Santa Ana Unified School District
1601 East Chestnut Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92701

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting - Study Session
Santa Ana Board of Education

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Bustos called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Other members present were Ms. Brazer Aceves, Ms. Magdaleno, and Ms. Lebsack.

Mr. Bustos announced the closed session agenda items as follows: Conference with Labor Negotiators and Existing Litigation. He asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board related to closed session items. There was no one wishing to address the Board related to closed session items.

2. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Special Board meeting recessed to closed session at 5:07 p.m.

Dr. Alvarez joined the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

3. RECONVENE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Cabinet members present were Superintendent Almendarez, Dr. Perez, Ms. Flores, Mr. Hacker, and Ms. Barquin with Mr. Walstrom not present.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Almendarez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Bustos read the following land acknowledgement: I want to recognize that our District and school campuses are located in the Village of Pasbenga. I want to acknowledge that this land we refer to as Orange County, is the unceded and traditional lands of the Gabrieleno Tongva Nation, and the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation. These lands were taken through a process of colonization, physical, and cultural genocide. I want to pay my respect to elders, both past and present, as well as the Tongva and Acjachemen youth who have attended and are currently attending our schools in neighboring districts.

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Bustos asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board related to the Special Board Meeting agenda. There was no one wishing to address the Board.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Implementation of Student Board Member Position

The Special Board Meeting held on January 14 focused on discussing the implementation of a student board member position. Key discussions included the eligibility criteria, selection process, and GPA requirements for student board members, along with considerations for diversity and representation through an advisory council. The Board debated whether the selection should be through application or election, as well as the terms of

service for students. Additional topics included the structure of the advisory council, training and support for student members, and potential compensation or credit for their participation. There was Board concensus to allow for two (2) student Board members, one from a large high school and one (1) from a small high school; a GPA requirement of 2.0; an application process; preferential voting rights; include an advisory council; a two (2) year term for underclassmen and one (1) year for seniors; oversight by a District Administrator; training similar to what Board members are offered; potential course credit; and potential compensation. The discussion concluded with the Superintendent outlining next steps to implement this position by the beginning of next school year.

Mr. Bustos announced a recess back to closed session due to pending business but before doing so he turned it over to Ms. Brazer Aceves to make an announcement of the recent loss of our former Superintendent Dr. Al Mijares.

Ms. Brazer Aceves acknowledged the passing of Dr. Al Mijares, a visionary leader who served as Superintendent of Santa Ana Unified School District from 1994 to 2006. We are forever grateful for Dr. Mijares' steadfast educational leadership, having dedicated over a decade to fostering academic achievement and student well-being within SAUSD. After having served our schools in Santa Ana, Dr. Mijares went on to serve as Orange County's 11th Superintendent of School schools where he served our communities across the county for over a decade. Dr. Mijares' enduring legacy of kindness, integrity and service will continue to inspire the SAUSD community for generations to come. On behalf of the Santa Ana Unified School District, she extended heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones and colleagues during this difficult time.

RECESSED TO CLOSE SESSION

The Special Board meeting recessed at 8:23 p.m.

RECONVENED SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 9:29 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Board, President Bustos adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

9. FUTURE MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Superintendent