CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING CLOSED SESSION 4:30 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING - OPEN SESSION 6:00 P.M.

Dr. Lowell J. Billings Board Room, Education Service and Support Center
Streamed Online

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

A. Roll Call

President Ugarte called the meeting to order at 4:35 P.M.

Members Present:
Ms. Lucy Ugarte, President
Mr. Francisco Tamayo, Vice President
Ms. Delia Dominguez Cervantes, Clerk

Members Absent:
None.

Others Present:

Dr. Eduardo Reyes, Superintendent
Ms. Sharon Casey, Asst. Supt. Student Services
Ms. Jessica Morales, Area Asst. Supt., Innovation and Instruction
Mr. Mark Pong, Asst. Supt. Business Services and Support
Mr. Jason Romero, Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Ms. Giovanna Castro, Director of Communications
Ms. Araceli Guzman, Supt. and Board of Education Administrative Manager
Ms. Paloma Romo, Secretary II

2. APPROVE AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES, Second: TAMAYO; Vote: UNANIMOUS

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

A. Oral Communications for Closed Session Items

The Oral Communications section provides the public with an opportunity to address the Board on closed session items only. Persons wishing to be heard may attend in person and should complete a Request to Be Heard card and submit it to the Recording Secretary before the start of the meeting. Speakers are requested to limit their remarks to three minutes and speak in a respectful and professional manner. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each topic to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comments depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. No Board action can be taken.

No speakers.

4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

President Ugarte adjourned to closed session at 4:37 P.M. in accordance with the following:

A. Closed Session Information

Government Code Sections 3549.1(d) and 54957.6: Collective Bargaining/Employee Negotiations; Agency Negotiators: Adams Silva & McNally LLP; Employee Organizations: Chula Vista Classified Employees Organization (CVCEO); Chula Vista Educators (CVE); Nonrepresented Employees; Administrators Association Chula Vista (AACV)

B. Government Code Section 54957(b)(1): Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

C. Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Appointment/Employment Title: Senior Director of Student Services

D. Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Appointment/Employment Title: Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Services and Support

5. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

President Ugarte reconvened to open session at 6:03 P.M. with all Board Members present.

Ms. Lucy Ugarte, President
Mr. Francisco Tamayo, Vice President
Ms. Delia Dominguez Cervantes, Clerk

Members Absent:
None.

Others Present:
Dr. Eduardo Reyes, Superintendent
Ms. Sharon Casey, Asst. Supt. Student Services
Ms. Jessica Morales, Area Asst. Supt., Innovation and Instruction
Mr. Mark Pong, Asst. Supt. Business Services and Support
Mr. Jason Romero, Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Ms. Giovanna Castro, Director of Communications
Ms. Araceli Guzman, Supt. and Board of Education Administrative Manager
Ms. Paloma Romo, Secretary II

B. Report Out from Closed Session

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes announced that in closed session the Board:

Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Appointment/Employment
Title: Senior Director of Student Services

Approved Dr. Paula Madrigal-Patel as Senior Director of Student Services.
Motion: TAMAYO; Second: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES; Vote: UNANIMOUS

Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Appointment/Employment
Title: Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Services and Support

Approved Ms. Maria Montgomery as Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Services and Support.
Motion: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES; Second: TAMAYO; Vote: UNANIMOUS

C. Pledge of Allegiance

President Ugarte asked Mr. Jason Romero to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. APPROVE AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda
Motion: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES; Second: TAMAYO; Vote: UNANIMOUS

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Oral Communications Guidelines-Special Board Meeting Items

*****Oral Communications on Posted Items***** The Oral Communications portion of this special meeting provides the public with an opportunity to address the Board on items included in this Special Meeting Agenda only. Persons wishing to be heard may attend in person and should complete a "Request to Be Heard" card

and submit it to the Recording Secretary before the start of the meeting. Speakers are requested to limit their remarks to three minutes and speak in a respectful and professional manner. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each topic to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comments depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. No Board action can be taken.

There were nine speakers:

- Parent Anna Cabral spoke in support of Noelle Cravens to serve on the CVESD Board of Education.
- Felipe Dominguez spoke in support of Keren Ramirez Dominguez to serve on the CVESD Board of Education.
- Robert asked the Board to select the right person for the job and someone to serve the community well.
- Parent Enrique Ramirez spoke in support of Keren Ramirez Dominguez to serve on the CVESD Board of Education.
- Mike Yeager spoke in support of Keren Ramirez Dominguez to serve on the CVESD Board of Education.
- Crystal Minardi spoke in support of Keren Ramirez Dominguez to serve on the CVESD Board of Education.
- Jorge Mendez spoke in support of Keren Ramirez Dominguez to serve on the CVESD Board of Education.
- CVE President Rosi Martinez emphasized CVE's commitment to fostering collaborative relationships and urged the Board to select a member who will advocate for students and staff, rather than someone with political aspirations.
- Employee Thom Perezchica read a letter from a staff member to the Board, expressing concerns regarding Noelle Cravens, a board member candidate.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS

A. Conduct Interviews of Candidates for Provisional Appointments to Board Vacancies (Seats 1 and 5)

President Ugarte explained that the provisional appointment process was outlined during the December Board meeting. She encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to direct them to the Board Clerk after the meeting for the Board's response.

Candidates will be called in the order determined by the number they drew. The process will be conducted uniformly for each candidate, and no follow-up questions will be asked.

Candidates were instructed the following:

- Candidates will have a three-minute introduction.

- Each Board Member will pose one question to each candidate, and candidates will have three minutes to respond to each question.
- Candidates will be stopped once their three-minute response time has lapsed.
- Candidates will have one minute to deliver a closing statement.

Question #1 Introduction: What do you want us to know about you as it relates to the position you are applying for?

Question #2 from Clerk Dominguez Cervantes: If appointed, what is on your agenda to do in the first 30 days?

Question #3 from Vice President Tamayo: What are your thoughts on providing social emotional support for students and how should it be provided?

Question #4 from President Ugarte: Teachers use adopted curriculum and textbooks for their lessons. Sometimes they also bring their own materials to supplement instruction. How much flexibility do you feel teachers should have in adapting the lesson plan using their own materials?

Candidates interviewed in the following order:
Candidate #1: Armando Farias
Candidate #2: Noelle Cravens
Candidate #3: Jessica Tolston
Candidate #4: Fernando Parra
Candidate #5: Victor Zavala
Candidate #6: Keren Ramirez Dominguez

Clerk Tamayo thanked all the candidates for reaching the final round and acknowledged the challenges of speaking at the podium. He expressed his appreciation for their commitment to the process and noted the strong pool of candidates.

He emphasized that the Board should remain guided by the mission, vision, and values it has adopted, which serve as a beacon of light for their decisions. He acknowledged the difficulty of evaluating both the information provided in the applications and the insights shared during the interviews. He stressed that the voice of parents and the community should be the primary guiding factor in their considerations.

President Ugarte thanked all the candidates and acknowledged the anxiety that often accompanies public speaking. She emphasized the importance of considering both the interview responses and the application contents during the decision-making process, as well as aligning decisions with the mission and values of the District.

As the President and facilitator, she clarified that it is not her role to make motions. Instead, she will listen to the commentary and contribute as needed.

She also emphasized the importance of representation and actively listening to constituents. She reflected on the repeated calls for this commitment, especially

during the election two years ago. Additionally, she acknowledged the significant discussions surrounding the importance of candidates not having political ties and noted that her colleagues have consistently emphasized adhering to this principle when selecting a candidate. To uphold this standard, she made it clear that she would not consider any candidate who has previously run for office.

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes emphasized the importance of aligning the decision-making process with the District's mission, vision, and values. While she acknowledged concerns about candidates with political aspirations, she stressed that the district's values should be the primary focus during deliberations. She stated that a candidate's political party or whether they previously ran for office should not necessarily determine their eligibility, as such actions may or may not be political in nature. She commended the applicants for rising to the top of the selection process. Furthermore, she expressed her preference for a special election but, considering the District's financial deficit, agreed to proceed with a provisional appointment.

A total of six candidates participated in the interview process.

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes motioned to appoint Keren Ramirez Dominguez to Seat 5.

Motion: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES, Second: TAMAYO,
Absent: NONE; Noes: UGARTE; Abstain: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Victor Zavala to Seat 5.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes motioned to appoint Armando Farias to Seat 5.

Motion: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES, Second: TAMAYO,
Absent: NONE; Noes: UGARTE; Abstain: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Noelle Cravens to Seat 5.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes motioned to appoint Keren Ramirez Dominguez to Seat 5. President Ugarte stated it was already motioned but did not pass.

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes affirmed that Farias and Ramirez Dominguez were her two selections and stated firmly that she would not waver. She added that if neither candidate was approved, the matter would need to proceed to a special election.

There was significant deliberation among all Board Members regarding the high cost of a special election, estimated to range between $2.5 and $3 million. It was noted that, if this route is taken, the District would need to consider which programs might be cut and what staffing reductions would be required to cover the expense. Additionally, the Board acknowledged the availability of a pool of six qualified

candidates, providing ample choices for consideration. Not selecting candidates, they emphasized, would result in a waste of taxpayer dollars on a costly special election.

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Jessica Tolston to Seat 5.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: UGARTE,
Absent: NONE; Noes: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES; Abstain: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Fernando Parra to Seat 5.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: UGARTE,
Absent: NONE; Noes: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES; Abstain: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Clerk Dominguez Cervantes motioned to appoint Keren Ramirez Dominguez to Seat 5.
Motion: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES, Second: TAMAYO,
Absent: NONE; Noes: UGARTE; Abstain: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Vice President Tamayo motioned for a recess at 8:25 P.M.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: UGARTE; Vote: UNANIMOUS

President Ugarte reconvened the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

Vice President motioned to appoint Keren Ramirez Dominguez to Seat 5 and Jessica Tolston to Seat 1 as a slate.

President Ugarte clarified that, since both agenda items fall under the same Administrative Action category, they can be motioned and approved as a slate.

Vice President Tamayo suspended the previous motion, allowing for additional dialogue among the Board. During the discussion, Clerk Dominguez Cervantes requested a pause and turned to pray.

Vice President Tamayo motioned to combine items 8.B. and 8.C. into a single motion.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: UGARTE,
Absent: NONE; Noes: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES; Abstain: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Jessica Tolston to Seat 5.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: NONE
Motion: FAILS

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Keren Ramirez Dominguez to Seat 5.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES, Vote: UNANIMOUS

Vice President Tamayo motioned to appoint Jessica Tolston to Seat 1.
Motion: TAMAYO, Second: DOMINGUEZ CERVANTES, Vote: UNANIMOUS

B. Select Provisional Board Appointee for Seat 5

C. Select Provisional Board Appointee for Seat 1

D. Administer Oath of Office to Provisionally Appointed Board Members

Dr. Reyes administered the Oath to approve provisional appointees for Keren Ramirez Dominguez in Seat 5 and Jessica Tolston in Seat 1.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjourn the Meeting

President Ugarte adjourned the meeting at 9:04 P.M.

Motion: RAMIREZ DOMINGUEZ; Second: TOLSTON; Vote: UNANIMOUS

Eduardo Reyes, Ed.D. Secretary

Delia Dominguez Cervantes, Clerk