

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

3939 THIRTEENTH STREET • P.O. BOX 868 • RIVERSIDE, CA 92502-0868

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2015

4:00 p.m., Riverside County Office of Education, Board Room
3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA 92501

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

With at least 48-hours' notice, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in a Board meeting, may request assistance by contacting the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education at 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside or by calling (951) 826-6674.

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis at 4:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Villani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

a. County Board of Education Members:

Mrs. Jeanie Corral, Trustee Area 1
Dr. Wendel W. Tucker, Trustee Area 2
Dr. Susan J. Rainey, Vice-President, Trustee Area 3
Mr. Bruce Dennis, President, Trustee Area 4
Dr. Ralph R. Villani, Trustee Area 5
Ms. Elizabeth F. Romero, Trustee Area 6
Dr. Jay Hoffman, Trustee Area 7

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: It was moved by Member Rainey and seconded by Member Tucker that the agenda be approved as presented.

Vote: 7 Ayes: Members Corral, Dennis, Hoffman, Rainey, Romero, Tucker and Villani.

Motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This item is placed on the Agenda so that members of the audience have an opportunity to speak to any item on the Agenda or regarding subjects or concerns that do not appear on the Agenda. Any person wishing to speak is requested to complete the "Request to Address the Board" form found at the back of the room and to bring it forward to the Board Secretary. Each person wishing to address the Board will be limited to ***five minutes*** without the ability to transfer the time to another speaker. Board Bylaw 9323 limits the total time for public input on each item, subject, or concern to 20 minutes. Government Code Section 54954.2 and Education Code Section 35145.5 prohibit the Board of Education from discussing or acting upon matters not on the Agenda.

The following members of the public spoke during Public Comments:

- 1) Justin Chan, student at TPS, in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 2) Charles Blythe, student at TPS, in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 3) Brianna Guzman, student at TPS, in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 4) Michael E. Tray in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 5) Richard Villarreal, parent, in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 6) Fatima Cristerna-Adame, CA Charter Schools Assoc., in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 7) Gail O'Boyle, parent, in support of the HCCS charter petition.
- 8) Paul Henry, grandparent with River Springs Charter School, praised the Parent Certification Program at River Springs.
- 9) Grace Jiminez, Imagine Schools, gave an update on the Coachella campus.
- 10) Miguel Contreras, Director, Gateway Charter Academy, gave an update on the school.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Items #1-2 are considered routine and may be enacted by a single motion.

Motion: It was moved by Member Tucker and seconded by Member Romero that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Vote: 7 Ayes: Members Corral, Dennis, Hoffman, Rainey, Romero, Tucker and Villani.

Motion carried.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Board of Education, December 10, 2014.

2. **PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The Riverside County Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board approve the Certification List #CL 1-15 (Temporary County Certificates) as prepared by Mr. Steve Hovey, Chief Personnel Officer.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. **BAYPOINT PREPARATORY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Pursuant to Education Code 47605 (j) (1), Baypoint Preparatory Academy Charter Schools presented the Riverside County Board of Education a petition for the establishment of a charter school following the petition's denial by the Hemet Unified School District. A Public Hearing was held pursuant to Education Code 47605 (b) to consider the level of support for the petition.

The following people spoke in favor of the charter school:

- 1) Janelle Ruley, Attorney for petitioners.
- 2) Frank Ogwaro, Board Member, Bayshore Prep.
- 3) Ed Krick, Hemet resident, community supporter.
- 4) Melissa Galletta, Hemet resident, community supporter.
- 5) Fatima Cristerna-Adame, CA Charter Schools Association.
- 6) Lori Ruziska, parent supporter.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **ACTION ITEM 1 – BUDGET REVISIONS, DECEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Per the provisions of California Education Code Section 1280, revisions in excess of \$25,000 to the annual county school service fund budget of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools reflecting the period of December 1 through December 31, 2014 were submitted to the Riverside County Board of Education for discussion and approval.

Motion: It was moved by Member Villani and seconded by Member Corral that the budget revisions be approved as presented.

Vote: 7 Ayes: Members Corral, Dennis, Hoffman, Rainey, Romero, Tucker and Villani.

Motion carried.

2. **ACTION ITEM 2 – DECISION ON HERITAGE CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS PETITION**

Pursuant to Education Code 47605.5, Heritage Classical Charter Schools presented a countywide charter petition for consideration by the Riverside County Board of Education. A Public Hearing was held pursuant to Education Code 47605 (b) on November 12, 2014 to consider the terms of the proposed charter and to consider the level of support for the petition by the teachers employed by the district, parents and members of the community.

Motion: It was moved by Member Villani and seconded by Member Hoffman to adopt the staff Findings of Fact report and deny the Heritage Classical Charter Schools Petition.

Vote: 6 Ayes: Members Corral, Hoffman, Rainey, Romero, Tucker and Villani.

1 Nay: Member Dennis.

Motion carried.

At 6:47 p.m. the Board took a 15 minute recess.

At 7:12 p.m. the Board resumed their meeting but Member Hoffman was delayed in returning.

3. **ACTION ITEM 3 – MILO P. JOHNSON AWARD OF DISTINCTION, SELECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE**

In 1999, the Riverside County Board of Education created the Milo P. Johnson Award of Distinction, to honor an RCOE employee who demonstrates and possesses traits and characteristics such as continuously seeking opportunities to innovate, improve, and expand their services; understanding their role in contributing to student success, and providing service that is prompt, courteous, honest and accurate in anticipating and responding to the needs of those we serve.

Motion: It was moved by Member Corral and seconded by Member Rainey that Members Tucker and Romero serve on the subcommittee.

Vote: 6 Ayes: Members Corral, Dennis, Rainey, Romero, Tucker and Villani.

1 Absent: Member Hoffman.

Motion carried.

7:14 p.m. Member Hoffman returned.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Audit of Financial Statements and Supplementary Information Report**

The Audit was reviewed by James Whittington, Nigro & Nigro PC, and filed as information.

2. **Legislative Update**

The Legislative Update was received and filed as information.

3. **Facility Update**

The Facility Update was received and filed as information. It was agreed that this update will be changed from a monthly update to a quarterly update in January, April, July, and October.

4. **Introduction of Issues That May Be Addressed at Future Meetings and President and Board**

Member Comments

Member Tucker said it was a pleasure to attend the CSBA conference and learn many new things. He said Member Villani's written thoughts about the workshops he attended at CSBA were appreciated. He encouraged other members to submit a similar written summary after attending events in the future, perhaps within 30 days of attending. He said for future agenda items, he would like to have the Board take the initiative to meet with districts and encourage more open discussion with charter school applicants while protecting our member districts. He's looking for a smoother and more efficient way to follow the law while giving parents and students many options. He wants to honor the intent of the law while protecting the value of public education. He said perhaps RCOE staff could provide training to districts or workshops to provide better guidelines for petitioners because it's frustrating to receive charter appeals when they're given a matrix and the petitioners don't make the changes necessary to their applications. Since one of the Board's key functions is charters, it would behoove the Board to improve the process.

Member Rainey said that RCOE staff gives the most detailed guidelines in the state. RCOE's review process has been recognized at the state level and is being recommended to other counties at the state level. She said even when a petition isn't approved, the petitioners still thank staff for all of the help they are given. She feels the real issue is that petitioners don't always take the advice given by staff perhaps because they lack the professional qualifications to apply the advice given. She has suggested in the past that the Board form a Charter subcommittee to become more knowledgeable. She is not sure we are really qualified to approach districts. Believes we should begin with becoming a more knowledgeable Board.

Member Romero wished everyone a Happy New Year. She thanked staff for their diligence in reviewing the HCCS application. She agrees that charter schools are one of the areas that take up much of the Board's time and that as a county office we need to identify what our vision is for a quality education of students in our county and how it would impact districts. She is in favor of a subcommittee or study session solely dedicated to charters. She apologized for missing the December meeting and said that her trip to Israel was amazing. She later added that the Board should not lose sight as a county office in supporting districts rise all tides and that we have a statutory responsibility related to charters but as educational leaders we have a responsibility to ensure that the majority of students that are served are educated through traditional schools. By focusing on charters we tend to lose sight on the largest population of students.

Member Corral concurs with Members Tucker and Rainey's proposals on charters because she also thinks we will begin to see more of them. As she listened to Mr. Contreras speak about Gateway and how they increased their GPA and knowing what TPS is currently doing, she says it's clear that parents want choice. She said it's clear that there are quality programs out there that don't yet meet

all of the parameters to be approved as charters but fit close enough that we take a closer look at them. She doesn't necessarily feel we need to send everything back to districts even though she does think local control is what really works for charters. It's unfortunate that there are groups of passionate and persistent parents with proven success that fill the room at every meeting and they are rejected at every turn. She said the analysis given by Diana and the review team was so clear and concise that she felt Heritage had to have gone away saying that they have to do their application better. She thanked staff for their hard work and thinks we will have to look at future charters through different lenses.

Member Hoffman says one of the missing pieces in the charter picture is the appropriate searching for students of color, families of color. There always seem to be more talking about the haves and not nearly as much about the have nots. He feels we need to make a strong effort to encourage families with low levels of family education and families with low socio-economic issues, etc. because he feels that if we can help those kids and their families now they will get much better outcomes down the road. Charters will not go away because some of the best educational practices are being used by charters and they are getting ideal results. In his time at Nuviev, along with President Dennis, he was able to create an early college high school in a K-8 district by creating a charter. He believes we have to be willing to reach out.

Member Villani said we need to be very cautious in dealing with charter schools in our 23 districts. Charter schools are complex and very complicated but are also a very big business that is growing by leaps and bounds. Said we need to be cautious in supporting the expansion of these schools just because we think they're good and provide choices to parents. For some charter schools the motivation really boils down to dollars. He said the motive for providing a written report on CSBA was because he went to some outstanding sessions. He said the sessions were excellent this time and he wanted to share the information because he didn't know who attended what session. The general session speakers were excellent as well.

President Dennis said we have only seen the beginning of charter waves. We have yet to see the corporate charters other counties have and we haven't seen the charters to help the disadvantaged that are happening in large urbanized areas. It's out of our control but it's something we need to see. In San Francisco, his favorite thing was seeing Jesus Holguin sworn in as CSBA president. He said he's a man with a great heart and seeing someone with a great heart at the helm is a good thing. He said Member Hoffman and himself will be going to NSBA's Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. at the end of the month.

CLOSED SESSION – INTER DISTRICT TRANSFER APPEAL HEARING

At 7:25 p.m. the Board went into Closed Session for the Hearing.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

At 7:46 p.m., after meeting in Closed Session to hear an Inter District Transfer Appeal, the Board reported out the following decision for the record:

1. **Inter District Transfer Appeal Hearing** - #1415-23, Perris Union HSD to Murrieta Valley USD

Motion: It was moved by Member Romero and seconded by Member Dennis to **approve** an inter district transfer appeal from the Perris Union High School District to the Murrieta Valley Unified School District for the 2014-15 school year.

Vote: 6 Ayes: Members Corral, Dennis, Hoffman, Rainey, Romero, and Tucker.

1 Nay: Member Villani.

Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

Wednesday, July 8, 2015 - 4:00 P.M., 3939 Thirteenth St., Riverside, CA - Board Room.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION EVENTS

March 4, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. – Spelling Bee, Moreno Valley Conference Center

March 7, 2015 – 3:30 p.m. – Mock Trial Awards Final Awards Ceremony, Riverside Historic Courthouse

March 14, 2015 – 7:00 a.m. - History Day, Awards Ceremony - Arlington High School

April 6-7, 2015 – 7:00 a.m. – RIMS Inland Science and Engineering Fair – National Orange Show

April 7, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. – RIMS Inland Science and Engineering Fair Awards – Riverside Convention Ctr

May 5, 2015 – 11:30 a.m. – Celebrating Educators, Riverside Convention Center

May 21, 2015 – 5:30 p.m. – Employee Recognition, Riverside Convention Center

OTHER EVENTS

March 21-23, 2015 – National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference, Nashville

December 3-5, 2015 – California School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Conference, San Diego

PUBLIC VIEWING OF DOCUMENTS

AS PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.5, ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THIS MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AT EACH RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND AT 3939 THIRTEENTH ST., RIVERSIDE, CA 92501