



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting—City of Loma Linda petition

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Bennett
Brynna Cadman
Kareem Gongora joined at 6:06 p.m.
Claudia Lopez
Flora Martinez
Jay Muñoz
Rafael Trujillo
James Willingham left at 7:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent, Secretary
Rich De Nava, Assistant Superintendent
Dennis Mobley, Interim Acting Secretary
Audrey Grijalva, Recording Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Resa Barillas
Patty Holohan
Regina Weatherspoon-Bell

COUNTY COUNSEL:

Jose Mendoza

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Trujillo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Interim Acting Secretary Mr. Mobley to conduct a roll call of County Committee members.

2. Flag Salute

Member Cadman led the flag salute.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Member Muñoz made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Willingham seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously 7-0. Ayes: Cadman, Bennett, Lopez, Martinez, Muñoz, Trujillo, and Willingham. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

Member Gongora logged in to the meeting at 6:06.

4. General Public Comments

Interim Acting Secretary Mr. Mobley read the following script: Pursuant to Government Code 54954.3 every notice of a special board meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body concerning any item that has been described in the notice for the meeting before consideration of that item. Members of the public may address the County Committee before or during the County Committee's consideration of the item as noted on the special meeting agenda. Public comments submitted by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be read into the record. Speakers are allotted 3 minutes per person (up to 12 minutes).

Comments by phone:

Dr. Almarchy Rudy, resident of Loma Linda, supports the proposition to change the district lines from Colton Joint Unified School District to Redlands Unified School District.

Raj, a resident of Loma Linda Laurel Heights Community, agreed with Dr. Almarchy he would like to be out of the Colton Joint Unified School District and be part of the Redlands Unified School District.

5. Procedures for territory transfer initiated by local agency (EC 35720-35721)

Staff presented an overview of process and procedures to be used by the County Committee in considering a territory transfer petition initiated by a local agency.

6. Reorganization Feasibility Study—Colton Joint USD and Redlands USD

Brianna Garcia and Matt Phillips with School Services of California (SSC) presented the findings of the reorganization feasibility study with an analysis of the state's nine criteria. Scott Ferguson, Bond Counsel with Jones Hall, contributed to the report concerning the legal issues and options regarding the Community Facility District (CFD). Ms. Garcia concluded that the state's nine criteria were "substantially met."

Member Gongora asked how many years are left to pay off the CFD bond and what is the process to identify how funds will be separated between agencies and how much time will it take? Ms. Garcia responded that the bond is supposed to run for 30 years. Mr. Ferguson mentioned there are different options for the CFD that are listed in the report.

Member Muñoz asked Mr. Ferguson to explain the options on the CFD report. Mr. Ferguson clarified the three questions addressed in the report: 1. Does the Mello-roos Community Facilities Act permit the transfer of the authority for governance of a community facilities district from one school district to another? 2. If not, what options may be available to facilitate the proposed territory transfer? 3. How does the fact that only a portion of CFD 2 is within the territory transfer affect our analysis? Discussion followed.

Chairman Trujillo asked how much property value of the \$96 million is being transferred from Colton district to Redlands district.

Ms. Garcia stated that the districts are funded based on the state's local control funding formula. She said that presently neither school district receives property tax revenue in excess of what the state provides in per student funding.

Member Willingham left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

7. Public Hearing on the City Loma Linda territory transfer petition

City of Loma Linda is the chief petitioner. City of Loma Linda Resolution No. 3082 states in part that the Loma Linda City Council supports the proposition that all residents of Loma Linda be part of the Redlands Unified School District. The current Redlands Unified School District and Colton Joint Unified School District boundaries bisect the City of Loma Linda. City of Loma Linda Resolution No. 3082 requests a change of boundaries to transfer the Laurel Heights neighborhood and any other areas within the incorporated city limits of the City of Loma Linda from the Colton Joint Unified School District to the Redlands Unified School District. The area affected by the proposed territory transfer from Colton Joint Unified School District to Redlands Unified School District is approximately 175 acres.

The purpose of this preliminary hearing is to receive comments and for the County Committee to either grant or deny the petition. If the petition is denied, it goes no further. If the petition is granted, the process moves forward and the County Committee must adopt a tentative recommendation and hold one or more additional public hearings in the area proposed for transfer, before taking final action on the petition.

- 7.1 Chairman Trujillo opened the public hearing and receive public comments at 7:25 p.m.
- 7.2 Presentation by petitioner:
Bhavin Jindal, City of Loma Linda Counsel Member, stated they received this issue months ago. He thanked the San Bernardino County Committee on School District Organization. He also thanked the Colton Joint and Redlands Unified school districts. He then shared that the petition was signed by over 90% of the households in Laurel Heights area. He asked the County Committee members to consider approving the petition. They want to support the community.
Phil Dupper, Loma Linda City Mayor stated he would like the Committee to move forward and explore the options that can be done. The community is willing to take steps towards litigation or approaching the State Legislature for some resolution.
- 7.3 Presentations by affected school districts:
Frank Miranda, Superintendent of Colton Joint Unified School District, thanked the committee and spoke about options available for students requesting to attend Redlands Unified. He also mentioned there is an opposition letter from Colton Joint Unified. He is concerned with the untested CFD options that were given. Mr. Miranda proposed to sit down with the Loma Linda Laurel Heights community to address their concerns and find out other ways to better serve them.
Jason Hill, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services for Redlands Unified School District, stated that Redlands Unified reviewed the report and the nine criteria. He acknowledged that there are concerns about the division of the CFD.
- 7.4 Public Comments (30 minutes):
A Laurel Heights community member mentioned that most kids feel left out because of the two different cities they live in and attend the same school. She was concerned of the distance for a child to go from Loma Linda to a Colton Joint Unified school. She also mentioned it is a hassle to request the inter district transfer.
- 7.5 Summary/Closing Statements by Petitioner, School Districts, Public Proponents and Opponents
Bhavin Jindal, City of Loma Linda Counsel Member, wants to make sure the community is heard and that their needs are met. He stated that the financial benefit should go to Redlands Unified and taxpayer money should stay with Redlands when the students transfer from Colton Joint Unified to Redlands Unified.
Frank Miranda, Superintendent of Colton Joint Unified School District mentioned the CJUSD Board members want to maintain the integrity of its boundaries and would like to engage in an honest and constructive dialogue with the Laurel Heights residents. He asked the committee member to not approve the petition.
Jason Hill, stated they are committed to our students and their communities and will continue to work with everyone in the process whichever direction is voted.
Phil Dupper, Loma Linda City Mayor asked they be allowed to continue the process of moving forward.
- 7.6 Chairman Trujillo closed the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

8. Action to grant or deny the City of Loma Linda territory transfer petition

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Bernardino County Committee on School District Organization denied the petition by the City of Loma Linda that all residents of Loma Linda be part of the Redlands Unified School District transferring approximately 175 acres from Colton Joint Unified School District to Redlands Unified School District.

Member Gongora made a motion to deny the petition; Member Martinez seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All parties were thanked for their participation. A roll call vote was taken. The motion to deny the petition carried 6-1. Ayes: Bennett, Gongora, Lopez, Martinez, Muñoz, Trujillo. Nays: Cadman. Abstentions: None.

9. Other Business

9.1. Announcements and Correspondence

Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent thanked all those attending.

10. Special Meeting – 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14, 2022

11. Next Regular Meeting – 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 (if necessary)

12. Adjournment

Chairman Trujillo ended the meeting at 8:21 p.m.