

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES**

**December 5, 2011**

President Mark Sumpter called the meeting of the County Board of Education to order at 1:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the Roy C Hill Education Center. Mrs. Bette Harrison, Ms. Laura Abernathy Mancha, Mr. Gil Navarro, and Mr. Alen Ritchie were also present.

**Call to Order**

Also present were:

**Staff Present**

Dr. Gary S. Thomas, County Superintendent  
Mr. Theodore Alejandre, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Division  
Mrs. Sharon Bølle, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services Division  
Dr. Denise Danne, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Division  
Dr. Beth Higbee, Assistant Superintendent, Education Support Services Division  
Mrs. Margaret Hill, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services Division  
Mr. Dennis Mobley, Governance Liaison/Legislative Analyst  
Mrs. Christine McGrew, Chief Communications Officer  
Ms. Ofelia Pettengill, Recording Secretary

Member Ritchie led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Navarro moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Member Ritchie seconded the motion and the following carried unanimously:

**Adoption of Agenda**

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda of the regular meeting of the County Board of Education on December 5, 2011, be adopted as presented.

Member Mancha moved to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board on November 7, 2011, as presented. Member Harrison seconded the motion and the following carried unanimously:

**Approval of Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the regular meeting of the County Board of Education on November 7, 2011, be adopted as presented.

Mr. Dennis Mobley, Governance Liaison/Legislative Analyst, explained the charter petition renewal process. After a review of the charter by Mr. Mobley, the petitioner will give a presentation, and a public hearing will follow. He explained that Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy (NSAA) is an operating charter under County Schools and the oversight committee is conducting the review rather than the charter advisory committee. Mr. Mobley introduced Ms. Suki Sandhu, legal counsel to the Board for this charter petition.

**Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy  
Countywide Charter  
Renewal Petition**

**Norton Space and  
Aeronautics  
Academy  
Countywide Charter  
Renewal Petition**  
*-Continued-*

Ms. Jan Gustafson Corea, principal of NSAA, with the use of a PowerPoint presentation, provided highlights of the academy. She shared the excitement and motivation for the growth and the future of the academy. She also shared that they are at the beginning stages of their Chinese foreign language program and introduced two visiting teachers from Shanghai, China. Mr. Rick Piercy provided highlights of the dual immersion program, the dedicated staff, and parents. Mr. Gordon Soholt, chief academic officer, provided an overview of the school's financial status and participation of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Ms. Corea reiterated that they are looking forward to growth and she submitted the renewal application for the NSAA charter for the next five years. The County Board members asked questions regarding the English Language Development program, the academy's growth rate, including Academic Performance Index (API) scores, and the future of an arts program.

**Public Hearing  
Regarding the Norton  
Space and  
Aeronautics Academy  
(NSAA) Countywide  
Charter Renewal  
Petition to the County  
Board of Education**

In accordance with Education Code 47605 (b), President Sumpter opened the public hearing at 1:32 p.m.

Eight students from the Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy addressed the Board to share their passion and interest in keeping their school open. The following students spoke in English and in Spanish: Felicia Perez, Aidan Morris, Britney Meza, Kayla Wright, Daniel Bonola, Samantha Moreno, Andrew Taylor, and Yisrael Calderon.

Mr. Scott Johnson, board member for NSAA, shared his passion for the dual immersion program.

The following shared their personal experiences with the Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy and urged the County Board to renew the charter petition for five years: Ms. Kim Givens, parent, Ms. Makeda Parker, substitute teacher and parent, Mr. Patrick Perez, parent, Ms. Dawn Middleton, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) president, Ms. Silvia Villagrana, teacher, Ms. Colleen Conant, teacher, Ms. Cynthia Germano, parent, Ms. Veronica Reyes, parent (speaking with the help of an interpreter), Mr. Han Lu, parent, Mr. Steve Anderson, parent, Dr. Anne Jones, director of teacher education and assistant dean at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), Ms. Lillian Jezik, supervisor of teacher education, UCR, Mr. Curtis Hopkins, parent, and Mr. Michael Orasco, professor from UCR.

President Sumpter closed the public hearing at 2:23 p.m.

**Recess/Reconvene**

The meeting was recessed at 2:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2:34 p.m.

**Matters Brought by  
Citizens**

On behalf of Congressman Joe Baca, Mr. Jesse Valenzuela extended an invitation to attend the Congressman's annual holiday open house to be held Thursday, December 15, in Rialto.

Mr. Mobley, Governance Liaison/Legislative Analyst, provided an overview of the S.C.A.L.E. Leadership Academy and the process the committee follows in order to provide recommendations to the Board. County Schools staff prepared an analysis of the charter petition appeal and Ms. Margaret Chidester, legal counsel for this item, prepared a separate legal opinion that concurs with the committee's report. Mr. Mobley reviewed the committee findings and recommendations, and reported that the Committee recommended that the San Bernardino County Board of Education deny the S.C.A.L.E. Leadership Academy charter school appeal.

**Schools and  
Communities for  
Advanced Learning  
Experiences  
(S.C.A.L.E.)  
Leadership Academy  
Charter Appeal—  
Committee Findings  
and Recommendations**

Mr. Lawrence Wynder, petitioner, responded to the committee's report by stating that the committee overstepped their boundary as to how far they can review the petition. The law requires that the petition is reasonably comprehensive not that it is perfect. He further stated that their petition is reasonably comprehensive and is based on schools that have worked in the past in Los Angeles. He asked that the Board review the petition closely, as the staff report is not based on fact, it is based on presumption that has not been verified. Mr. Wynder shared concerns of Rialto's legal counsel, Suki Sandhu, also representing the County Board of Education, and repeatedly spoke of his experience with the Rialto Unified School District. Mr. Wynder responded to the committee's recommendations. He asked that the County Board postpone their decision to allow time to resolve the issues with a Memorandum of Understanding.

**S.C.A.L.E. Leadership  
Academy Charter  
Appeal—Response to  
Committee Report**

Mr. Theodore Brockman addressed the Board to share his concerns and give support to the charter petition.

Ms. Yolanda Williams, stated that the petitioner is trying to bring quality education to Rialto and to San Bernardino. She added that public education is failing our students.

A discussion ensued regarding clarification of a statement made regarding waivers for English Learners curriculum. Mr. Navarro clarified the law to Mr. Wynder. Mr. Navarro also commented on Mr. Wynder's comments regarding Rialto Unified School District's denial of their petition. Mr. Navarro added that the Board has a committee that is entrusted with providing an opinion to guide the Board on a decision, plus the Board has legal counsel to provide an opinion for guidance. All of that is taken into consideration. He further stated that, by law, the Board is mandated to approve a petition unless the petitioner has not met the required elements.

Member Navarro moved to deny charter petition appeal by S.C.A.L.E. Leadership Academy on the basis that the appeal is not in accordance with state law. Member Ritchie seconded the motion. Following discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Decision of the  
County Board  
Regarding the  
S.C.A.L.E.  
Leadership Academy  
Charter Petition  
Appeal**

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education, after conducting the required public hearing and in meeting the timelines for a decision as required by California's Charter School Law, hereby denies the charter petition appeal by the S.C.A.L.E. Leadership Academy.

**Consent Calendar**

Member Ritchie moved to approve the Temporary County Certificates as presented. Member Mancha seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education hereby ratifies the issuance of Temporary County Certificates to school district employees as presented by the Human Resources Division.

**Approval of New Revisions to the County Service Fund in Excess of \$25,000**

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Theodore Alejandre, assistant superintendent, Business Services Division, provided an update on the state budget, which is projected on two factors: 1) Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) projections, and 2) the Department of Finance. The state’s budget was projected on \$4 billion in additional revenue past the May Revision. However the triggers indicated that if the state did not receive those \$4 billion then there would be automatic trigger cuts affecting higher education, K-12, both revenue limit and transportation. The first report, from the LAO, indicated that the state will not get \$3.7 billion of the \$4 billion projected. In that case, we are subject to trigger action. Once the Department of Finance releases its projections, we will go with the higher of the two in terms of adjustments. Our organization does have reserves to cover the costs. We will also work with the Governor’s budget proposal in January, which will guide us towards budget development for 2012-13 and will be presented to the Board in May during the Budget Workshop. Mr. Alejandre provided an overview of the ongoing concerns by the LAO.

Mr. Richard De Nava, director, provided an overview of revenues and expenditures in both restricted and unrestricted funds. Mr. De Nava reported that we will file our First Interim Report to the Department of Education by December 15. We will be filing a positive First Interim Report which shows that we can meet our obligations for the current year plus the next two years. A discussion ensued on projections of what would happen in the future. Member Harrison congratulated the Business Services staff for their hard work and added that she would publicly like to congratulate our superintendent, Dr. Thomas for his leadership.

On a motion by Member Navarro and second by Member Ritchie, the following carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Bernardino County Board of Education hereby approves revisions to the County School Service Fund in excess of \$25,000, as presented, per Education Code Sections 1280 and 1281.

**Second Reading and Final Adoption, Board Policy 118, Forwarding Electronic Communication to Personal Electronic Mail Accounts, and Board Policy 119, Business Cards**

Member Harrison moved to receive Board policies 118, Forwarding Electronic Communication to Personal Electronic Mail Accounts, and 119, Business Cards, for second reading and adoption as presented. Member Mancha seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Bernardino County Board of Education hereby receives Board Policy 118, Forwarding Electronic Communication to Personal Electronic Mail Accounts, and Board Policy 119, Business Cards, for second reading and final adoption.

Member Navarro moved to receive Board policy 120, Election to the County Board of Education, for second reading and adoption as presented. Member Ritchie seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Second Reading and  
Final Adoption, Board  
Policy 120, Election to  
the County Board of  
Education**

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Bernardino County Board of Education hereby receives Board Policy 120, Election to the County Board of Education for second reading and final adoption.

Member Ritchie moved to receive Board Policy 150, Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearings, for first reading. Member Harrison seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**First Reading, Board  
Policy 150,  
Interdistrict  
Attendance Appeal  
Hearings**

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Bernardino County Board of Education hereby receives Board Policy 150, Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearings for first reading.

Dr. Thomas shared that the County Schools received a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association in the area of Partnerships for Outstanding Science Education. He thanked and congratulated Dr. Beth Higbee, assistant superintendent and Mr. Rick Hall, for their work on the program. Dr. Thomas announced that the semi-finals for Mock Trial are coming up and will be held at the courts in San Bernardino. Strategic Planning is moving forward with Action Team Leads having been selected. Dr. Thomas invited Board members to attend the SBCSS Open House on December 8 at the Roy C Hill Education Center.

**Superintendent's  
Report**

Mrs. Margaret Hill, assistant superintendent, Administrative Services Division, provided an update on the Foster Youth Services.

**Superintendent's  
Staff Reports**

Mr. Theodore Alejandre, assistant superintendent, Business Services Division, provided an update on the Brier building. He shared that Mr. Chris Cox, director, and some of his staff have moved into the building and is working with departments moving into the building.

Dr. Beth Higbee, assistant superintendent, Education Support Services Division, reported that SMARTER Balance testing system is moving along. Mr. Dennis Deets, program manager for California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP), will be working with the districts on what infrastructure they have and a survey will be sent out in January. She also reported working with districts to see how Career Technical Education can be integrated with the A-G requirements. The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is moving ahead, with several more community colleges having stepped into the picture. This will allow students to test only once as they move towards college. The Regional Occupational Programs have increased in enrollment and have adopted a new system that will be taking attendance and providing demographic data, including tracking students after high school. Member Navarro asked for County Schools assistance in providing information to students regarding taking the EAP test, and in enrolling students in concurrent classes.

**Superintendent's  
Staff Reports**  
*-Continued-*

Dr. Denise Danne, assistant superintendent, Human Services Division, attended a symposium offered by the Inland Personnel Council. Some of the topics included wages, employee absenteeism, budget, and current legislation on human resources. She and Mr. Kevin Rubow, director, are working on a module that is attached to the Facts, Rules, Impact, Suggestions, Knowledge (FRISK) dealing with documentation for file building, progressive discipline, and employee evaluation.

Mrs. Sharon Bölle, assistant superintendent, Student Services Division, invited Board members to attend holiday programs presented by SBCSS programs. She provided a flyer with upcoming program dates.

**Board Members'  
Reports**

Member Bette Harrison reported attending a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) planning session, where the keynote person spoke on the importance of STEM education and how it is growing across the country.

Member Ritchie reported attending the California School Boards Association (CSBA) conference in San Diego. This year's conference was outstanding. He attended workshops on politics and budget, and a workshop on Finnish schools. He shared information on a workshop put on by the Redlands Unified School District, where ten teachers, who were low test score teachers and had become discouraged, were taken out of the classroom for a year. They were then trained to work with a teacher in the classroom. The result is test scores have been way up.

He mentioned a list provided at one of the workshops of what was required in schools in 1900 and what has been added every ten years. Board members requested a copy of the list.

Member Mancha reported attending the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) breakfast at the CSBA conference and shared that she was elected as a nominating committee member for CCBE. She provided highlights of the topics on charter schools and alternative education. She wished everyone happy holidays.

Member Navarro reported attending the San Geronio Pass Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. Mr. Jesse Valenzuela and Congressman Joe Baca were honored. He also attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Academic Excellence Scholars Award Banquet held at the California State University, San Bernardino. The top one percent students were recognized. He also reported attending a lot of workshops at the CSBA conference and brought handouts for Board members. He attended Congressman Baca's Prostate Cancer Awareness Educational Forum. He shared handouts regarding dependent charter schools. Mr. Navarro also attended the Golden Bell Awards program at the CSBA conference. He shared an article regarding St. Anthony School in San Bernardino and their attempt to reopen.

President Sumpter reported attending the CSBA conference, with most of his time being spent with Delegate Assembly. He congratulated Mrs. Margaret Hill on being elected to the San Bernardino City Unified School District governing board. He also congratulated Dr. Thomas for being awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Arrowhead District of the California Inland Empire Council-Boy Scouts of America.

**Board Members'  
Reports**  
*-Continued-*

There was no request for future agenda items.

**Future Agenda Items**

President Sumpter moved to elect Alen Ritchie to serve as president for the ensuing year. Member Mancha seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

**Organization of  
the Board**

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education elects Alen Ritchie to serve as president for the ensuing year.

President Sumpter moved to elect Bette Harrison to serve as vice president for the ensuing year. Member Navarro seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education elects Bette Harrison to serve as vice president for the ensuing year.

President Sumpter moved to nominate himself as a candidate to continue as a county delegate assembly member with the California School Boards Association. Member Ritchie seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Education hereby nominates Mark Sumpter to be a candidate for representative to the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nominee is a member of the San Bernardino County Board of Education, which is a member in good standing of the California School Boards Association.

The next regular meeting of the County Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Roy C Hill Education Center.

**Announcements**

There being no further business scheduled for December 5, 2011, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

**Adjournment**

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Gary S. Thomas, Secretary