010 Census</i>

Ms. Reed and Mr. Fong distributed information, including Mr. Fong's February 26, 2009 Legal Update, on the 2001 California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and explained how it has affected other counties, Madera in particular, and how it could impact Sonoma County schools in regards to the "at large" method of elections. A group known as the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR) is challenging school districts, stating their practice of electing school board trustees "at large" is a violation of the CVRA. Mr. Fong commented that about 90% of California has "at large" trustees, and at present the LCCR is concentrating on the Central Valley. He speculated that this might be the case because of their bi-lingual ballots.

7.3 *Voting Rights Act*

The committee discussed district options of: 1) do nothing, and wait until they receive a letter from the LCCR; 2) complete a study on their trustee areas; which can be costly; or 3) change from "at large" to "by trustee area" elections. Mr. Fong added that districts with 100 or less registered voters are exempt from having trustee areas.

Ms. Reed and Mr. Fong proposed a workshop for School Board Trustees and District Superintendents on the Voting Rights Act with the County Committee as one of the sponsors. Discussed some possible dates in May for the workshop and perhaps having a demographer come and advise what technical things to look for.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8.1 *District Workshop on
Voting Rights Act
Implications for Trustee
Areas*

On motion by Mr. Haenel, seconded by Ms. Hayes, the motion carried to have the Sonoma County Committee on School District Organization sponsor a district workshop on the California Voting Rights Act.

Additionally, some committee members commented on the confusion between board voting delegates and actual representatives of the County Committee. Ms. Reed stated she could add information about voting delegates to the annual letter she sends to districts, and Ms. Calvert can have this information added to the SCOE website.

Meetings are usually scheduled for the second Monday in March, June, September, and December. Following that schedule, the next meeting will be held on June 14, 2010.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND
TIME

Ms. Schafer adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



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