

SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Community Room
Board of Education Building
777 North F Street
San Bernardino, California

**MINUTES
ADOPTED
10/20/15**

August 17, 2015

Present: President Michael Gallo; Board Members Barbara Flores, Margaret Hill; Lynda Savage and Danny Tillman; Deputy Superintendent Harold Vollkommer; Assistant Superintendents Kennon Mitchell, John Peukert, Perry Wiseman, and Matty Zamora; School Police Chief Joseph Paulino; Fiscal Services Director Janet King; and Superintendent's Assistant Carla Cross. Absent: Board Member Abigail Medina, Superintendent Dale Marsden. Minutes recorded by Administrative Assistant Karen Cunningham.

1.0 SESSION ONE – Opening

1.1 Call to Order

Board President Mike Gallo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mike Gallo led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Upon motion by Member Savage, seconded by Member Flores, and approved by the affirmative vote of the members, the agenda was adopted as presented.

1.4 Public Comments

Carl Greenwood, CSEA chapter president, stated that CSEA supported the following candidates for the upcoming November elections: #1 Michael Gallo; #2 Margaret Hill; #3 Gwendolyn Rodgers; and #4 Kaiser Ahmed. He also said that CSEA would be available for phone banking.

2.0 SESSION TWO – Board Vacancy Candidates' Statements

Mike Gallo introduced Board consultant, Kegham Tashjian who walked the Board through the entire process. The candidates were scheduled to appear by the date and time they had turned in their Candidate Information Sheet. Dr. Vollkommer explained how the candidates would be housed separately until their turn to speak and that Cabinet staff were assigned to each candidate and would escort them to the Community Room. With Abigail Medina not here and the open position, Mr. Tillman asked if they were legally a quorum and Dr. Vollkommer replied that they were.

Candidate statements began at 6:00 p.m. The first candidate, Gilbert Villalpando, was not present when called. The Board stated that if Mr. Villalpando came later, it would be decided then if he would be allowed to speak.

*All indicated times are approximate. The actual time for any item is dependent upon the amount of time required for prior items.

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Candidate Esmeralda Negrete

Ms. Negrete spoke on the need for more learning in classrooms, less disruptions. Need to address disruptions district-wide, they need to have a district-wide plan to address disruptions without suspending from school. Clearer communication with parents; provide them with knowledge of services provided. Make decisions that directly benefit students. She has 13 years' experience working with students, teachers, and parents is beneficial to have understanding of students' needs. Teachers need support and training. Parents need to have charter schools as options. Improvements needed: communication with parents; teacher support. She is an advocate for parents, teachers, and students.

Candidate Dannell Duran

Ms. Duran spoke on the responsibilities of the Governing Board members, such as approving expenditures, curriculum, developing policies; she highlighted facts about the District, such as founded in 1964, 8th largest district, district schools scores have gone up over the years, and City of Readers program, which she especially liked because she is trying to keep libraries open. She has an MBA, as an involved community member she believes businesses, churches, governments and all kinds of agencies could partner with our students so they can have the possibility of reaching their full potential and she can help with that. It's exciting what is happening in San Bernardino.

Candidate Gwendolyn Rodgers

Lifetime resident of San Bernardino, graduate of SBHS. She has a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Masters in Human Resources Management and Management. 20 years in financial management and currently works for EMQ Families First as a community development specialist, civic and government relations where she advocates on behalf of Foster youth. A community leader, parent advocate, Hope Maker, embraces SBUCSD's community engagement strategies, in particular High Expectations for All. As a parent advocate she is on numerous state boards, such as California Department of Education's welcoming Environment Task Force; volunteer on several SBCUSD's committees, such as the Grading Policy, A-G Readiness, Customer Service and a subcommittee member on the LCAP process. She is president of the District African American Advisory Council and Cajon's African American Parent Advisory Council, where parent participation was raised by 80% and she has worked with teachers and principals at numerous school sites. As a board member, she would continue her work supporting parents and students for the following reasons: She believes in authentic student/parent engagement that leads to parent involvement. Parents must be educated through consistent, welcoming environments and learn how to remain involved in their students' success from K to 12th grade and fully understand their options as parents; in student safety and their success must be our main focus. Students must be involved in, and at, the table that represents their success; partnerships must be meaningful and inclusive; culturally-relevant teaching techniques and sound fiscal responsibility that identifies and duplicates excellence; insure there is equality for all students; work collaborative and professionally while focusing on positive opportunities for schools, parents, students, teachers, the district and the community.

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Candidate Robert Fick

He can provide a lot of breadth in your area as well as depth. First, he is familiar with five subject fields, that none of you, to his knowledge, have been trained in: economics, political science, business, public administration and sociology, and he can function in those areas. Secondly, his experience greatly exceeds his education. As such, when you run management programs you fuse the knowledge and experience together and you have the expertise. He is in quite a few fields. His teaching experience is very broad, such as adult education. He has had managers, controllers of major corporations, and PhD's as students. He has taught in Mexico and is familiar with regional economics and organizational change. He can do evaluation research, management development – he ran management programs for three universities for nine years. He values experience over degrees. His greatest advantage would be behavioral systems. You and your organization think in terms of a hierarchy, vertical going down. Behavioral systems is input, conversion, output, impact, effectiveness, and utilization of resources. Under conversion he has two models: Business Administration and Political Science. When he last taught in 1996 it was in Critical Thinking Applied to Social Problems. He could even qualify as a principal investigator if you're doing a research proposal. Judicial administration, his primary subject area was consensus, conformity, conflict and change. He has credibility with all types of ethnic organizations.

Candidate John Abad

He grew up in San Bernardino and went to Sturges Junior High School, Pacific High School, San Bernardino Valley College, and UCLA on a wrestling scholarship. Bachelor's in Sociology, Masters in Education and Counseling. After retiring, went back to Cal State for school business management certification. Worked 5 years with SBCUSD. Taught Special Education, coached. 35 years in education. San Bernardino City has changed, if no funds coming in from taxpayers the schools hurt. He believes he can make a difference if on the School Board. Can look at budget to see where the money is being spent. If he's appointed he thinks he might be able to see something someone else doesn't.

Candidate Dorothea Cartwright

Born in San Bernardino, product of the SBCUSD, graduate student in communications studies at Cal State and working on a second Masters. Works in the department of English. She brings a wealth of knowledge and information that I feel will be useful to this board. Has a child in the district. I feel I am qualified and capable. Live overseas for 5 years and has international experience as well. Has been a legal secretary, worked at Norton Air Force Base for a number of years, worked in aerospace, and went to space and missile school. She believes her background will be useful to the board.

Candidate Pamela Montana

Born and raised in San Bernardino, graduated from Cajon High School, graduated San Bernardino Valley College with an AA, went to Cal State San Bernardino, and received her BA from Cal Baptist University, received her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction at Azusa Pacific University. Worked at SBCUSD as a teacher's assistant. That's when she realized her calling.

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She became a substitute teacher, and her first teaching position at Roosevelt Elementary School as a 4th grade bilingual teacher, Muscoy Elementary School as a Read One teacher. Currently working as an educational liaison for children and family services with the SB County and works with foster kids. She is the most devoted, dedicated, passionate person when it comes to kids and their education. To be able to give back to the community and kids is a gift. She is a woman, Latina, educator, mentor, and an advocator, but most of all I am a product of San Bernardino. If I can't change what I am doing today then tomorrow will be no different than yesterday.

Candidate Brian Turk

His grandmother was a teacher for 40 years in the San Bernardino area and she taught him that the brightest future you can have and the most stable way you can make that happen is through education. His mother and aunts and uncles were all teachers. He believes that education is the path, is the way. He believes that in a city such as San Bernardino, schools are one of the bright beacons, a place kids feel safe and feel they have importance. A former counselor, Doris Roberts, once told him he could do anything no matter where you come from. While going to college all his side jobs related to education. He worked at a private school as a maintenance man, taught karate to kids, coached different sports, worked for the Catholic School District and took the girls' basketball team that had no physical education experience, to the championship. It is our job to make sure all children get an education and that they know they have that right. He is a stay at home dad, three children-two in SBCUSD district. He wants a brighter future for his children. He wants them to learn to love the city as he does and he will do what it takes to make it a better place.

Candidate Kaiser Ahmed

Retired school teacher, community volunteer, parent of a child with autism, a grandfather, and a candidate in the November elections. He came to U.S. 43 years ago from Bangladesh. Received his Masters in Economics from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York, he attend three other universities: UCR, Claremont Graduate University, and Cal State San Bernardino. Has 4 teaching credentials, two are valid for life, taught school for 28 years. Has been an adjunct faculty member for 32 years, teaching in 12 different colleges/universities. First thing on his agenda would be to reduce class sizes. He believes teachers and students do better with smaller classes. Second, bilingual education. He speaks three different languages. Third, technical and trade education. He believes that charter schools could play a role in this, especially those programs that the district does not fully offer. Fourth, parents should have a venue where they could put their democratic input in education decisions. Together we can create, develop tomorrow's teachers, doctors, plumbers, roofers, even school board members. In making the motto Making Hope Happen, a reality by installing positive behavior by rewarding. The reward system has intrinsic value and we can never over-praise a child.

3.0 SESSION THREE – Board Deliberations and Action

After each candidate spoke the Board members anonymously ranked them against the prior speakers. After all candidates had spoken Mr. Tashjian directed the Board members to take their

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three highest candidates and anonymously give each one points from 1 – 10. The forms were given to Mr. Tashjian who then called them out, naming the results only as Board member #1, #2 and so on in a random order. The results were displayed on the TV monitors:

Board member #1: Gwendolyn Rodgers 10 pts
Pamela Montana 5 pts
Kaisar Ahmed 2 pts

Board member #2: Gwendolyn Rodgers 10 pts
Pamela Montana 9 pts
Kaisar Ahmed 8 pts

Board member #3: Kaisar Ahmed 10 pts
Gwendolyn Rodgers 9 pts
Pamela Montana 8 pts

Board member #4: Gwendolyn Rodgers 10 pts
Esmeralda Negrete 5 pts
Kaisar Ahmed 4 pts

Board member #5: Gwendolyn Rodgers 10 pts
Pamela Montana 6 pts
Kaisar Ahmed 5 pts

Mr. Tashjian said that the Board could put forth a motion at this time if they so choose.

Upon motion by Member Savage, seconded by Member Flores, and approved by the affirmative vote of Members Flores, Gallo, Hill, Savage, and Tillman (Noes: None), the following was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the appointment of Gwendolyn Rodgers to fill the Board position, vacated by the resignation of Sharon “Bobbie” Perong, effective through December 4, 2015.

Mr. Tashjian stated that the public had 30 days to submit any objections and until then it would only be a “provisional” appointment. Mrs. Rodgers will be sworn in at the September 1, 2015 Board meeting. Dr. Flores asked if that was when she would take her board seat and he replied yes.

4.0 SESSION FOUR – Adjournment

By the affirmative vote of the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be held on Tuesday, August 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Board of Education Building, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino.