

# County Committee on School District Organization

## Minutes of Special Meeting

Monday, February 14, 2022 -- Zoom – 2 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Education Office  
4400 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Margaret Ontiveros, Vice-chairperson

### 2. Welcome

Margaret Ontiveros welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee for joining via zoom.

### 3. Roll Call

#### Members Present

Terry Hickey Banks  
Jan Clevenger  
Dr. Ed Cora  
Linda Cordero  
Judith Dale  
Nancy Harter  
Steve Minjarez  
Margaret Ontiveros  
Steve Straight  
Janet Zilli

#### Members Absent

Robin Sawaske

#### Others Present

Shannon Boyd, Legal Consultant (College School District)  
Molly Carrillo-Walker, College School District Board member  
Denice Cora, Secretary to County Committee  
Maurene Donner – Superintendent, College School District  
Amada Dulay, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Erica Jane Flores, College School District Board member  
Anna Freedland, Executive Assistant to the County Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Randal Haggard, Superintendent, Buellton Union School District  
Dr. Emilio Handall, Superintendent, Guadalupe Union School District  
Joe Howell, County Board of Education, Board Member  
Craig Price, Legal Counsel  
Justin Rich, Executive Director, Cooperative Strategies  
Bill Ridgeway, Assistant Superintendent, Santa Barbara County Education Office  
Dr. Susan Salcido, County Superintendent – Santa Barbara County Education Office

Ryan Zick, Legal Consultant, Guadalupe Union School District

4. **Public Comments**

None

5. **Approval of minutes for January 31, 2022, Special Meeting**

The minutes for the January 31, 2022, Special Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

MOVED: Janet Zilli                      SECONDED: Terry Hickey Banks

AYES: Terry Hickey Banks, Dr. Ed Cora, Jan Clevenger, Linda Cordero, Judith Dale, Nancy Harter, Steve Minjarez, Margaret Ontiveros, Steve Straight, and Janet Zilli

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

6. **Reminders of legal criteria and procedure for approval of school district proposals to establish trustee areas and to elect governing board members using district-based elections.**

Susan Salcido reviewed the legal criteria and procedures for school district proposals (see Attachment 1).

7. **Public Hearing on Buellton Union School District’s Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and to Elect Governing Board Members Using District-Based Elections**

Margaret Ontiveros opened the hearing and Dr. Randall Haggard presented the process and board-approved recommendation for the Buellton Union School District. Presentation attached.

The hearing was opened for public comment. No comments were made, and the public hearing was closed.

8. **Action on Buellton Union School District’s Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and to Elect Governing Board Members Using District-Based Elections**

Committee members appreciated the thorough presentation by the district. After discussion and questions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the map presented by the Buellton Union School District to transition to By-Trustee Areas.

MOVED: Judith Dale                      SECONDED: Jan Clevenger

**Roll Call Vote**

AYES: Terry Hickey Banks, Dr. Ed Cora, Jan Clevenger, Linda Cordero, Judith Dale, Nancy Harter, Steve Minjarez, Margaret Ontiveros, Steve Straight, and Janet Zilli

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. **Public Hearing on College School District's Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and to Elect Governing Board Members Using District-Based Election**

Margaret Ontiveros opened the hearing and Maurene Donner and Shannon Boyd presented the process and board-approved recommendation for the College School District. Presentation attached.

The hearing was opened for public comment. No comments were made, and the public hearing was closed.

10. **Action on College School District's Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and to Elect Governing Board Members Using District-Based Elections**

Committee members appreciated the thorough presentation by the district. After discussion and questions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the map presented by the College School District to transition to By-Trustee Areas.

MOVED: Janet Zilli                      SECONDED: Steve Straight

**Roll Call Vote**

AYES: Terry Hickey Banks, Dr. Ed Cora, Jan Clevenger, Linda Cordero, Judith Dale, Nancy Harter, Steve Minjarez, Margaret Ontiveros, Steve Straight, and Janet Zilli

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

11. **Public hearing on Guadalupe Union School District's Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and to Elect Governing Board Members Using District-Based Elections**

Margaret Ontiveros opened the hearing and Dr. Emilio Handall and Ryan Zick presented the process and board-approved recommendation for the Guadalupe Union School District. Presentation attached.

The hearing was opened for public comment. No comments were made, and the public hearing was closed.

12. **Action on Guadalupe Union School District's Proposal to Establish Trustee Areas and to Elect Governing Board Members Using District-Based Elections**

Committee members appreciated the thorough presentation by the district. After discussion and questions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the map presented by the Guadalupe Union School District to transition to By-Trustee Areas.

MOVED: Steve Minjarez                      SECONDED: Linda Cordero

**Roll Call Vote**

AYES: Terry Hickey Banks, Dr. Ed Cora, Jan Clevenger, Linda Cordero, Judith Dale, Nancy Harter, Steve Minjarez, Margaret Ontiveros, Steve Straight, and Janet Zilli  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

13. **County Committee Process – Redistricting for SBCEO Trustee Areas**

Susan Salcido shared the process the County Committee followed for redistricting the SBCEO County Board of Education Trustee Areas (see Attachment 2).

14. **Public Hearing on SBCEO’s Proposal to adjust Santa Barbara County Board of Education Trustee Areas**

Margaret Ontiveros opened the hearing for public comment.

Justin Rich, Cooperative Strategies, shared Scenario Map 3 with feedback from the County Committee incorporated into this map. Each of the Trustee areas now have one comprehensive high school included with other minor modifications. It was noted that all scenarios caused two board members to be in Trustee Area 6. Both the County Board of Education and the County Committee were made aware of this point. No further comments were made, and the public hearing was closed.

15. **Action on SBCEO’s adjustment of Santa Barbara County Board of Education Trustee Areas**

Committee members appreciated the thorough work and explanation by Mr. Rich. After discussion and questions, a motion was made to approve Map Scenario 3.

MOVED: Jan Clevenger                      SECONDED: Nancy Harter

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Terry Hickey Banks, Dr. Ed Cora, Jan Clevenger, Linda Cordero, Judith Dale, Nancy Harter, Steve Minjarez, Margaret Ontiveros, Steve Straight, and Janet Zilli  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

16. **Discussion regarding dates/timing for upcoming meetings**

A discussion ensued regarding upcoming meeting dates and planning for district submission of packets to the County Committee. No changes were made to the schedule of meetings presented.

17. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denice Cora  
Secretary to the County Committee on School District Organization

## **California Voting Rights Act**

- At-large elections may not be used to impair protected class from influencing election or electing candidates.
- “Racially Polarized Voting”

## **Establishing Trustee Areas and Approval Process**

- Cal. Elec. Code § 10010 requires: 2 pre-map public hearings within 30 days, 2 post-map public hearings within 45 days, approval by board after final hearing.
- Governing Boards may consider factors in drawing maps: equal population, compact and contiguous, communities of interest, geographic features, incumbency.
- Cal. Educ. Code §§ 5019 and 5020: County Committee approval in furtherance of CVRA is final (SB 442).

**Austin Payne, Esq.**  
**Griffith & Thornburgh, LLP**

## County Committee Process: Redistricting for SBCEO Trustee Areas

- Sept 13 - County Committee (CC) meeting - Cooperative Strategies presented an overview of CC's role
- Late Sept - 2020 Census data received and analyzed by Cooperative Strategies

Sept

- Oct 25 - CC meeting - Cooperative Strategies shared 1) that SBCEO TAs were outside the allowable <10% population variance at 12%, 2) key criteria - areas roughly equal in population, comply with FVRA, should not be drawn to impair a protected class, etc., 3) other considerations - keep communities together, keep areas contiguous, follow manmade and natural geographic areas, respect incumbency to the extent possible

Oct

- Dec 10 - Map Scenario 1 and Map Scenario 2 received from Cooperative Strategies and shared via email with the CC and the County Board of Education
- Dec 10 - County Board of Ed meeting - superintendent provided an update on redistricting process
- Dec 13 - CC meeting - Cooperative Strategies presented Map Scenario 1 and Map Scenario 2

Dec

- Jan 6 - County Board of Ed meeting - reviewed Map Scenario 1 and Map Scenario 2 and provided feedback to CC via memo
- Jan 10 - CC meeting - reviewed Map Scenario 1 and Map Scenario 2, considered input from the board and the public, requested a 3rd map scenario be created
- Jan 27 - Map Scenario 3 received and shared via email with CC and County Board of Education
- Jan 31 - CC meeting - reviewed Map Scenario 3, considered input from the board and the public

Jan

- Feb 3 - County Board of Ed meeting - reviewed Map Scenario 3 and voted 6-0 with 1 abstention to endorse Map Scenario 3
- Feb 14 - CC meeting - consider input from the board and the public, approve final map for SBCEO Trustee Areas (prior to Mar 1 deadline)

Feb

- Final selected map delivered to County of Santa Barbara Elections Office

March