

COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
GAYLORD A. NELSON ADMINISTRATION CENTER / BOARD ROOM
2922 TRANSWORLD DRIVE / STOCKTON, CA
MARCH 18, 2020 / 1:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

PRESENT: Kenneth Vogel, Committee President; Janet Dyk, Committee Vice-President; Vernon Gebhardt, Committee member; James Mousalimas, Secretary.

ABSENT: Peter Ottesen, Committee member; Greg Clark, Committee member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Hall, Jason Colombini, Linden Unified School District; Dan Moore, Banta Elementary School District; Art Hand, FB² Solutions; Brenda Scholl, Michelle Crippen, Susan Dell Osso, River Islands Technology Academy #2; Kelly Fry, SJCOE staff; Janai Stanton, Recorder.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

President Ken Vogel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no additions to the agenda.

III. COMMENTS: There were no comments from the audience.

IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION:

1. Decreasing Number of Governing Board Members and Creation of New Trustee Election Areas: Linden Unified School District Superintendent Rick Hall and Linden Governing Board President Jason Colombini presented a proposal to decrease the number of governing board members from seven to five and to create new trustee election areas that accommodate a five-member board structure. Mr. Hall explained that this action would enable the Linden Governing Board to continue doing business as a body that reflects the composition and size of the community and student population that it serves. Mr. Hall and Mr. Colombini provided the historical perspective of the proposal indicating that the district has functioned as a seven-member board since unification in 1967 when each school within the area of unification was represented by a member of its community.

Community interest served that purpose until approximately 2002 when it became difficult to find representation for vacant seats on the board and there was evidence of more frequent appointments due to resignations.

Mr. Hall described the process followed by the current Linden Governing Board to introduce and gather input from the Linden community which included discussion of trustee area configurations in March 2019, a demographer update in June 2019, the presentation of map scenarios in August 2019, of a public hearing regarding the action in November 2019, along with a public hearing to submit a general waiver of the election to approve this action to the California Board of Education, and approval of a resolution to initiate the process to decrease the number of board members and create new trustee areas. He added that the San Joaquin County Geographic Information Systems department had put together new trustee area scenario maps for consideration by the Linden Governing Board and the one selected provided a well-balanced, demographic division of the school district. The California Board of Education approved the waiver of the requirement to hold a districtwide election pertinent to the proposal in March 2020. Submission to the County Committee on this date begins the final steps toward consideration of the proposal.

Mr. Hall said that he has been thankful for the dedication of the trustees over the years but now is the opportunity to make this change in time for the next governing board member election.

Superintendent Mousalimas explained that the next steps would be for the County Committee to hold a public hearing at the Linden Unified School District Office to gather public input regarding the proposal, followed by the County Committee's consideration to approve or not approve the proposal as presented.

2. Banta Elementary School District Unification Proposal Update: Art Hand, unification and facility consultant to Banta Elementary School District, presented a report by Davis Demographics that reviewed hypothetical trustee area map scenarios. This initial review of the proposed unification area is based on data from the 2010 census which, Mr. Hand explained, is not accurate in terms of the growth and diversity of the new development area that is part of the unification proposal. The report includes scenarios of the existing population and those that show projected growth in existing and future development phases. Although the unofficial American Community Survey population estimates were used in these scenarios, Mr. Hand reminded the County Committee that the map scenarios are hypothetical at best. Mr. Hand added that the 2020 census data will allow for solid and equitable division decisions once it is received and the data is reviewed for the purpose of establishing trustee areas.

The County Committee asked questions regarding the number of board members that will serve Banta Unified School District if the proposal is approved, the proposed length of terms for new board members, whether the shift of the center of population to the River Islands community will provide for interested candidates, the estimated number of high school students in Banta Elementary that currently go to Tracy Unified School District, whether those buying homes understand their students will not attend high school in the Manteca Unified School District even though the development is within the boundaries of the City of Lathrop, and the rate and number of homes currently being sold.

Banta Elementary School District Superintendent Dan Moore provided a report that illustrates the financial support to be provided to the elementary school district from River Islands Development and the charter schools in the district. The funding will be provided through mitigation agreement monies, oversight, rent, and facility gap funding, and business support services that will be provided by Banta Elementary School District in the 2020- 2021 school year.

V. PUBLIC HEARING:

3. California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption: President Vogel opened the public hearing to receive input from members of the public on the proposed filing and recordation of a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption related to the Banta Elementary School District unification proposal. Superintendent Mousalimas explained that this process had been developed with the assistance of legal counsel. Committee member Dyk asked if an Environmental Impact Report had been completed and was referred to the report completed for the River Islands at Lathrop Project and its subsequent addendum. There being no further comments the public hearing was closed.

VI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

4. Minutes: On a motion from Janet Dyk, second by Vern Gebhardt, the County Committee approved the November 20, 2019 minutes as amended and the January 14, 2020 minutes as presented. The amendment included a correction to which County Committee member was absent and which was listed as the vice-president.

AYES: Vogel, Dyk, Gebhardt
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Public Hearing Date: On a motion from Janet Dyk, second by Vern Gebhardt, the County Committee set April 22, 2020, 5:30 p.m., at the Linden Unified School District Office as the date for a public hearing to be held in order to gather input regarding the proposal to decrease the number of governing board members and to create new trustee election areas in the school district.

AYES: Vogel, Dyk, Gebhardt
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

6. Resolution #20-01 – Finding the Banta Elementary School District Unification Proposal Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Filing and Recordation of a Notice of Exemption: On a motion from Vern Gebhardt, second by Janet Dyk, the County Committee approved this resolution as presented.

AYES: Vogel, Dyk, Gebhardt
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

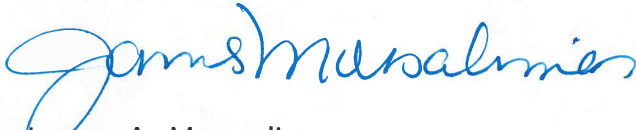
7. Regular Meeting Date: On a motion from Vern Gebhardt, second by Janet Dyk, the County Committee set April 29, 2020, 12:00 p.m., at the Nelson Administration Center as the meeting date to consider action on the Banta Elementary School District unification proposal.

AYES: Vogel, Dyk, Gebhardt
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Mousalimas
Secretary to the County Committee /
County Superintendent of Schools