

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COMMITTEE
ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 13, 2021

Santa Barbara County Education Office

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Janet Zilli.

2. **Roll Call**

Members Present

Terry Hickey Banks
Jan Clevenger
Linda Cordero
Judith Dale
Nancy Harter
Robin Sawaske
Steve Straight
Janet Zilli

Members Absent

Bob Hatch and Steve Minjarez

Others Present

Denice Cora, Secretary to County Committee
Michelle De Werd, Trustee Member -- Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO)
Amada Dulay, Senior Administrative Assistant
Anna Freedland, Executive Assistant to the County Superintendent
Austin Payne, Legal Counsel
Craig Price, Legal Counsel
Bill Ridgeway, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Susan Salcido, County Superintendent -- Santa Barbara County Education Office

3. **Welcome**

Janet Zilli welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee for joining via zoom.

4. Denice Cora, Dr. Salcido, and County Committee Members shared memories and thoughts of Jody Oliver who passed this last May. Members expressed their gratefulness for her contributions to education and noted she will be missed.

5. **Public Comments** - None

6. **Approval of minutes from the Annual meeting minutes held on December 14, 2020**

MOVED: Nancy Harter SECONDED: Robin Sawaske

AYES: Banks, Cordero, Dale, Straight, Zilli

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Jan Clevenger, who was not present at the December 14 meeting.

The minutes of the meeting on December 14, 2020, were approved.

7. **Information Item: California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) Presentation**

Justin Rich introduced himself as the demographer working with SBCEO, Craig Price, and Austin Payne on the upcoming trustee area redistricting for: 1) the Santa Barbara County Board of Education and 2) certain districts in Santa Barbara County. He presented information about these two activities outlined below:

Redistricting

SBCEO Trustee Areas

- The County Committee is responsible to review the County Board of Education Trustee Areas after the decennial census information is available. Populations in the trustee areas are evaluated after the census and if there is a need to make adjustments to bring the populations into balance then that process is initiated.
 - After the census data is released, Education Code 1002 requires the County Committee to review the population data to evaluate whether the Board of Education seats are balanced in terms of total population. If they are not, then the County Committee reviews maps and population data to make adjustments. If no adjustments are needed, that will mitigate the need for multiple meetings. If adjustments are needed, the demographer will provide scenarios for the County Committee to consider. The deadline to make changes and get the information to the County Registrar of Voters for the next election cycle is March 1.
 - Considerations when redistricting:
 - Balanced populations (roughly proportional) should be within 10% -- taking the smallest and largest areas and analyzing the

difference (or variance). That percentage can be no more than 10% of what the ideal trustee area size would be.

- The adjustments cannot impair the ability of a protected class to elect the candidate of their choice. A protected class in this context means those minority groups (racial and language minority groups) that are defined by the federal Voting Rights Act ensuring that it doesn't split communities or diminish their ability to elect the candidate of their choice.
- **Calendar** – It is expected that the validated census data is going to be available by September 20. The demographer is planning to come back to the County Committee in October with an initial assessment that represents a balanced population. If necessary (due to being outside of the 10% population boundaries), the demographer will draw maps and create different map scenarios for the Committee to review and comment. After the scenarios are presented and considered, additional changes may be made. When finished, the final map approved by the Committee will be sent to the County Registrar of Voters (by March 1) to incorporate the new boundaries for redistricting in the election materials for the November 2022 election cycle.
- **Districts in Santa Barbara County – Moving to By-Trustee Elections**
Districts begin this process by hiring their own demographers and having multiple public hearings within their own districts. After the districts finish the prescribed process, maps are presented to the County Committee. The Committee will be asked to weigh in on the maps that have been drawn by the individual district boards. The process is an oversight role that the Committee has in reviewing the boundaries and making sure that the maps and process are completed in a way that makes sense. Ultimately, the Committee will be asked to approve those changes. There is a requirement that a public hearing be held within each of the boundaries of districts that are making changes. The Secretary to the County Committee, Denice Cora, mentioned that we are already aware of several districts that are moving through this process with their boards. This means the Committee will be busier than usual between now and Spring 2022. Districts that are going through this process will not have anything to submit to the Committee for review until most likely January or February 2022.

12. **Suggested meeting dates for CVRA Hearings**

After much discussion it was decided that October 25 was a potential date for the next County Committee Meeting. Denice will send a confirmation email if this date works out for scheduling.

13. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denice Cora
Secretary to the County Committee on School District Organization