

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - UNADOPTED
June 13, 2011

| | |
|--|---|
| Vice-Chair, James DeWilder, called the meeting of the Sonoma County Committee on School District Organization to order at 5:32 p.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Sonoma County Office of Education in Redwood Room A. | MEETING |
| Vernon Calsy, James DeWilder, Sandra Elliott, Larry Haenel, Kathy Hayes, Ronald Kristof, Rick Massell, Mary Schafer, and Robert Smith. Jeanne Bassett Fernandes, arrived at 5:33; and Jeremy Brott arrived at 5:38. | MEMBERS PRESENT |
| None | MEMBERS ABSENT |
| Denise Calvert, Steven Herrington, Patti Springer, and School and College Legal Services representatives, Marko Fong, and Frank Zotter | STAFF PRESENT |
| | 1. ACTION ITEMS |
| Ms. Calvert administered the Oath of Office to re-appointed and appointed members: Kathy Hayes, Ronald Kristof, and Robert Smith. | <i>1.1 Oath of Office</i> |
| On motion by Ms. Schafer, seconded by Mr. DeWilder, the motion carried to approve the agenda. | <i>1.2 Approval of the June 13, 2011</i> |
| On motion by Mr. Haenel, seconded by Ms. Schafer, the motion carried to approve the minutes. | <i>1.3 Approval of the January 10, 2011 Minutes</i> |
| Dr. Herrington introduced himself to the committee. He gave a brief overview of the items the Committee would be discussing. Dr. Herrington also explained why Petaluma City Schools asked him, as Superintendent, to do a unification study. | 2. INTRODUCTION OF STEVEN HERRINGTON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS |
| None. | 3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC |
| | 4. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS |
| Ms. Calvert reported that as a result of the 2010 Census and in order to balance the number of registered voters in trustee areas, the County of Sonoma's Tax Collector/Assessor is preparing three to five options for redistricting our Board of Education Trustee areas. These options will go before the our Board to choose one of the options, and that option will then go before the County Committee for a decision, in which they can agree or disagree. | <i>4.1 Process of Redistricting due to the 2010 Census</i> |
| Discussion ensued and as a result, the Committee requested information from staff regarding the sequence, timeline, and costs of redistricting, along with the following regarding the Board of Education: | |
| 1) A cost analysis of Board expenses, benefits, election costs, etc. for seven versus five members. | |
| 2) A comparison map with five supervisorial districts overlapped with the seven trustee areas. | |
| 3) Board attendance at a future County Committee meeting. Ms. Calvert invited the Committee members to attend the Board meeting on June 23, 2011 and/or August 4, 2011; and Mr. Fong suggested they review the Board minutes and agendas posted on the SCOE website. | |

Also discussed possible future agenda items, i.e., discussion and possible action to reduce Board members from seven to five; study session on the Grand Jury report regarding costs; and a public hearing.

Dr. Herrington reported that he had met with the Sonoma County Latin Leaders and that they are concerned about disproportionality, specifically in Sonoma Valley. Sonoma Valley's interpretation of Ed Code 5019.5 is that they do not have to balance the areas. Mr. Fong stated that normally if a district has specific trustee areas instead of "at-large" areas, they are immune to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA); but Sonoma Valley's trustee areas are self-made and do not meet the guidelines of the CVRA. He added that during a census year, district's can realign their trustee areas.

Ms. Bassett-Fernandes, Ms. Calvert, and Legal will draft a letter to Sonoma Valley and review it at the next meeting.

Ms. Calvert and Dr. Herrington discussed the Grand Jury Report with the Committee. The investigation of school district consolidation/unification in Sonoma County was initiated as a result of a citizen's complaint. Within 90 days the Committee is required to respond to the recommendations and findings: R1, R2, R3, R5, R6, F8, F10, and F13. R6 recommends that the CCSDO should study the potential savings of reducing the County Board of Education from 7 members to 5 members. Ms. Calvert will draft a response; and in regards to R6 she will inform them that yes, we will initiate a study of the potential cost savings. She added, that if the Board of Education decides to study their organization it would require additional work of this committee.

Dr. Herrington reviewed the request from Petaluma City Schools to reorganize the Old Adobe Union School District with the Petaluma City (Elementary) School District into a single district; and the additional items the districts would like the study to include. Dr. Herrington stated that he is waiting to take action on this request, as he is aware of another request that he should be receiving soon. Dr. Herrington will update the Committee at the next scheduled meeting. Discussion included the difference between a reorganization request made directly to the Superintendent and a request made directly to the County Committee.

Ms. Bassett Fernandes suggested that the committee members familiarize themselves with the School District Organization Handbook, specifically Chapter 5 Reorganization of School Districts in California. Dr. Herrington added that the SCOE website's section on the County Committee includes a power-point presentation by Margaret Merchat, School and College Legal Services, on this subject. Also discussed steps that were taken during the process of the Monte Rio and Guerneville school districts' reorganization.

Meetings were scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2011, at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, September 12, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.; and Monday, November 7, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Herrington added that those members who are on school boards should report out on this committee to them.

Ms. Bassett Fernandes adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

4.1 *Process of Redistricting due to the 2010 Census (Continued)*

4.2 *Latin Leaders - Disproportionality*

4.3 *Grand Jury Advance Report: County Board – Number of Members 5 versus 7*

4.4 *Petaluma City Schools Request for a Study of Potential Reorganization*

4.5 *Fall Meeting Schedule*

5. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

6. ADJOURNMENT