

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
Friday, May 29, 2020

Members present

Don Huffman, Sindy Biederman, Ann Cash Jim Haslip, Janna Waldinger, Jennifer Kresge

Absent: Steve Orndorf

1. ORGANIZATION

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Cash called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

B. FLAG SALUTE

The salute to the flag was led by Janna Waldinger.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Josh Schultz, Deputy Superintendent, read the instructions for public participation via teleconference.

D. Welcome to Visitors

Visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Dr. Haslip and a second by Mrs. Waldinger. Ayes - Mrs. Waldinger, Dr. Haslip, Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. Noes – None.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Haslip and a second by Mrs. Biederman. Ayes - Mrs. Waldinger, Dr. Haslip, Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. Noes – None.

G. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was opened at 1:20 p.m. on Napa Valley Unified School District's (NVUSD) proposal to move from an at large election system to a by-trustee area election system for NVUSD Board Members and to adopt the Trustee Area Map attached as Exhibit A to NVUSD's May 14, 2020 Resolution No 20-2.

A. Mr. Schultz clarified the purpose of the Public Hearing today and the County Committee's role in the process. The Public Hearing of the Napa County Committee on School District Organization is being conducted in response to the Napa County Office of Education's receipt of a Napa Valley Unified School District proposal to

move from an at large election system to a by-trustee area election system for NVUSD board members. A copy of the proposal was made available on the NCOE website at www.napacoe.org, included in the Notice of Public Hearing, and included in today's meeting agenda.

Under Education Code local county committees are the initiator, coordinator, facilitator, and arbitrator for the reorganization of school districts. They are charged with formulating plans, responding to petitions and proposals, and to conduct public hearings. The purpose of this public hearing is to comply with Education Code section 5019 and to gather information from school districts and members of the public regarding the proposal. At a subsequent meeting the committee will evaluate the proposal and take action to approve or disapprove the proposal. That meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

B. Committee Chair, Ann Cash, read the Public Hearing Guidelines: *Pursuant to Education Code section 5019, the Napa County Committee on School District Organization will conduct a public hearing on Napa Valley Unified School District's Proposal to move from an at large election system to a by-trustee area election system for NVUSD board members, and to adopt the Trustee Area Map attached as Exhibit A to NVUSD's May 14, 2020 Resolution No. 20-42.*

C. Attorney Mary Hernandez presented on the Napa Valley Unified School District's request to the Napa County Committee on School District Organization to approve a transition from an at large election system to a by-trustee area election system. Ms. Hernandez also asked for approval of the final map that was adopted by the NVUSD Board on May 14, 2020 in accordance with the adopted map to assign trustee areas 2, 4, 5, and 7 for election in 2020.

Ms. Hernandez reminded the Committee when they evaluate and vote on the school district's proposal, it should be based on the following: (1) whether the NVUSD has complied with statutory requirements in its process, and (2) whether the map that was finally adopted meets legal requirements. Ms. Hernandez noted that the NVUSD Board believes the answer to both of these inquiries is a strong yes. Ms. Hernandez summarized why the NVUSD Board has met those criteria and why the Napa County Committee on School District Organization should approve their request at the June 2, 2020 meeting.

D. Josh Schultz, Deputy Superintendent, on the advice of the Napa County Office of Education's legal counsel, read into the record an email from Attorney Scott Rafferty criticizing Napa County Board of Education Trustee Biederman's involvement in the redistricting maps proposal. The email was sent to Superintendent Barbara Nemko, Deputy Superintendent Josh Schultz, and Attorney Mary Hernandez.

Attorney Scott Rafferty noted that his focus is on the positive role that this Committee has to play in creating competitive elections on behalf of all voters. Mr. Rafferty also noted that he's not asking the Committee to reject the proposal but, instead, in the future plan for a more engaged and balanced representation.

E. The public hearing elicited no comments from the public and was closed at 2:20 p.m.

3. NEXT MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION The

next meeting of the Napa County Committee on School District Organization will be Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nemko, Secretary

Approved _____ Date _____