

San Bernardino City Unified School District

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education

**MINUTES
ADOPTED
1/11/11**

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

November 23, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Present: President Danny Tillman; Vice President Barbara Flores; Board Members Louise Ayala, Teresa Parra Craig, Lynda Savage, and Elsa Valdez; Superintendent Arturo Delgado; Deputy Superintendent Judy White; Chief Business and Financial Officer Mohammad Islam; and Superintendent's Assistant Phyllis Gronek. Minutes recorded by Administrative Assistant Jennifer Owens.

Absent: Board Member Judi Penman; Associate Superintendent Mel Albiso; and Assistant Superintendents Yolanda Ortega, John Peukert, and Harold Vollkommer.

SESSION ONE - Opening

1.0 - Opening

1.1 - Call to Order

President Tillman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.2 - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

SESSION TWO – Administrative Report

2.0 - Administrative Report

2.1 - Charter Schools Update

Dr. Delgado provided an update related to Casa Ramona Academy. Included was a review of the original areas of concern as well as the steps taken since the November 16 Board meeting (see page ____).

SESSION THREE – Public Hearing

3.0 - Public Hearing

3.1 - Public Hearing Pursuant to the Provisions of Education Code Sections 47607(c) and 47607(e)

President Tillman opened a public hearing to determine whether evidence exists to revoke the charter petition of Casa Ramona Academy. Mr. Tillman stated that he would try to allow as many speakers as possible to address the Board.

Elsa Valdez asked which items can't be cured and corrected. Dr. Delgado stated that the Board directed Staff to contact universities to make university students whole; it hinges on the College Board approving their courses. Casa Ramona can't cure and correct changes that were made to legal documents, doctored transcripts, or inflated credits. The District Attorney would have to determine if any laws were broken and any action that would need to take place.

Danny Tillman stated that the Board looked at the 16 elements when they approved the Casa Ramona charter. His goal is to make sure students get the best education possible. The state dictates the District's level of oversight. We have to make sure laws are followed. The Board will determine the next best steps.

Judith Valles, Jerry Simmons, Esther Estrada, Margaret Estrada, Minerva Clayton, Marcia Guerrero, Ana Blanco, Reuben Rivas, Laticia Alvizi, Yasmine Lopez, Silvestre Medina, and Maria Naranjo expressed their support of Casa Ramona.

Gil Navarro, Ruben Chavez, David Ortiz, and Maria Birrueta expressed their dissatisfaction with Casa Ramona.

President Tillman closed the Public Hearing and announced that Sessions Six and Seven were being moved forward on the agenda.

SESSION SIX – Closed Session

6.0 - Closed Session

As provided by law, the Board met in Closed Session for consideration of the following:

Conference with Legal Counsel

Anticipated Litigation

Government Code Section 54956.9(b)

Significant Exposure to Litigation: (One)

SESSION SEVEN - Action

7.0 - Action Items

7.1 - Direct District Staff to Commence Revocation of the Casa Ramona Academy in Accordance with the Provisions of Education Code 47607(c) and 47607(e)

In response to comments made during the public hearing, Elsa Valdez stated that the Casa Ramona students had the right to protest and they need to be commended. The District has the right to do investigations. It protects the interests of the students. The Board's job is to make sure students are getting the services they need. The Casa Ramona Board only needed to come to the School Board and tell us that mistakes were made and be willing to work with us, but instead they attacked us. The Casa Ramona Board and administrators should treat parents better by listening to them instead of condemning them. Our role is to do ongoing evaluation and monitoring and we don't need permission. Casa Ramona parents and students asked the District to look into issues. English learner students need to be taken care of. Parents haven't been treated with respect and have been called names. It isn't a concerted effort to close the school. The parents have a right to ask for changes at the school.

Teresa Parra Craig stated that it's a matter of changing and no Casa Ramona administrators or Board members have said they are going to change. Mr. Simmons hasn't learned the act of not reacting. He was never told some things he should have known. This isn't political; the students can't vote. Parents should be proud of finding the best options. Mrs. Parra Craig stated that she is offended that Esther Estrada has not make corrections, and it is a shame that parents don't remove her.

Barbara Flores stated that Casa Ramona needs to rectify what they have done to the parents and students. Dr. Flores hopes the Casa Ramona Board corrects the lack of books and supplies.

Lynda Savage thanked the parents for coming out and wants to assure that Casa Ramona remains a viable school. We have to be sure that what happens is what is the best for students. If not, the Board will revoke the charter. They will give them every chance to make corrections.

Danny Tillman stated that Action Item 7.3 is the most harsh action. Action Item 7.1 will allow the issuing of a notice to cure and correct. District Staff is to contact Casa Ramona to set a timeline.

Upon motion by Member Tillman, seconded by Member Savage, and approved by the affirmative vote of Members Ayala, Parra Craig, Flores, Savage, Tillman, and Valdez (Noes: None), the Board directed District Staff to commence revocation of the Casa Ramona Academy in accordance with the provisions of Education Code 47607(c) and 47607(e).

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President Tillman instructed the Superintendent to direct Casa Ramona to cure and correct. The results will come back after the New Year and the Board will decide the next steps.

7.2 - Revoke the Charter of Casa Ramona Academy and Adopt Resolution Implementing the Revocation in Accordance with the Provisions of Education Code Sections 47607(c) and 47607(d)

No action was taken.

7.3 - Revoke the Charter of Casa Ramona Academy and Adopt Resolution Implementing the Revocation in Accordance with the Provisions of Education Code Sections 47607(c) and 47607(e)

No action was taken.

SESSION FOUR – Other Matters Brought by Citizens

4.0 - Other Matters Brought by Citizens

None.

SESSION FIVE – Reports and Comments

5.0 - Report by Board Members

Teresa Parra Craig thanked Danny Tillman for pulling Consent Item 10.36 at the November 16 Board meeting. Mrs. Parra Craig has concerns with the item because it doesn't disclose costs or delivery dates and she requested additional information. Mr. Tillman stated that this item will return at a later date as an Action Item.

SESSION EIGHT - Closing

8.0 - Adjournment

By the affirmative vote of the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Board of Education Building, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino.