

**Riverside Unified School District
Business and Governmental Relations Division**

Board Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Superintendent's Office

November 2, 2011

9:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Beaty called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Charles Beaty (Chair), Mr. Tom Hunt, Dr. Rick Miller, Mr. Mike Fine,
Ms. Sandie Meekins, and Mrs. Joyce Threadgold (recorder)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Gloria Cowder, Director- Program Development & Extended
Learning

INFORMATION

1. REACH Leadership Charter School Petition

Mr. Fine explained that we have three options to consider if the petition is brought forward on November 14 for Board action. Option 1 is to approve the petition as submitted. Staff does not recommend this option since the areas of concern are relevant and important. Option 2 is to deny the petition. All of the areas of concern are technical and with some revisions and attention to detail, the petition can be amended to address each of our concerns. Denial of the petition would likely result in the petitioners appealing the denial to the Riverside County Board of Education with a likely reversal of RUSD's decision and the approval of the petition for RUSD anyway. Staff has concerns about an outright denial of the petition given the petition's strength and given that the weaknesses are technical (not instructional or principled). Option 3 is to meet with the petitioners and recommend that they withdraw the petition, make revisions to address our concerns and then resubmit the petition for evaluation and consideration a second time. This option certainly strengthens the petition and the likelihood that there would be no basis for RUSD to deny an amended petition. But it also gives us the opportunity to ensure that any charter school in RUSD (approved by us or approved on appeal to the county board) will have all the areas of concern to RUSD appropriately addressed.

Mr. Fine stated that staff recommends Option 3. He explained that a meeting will be scheduled with the petitioners for Monday, November 7th to outline some of our most critical concerns and to seek their mutual agreement to withdraw the petition and make appropriate changes. Mr. Fine went on to explain that if they refuse, staff will prepare a resolution for Option 2 – to deny – for the November 14 meeting. If they agree, the petition will be withdrawn before November 14 and there will be no Board action on that date required. State law allows for a mutually agreeable 30 day extension. However, given the holidays, we don't believe that 30 days is sufficient time to address our

concerns and to perform a new evaluation. Withdrawing the petition allows the freedom not to follow a strict timeline.

Mr. Fine will report back to the Subcommittee after the November 7th meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Unscheduled Communications

There were no unscheduled communications.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.