

Transcript of August 29, 2022 Santa Barbara County Board of Education Special Meeting

[00:00:01]

Judy Frost: I hereby call the special meeting of the Santa Barbara County Board of Education to order and we're going to start with the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Porter.

[00:00:13]

Bruce Porter: One more time. Let's salute our community and we're going to do it again on Thursday. So please join me. I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

[00:00:33]

Judy Frost: Thank you. We are fortunate today again to have Hugo with us as our Spanish interpreter. Let me try this to let me know if I've improved today. [inaudible 00:01:05] You're on.

[00:01:07]

Hugo Santos: Good morning. My name is Hugo Santos. I am here to provide interpretation to Spanish. So anyone of you who wants to listen to this event in Spanish please let me know, and I can provide you with a device for you to be able to meet all of these participation in Spanish.

[00:01:39]

Judy Frost: Roll call.

[00:01:41]

Anna Freedland: Okay. Mrs. Carty?

[00:01:42]

Marybeth Carty: Here.

[00:01:43]

Anna Freedland: Mrs. Daane?

[00:01:44]

Maggi Daane: Here.

[00:01:45]

Anna Freedland: Mrs. de Werd?

[00:01:45]

Michelle de Werd: Here.

[00:01:46]

Anna Freedland: Mrs. Frost?

[00:01:47]

Judy Frost: Here.

[00:01:48]

Anna Freedland: Mr. Howell?

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[00:01:49]

Joe Howell: Here.

[00:01:50]

Anna Freedland: Mr. Porter?

[00:01:50]

Bruce Porter: Present.

[00:01:53]

Judy Frost: I'm not aware of any changes to the agenda. I will mention that I'm not anticipating a break today, so if you want to get up and have water and coffee, feel free. It's a little bit more informal than normal, but I'm not going to officially have a break.

[00:02:07]

Judy Frost: I have no comments today. I was just disappointed that the Artemis didn't get off this morning but better than they wait and get the fuel leak fix.

[00:02:24]

Maggi Daane: The engine fixed.

[00:02:25]

Judy Frost: Yes. Any other comments from the board member for today? If not, you can wait till Thursday, go then. Anna, any public comment today?

[00:02:41]

Anna Freedland: No.

[00:02:41]

Judy Frost: No public. We have Austin with us today. Then we will go to our action item. Have I forgotten anything?

[00:02:52]

Judy Frost: It seems to be....

[00:02:53]

Judy Frost: Deliberate and select finalists for provisional appointment to the board for trustee area number 2. In my mind, kind of went through a strategy for how we would address this. I'd like to just jump right in and since Maggi is the head of the Board Organizational Committee, start with her and go around the room and have each of us just list our first and second, and then we'll see where we are and then figure out how we want to approach it. So Ms. Daane, if you would share with us your conclusions?

[00:03:33]

Maggi Daane: My first was a standout, Nadra Ehrman, and for a number of reasons. I think because, A, she has a lot of knowledge with foster children program. She has a daughter who's in our system, the public school system. I liked her collaborative approach with both heart and mind. That's my approach. I believe she would bring diversity to the board which this board needs.

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[00:04:10]

Maggi Daane: That's my first. My second I struggled with because Dr. Niehaus was one and the other, even though he's young, he's very knowledgeable, he probably wouldn't run when it was time for the renewal because of being in graduate school, but Alex Weiss would be my [inaudible 00:04:35] it was between Dr. Niehaus and Alex Weiss.

[00:04:39]

Susan Salcido: Niles?

[00:04:42]

Maggi Daane: Niles. I'm sorry.

[00:04:43]

Judy Frost: Last one we saw.

[00:04:44]

Maggi Daane: Yeah. I'm sorry. Weiss, I don't know where that came from. I made it up. But those were my deliberations.

[00:04:55]

Judy Frost: Okay, and Marybeth?

[00:04:59]

Marybeth Carty: Almost embarrassingly alike, my standout number 1 candidate was Nadra Ehrman. I too really liked the idea that she was the parent of a high school student, and her demonstrable community engagement focus was really impressive. Her work with at-risk foster youth and families in housing. She has an eye for organizational strategy. She's keen on implementation. I like the fact that she was in this intersection of having had nonprofit experience and business acumen, and then there's some creative arts in there.

[00:05:35]

Marybeth Carty: The fact that she was a Katherine Harvey Fellow really spoke to me because as I mentioned I'm a big advocate of that program. Then the environmental stewardship piece I thought was an important strand to weave in. Then the social entrepreneurship. I thought altogether she was the most well-balanced candidate and I felt her perspective, again, would be really fresh and needed.

[00:06:05]

Marybeth Carty: Dr. Niehaus was my second, although I have to say that I was so impressed with Alex Niles. I think he's on a path to something really great. I was a little deterred by the fact that he is a student and he probably would only stick around for a couple of years, if that. But I was very impressed with his answers. I thought he gave full-throated endorsement of the County Ed, he understood.

[00:06:29]

Marybeth Carty: Then Dr. Niehaus, obviously his strengths are in his background in data analysis and financial impacts. He would be great at getting into the weeds of our very extensive and involved budget. I think his research background is helpful. I wasn't as inclined to place the reverse because I thought Nadra had a different intention. I felt that Dr. Niehaus had a definite heart for kids, but his

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interest was, it was more didactic. Obvious loved history. I thought he was strong candidate. That's my order.

[00:07:19]

Judy Frost: Mr. Howell?

[00:07:22]

Joe Howell: Promise I didn't speak with either of the women. I think they somehow read my notes. I embrace everything that two of them said and many of my comments are the same. I endorse their comments. Of the many things that I have listed, a couple of things that were not said by either Ms. Daane or Ms. Carty. My candidates are, my choices are number 1, Nadra Ehrman. I really appreciated her attitude, energy. She also, I felt, was very self-aware, which is just, to me, a very refreshing attribute in anyone. She got a little emotional, she reigned herself in, "I'm talking too much," because she was very genuine, very self-aware. The perspective, the K12, parent of a K12 student, which has already been stated, is really compelling to me, it is. I could be wrong, but I don't think any of us have K to 12 kids. Maybe grand kids, probably grand kids. I could go on, but she is my strong first candidate.

[00:08:47]

Joe Howell: Alex Niles, I really appreciate the comments. He was very impressive in someone's 22 years old, I think he said, and discussing their, presenting their wealth of experience. He's very serious and it's very, I think he has more experience than most 22-year-olds. I thought he did an excellent job. Bob Niehaus, I think brings a different perspective and different talents. I think I would list Dr. Niehaus as my second choice but you only have two so that's it.

[00:09:44]

Judy Frost: Very good. And Ms. de Werd?

[00:09:44]

Michelle de Werd: De Werd.

[00:09:44]

Judy Frost: De Werd.

[00:09:53]

Michelle de Werd: My first choice is Dr. Niehaus. My reasons for that is I think that he can really come to this board and hit the ground running. I think his experience with policy, budgets and financial reports from working with this public agency, the housing authority, and he served for five years. After five years, I think his last year, he said he was president. It sounds like he's very collaborative and he works with a lot of different agencies.

[00:10:29]

Michelle de Werd: I think he's very knowledgeable and I think he walks the walk in terms of he's volunteered at Franklin School. He's very engaged with the process he doesn't just talk about it. I like the ideas that you were encouraged about, his leveraging of volunteers, with Partners in Education, it sounds like that would be a great fit.

[00:10:53]

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Michelle de Werd: I think he really did his homework. I think he really, in the questions that we had about our role as an appellate board, I know that there were two items that, on the application, about reviewing this video and also our website. It went into detail about how we are an appellate body for inter-district transfers, charter schools, and expulsions.

[00:11:17]

Michelle de Werd: I think he, I liked his answer about democracy and common objectives and keeping an open mind. Also, I love the fact that he said he will rely on staff and superintendent for all the information and then come to a decision. But it's all, you have to rely on the facts. I thought the detail of the answer was very specific and I thought he did his homework and he was prepared for his interview. That's probably... The housing authority, I think, it was a biggie for me. That's all it has to do with the low-income housing.

[00:11:56]

Michelle de Werd: My second choice, and it was a really hard choice. I feel that a Tyree Byrd didn't get really, because he was our first. That has always happened in other searches. Always the first doesn't just look at the whole body of the whole process because we're new or we're all nervous about the interview process.

[00:12:18]

Michelle de Werd: I went back to my notes because I said I'm going to look at him again because I wrote down, and this is the way I operate, I write a lot, everything, that all the words, I try to get them all down. I think he really studied the role of our office. He really was specific. He's a fourth-year student and I think he'll bring a unique perspective to the board because his mom was a high school teacher.

[00:12:42]

Michelle de Werd: He had a younger brother with a learning disability. His family went through the special ed process, and he also realized that his family was the major support system. I think it sounded like the public school didn't serve his brother. Also, he emphasized the democratic process and working together and understanding the concerns, balancing it with the concerns of the voters as well as elected officials. I think he had a clear understanding of our role as an appellate body.

[00:13:15]

Michelle de Werd: He said he supports local school boards and their autonomy - I thought that was a great answer - and their decisions to review the facts ensure all parties and rights are respected. His answers were brief, but I thought, from my notes, I forgot that he said all those things until I went back last night and I was looking at them and I said, wow. So he rose to the top for me after a lot of consideration. Thank you.

[00:13:42]

Judy Frost: Mr. Porter?

[00:13:43]

Bruce Porter: As we get further around the table there's fewer talking points. My first choice is actually Alex Niles. Very well-spoken. I think he seemed to do more homework than anybody else as he prepared for this. He knew a lot of the details that an ordinary observer wouldn't necessarily know. He's very accomplished for a 22-year-old. Talk about giving a different face of diversity to this board. I have the gray-ist hair, but I'm joined by some others.

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[00:14:24]

Bruce Porter: He brings, I don't know if he's Gen Z or I forgot what all the generations are called. He's not my generation, but I think he's a recent product of the public school system. He obviously has some very important memories and experiences that I think would inform this board. I actually liked that he would not probably not be around for next time. Because the bad thing about appointments is you give somebody a leg up when the next vote goes to the people.

[00:14:58]

Bruce Porter: This would be a chance to select somebody and probably the people would have a fresh choice on who they were going to select after that. That's not an attribute of Alex, but it is of a circumstance and I kind of like that. And Isla Vista is a very underrepresented community at all levels of government. What few representatives they have tend to be extremists. For example, the Santa Barbara Community College Board. But I don't take Alex as being that way. He didn't appear to be extreme in any way.

[00:15:38]

Bruce Porter: For many of the same reasons I like Tyree. A lot of the same attributes. A little quieter and more soft-spoken. But I don't take that as a negative at all. Clearly succinct in his answers and I like that among a seven-member board. Then if I could have, I'm going to have three. Bob Nieuhaus, also, I thought, for all the reasons that everybody else talked about. I think he was he was a good number 2. But the bottom line is I would be proud to serve with any of the five. There are no bad choices. That's the good news.

[00:16:22]

Judy Frost: Very nice. It was hard to go through them and figure out who I would want on the board to represent me if I was voting. I gave my first choice to Nadra, for all the things that were already said about her. I liked your comment, Bruce, about in two years the voters will decide because they'll have to run again. That's true of any of them so I like that, that is there in two years. To have the person run again and be endorsed by the voters or not.

[00:17:09]

Judy Frost: Second choice/ second and a half choice, I had a real difficult time between Alex and Bob. I really did. I'm going to share with you now why I had such a problem there. I think this is time maybe we can ask Dr. Salcido for some more information.

[00:17:34]

Judy Frost: When Bob was talking, he talked about the fact that he had lived downtown in Santa Barbara and it moved to Hope Ranch. Well, in two years, Hope Ranch will be in the same district as Mr. Howell so he would not be able to run for re-election in Area 2. While we don't know what the voters will decide in two years, in Area 2, no matter who we put in, that would guarantee that in two years that seat's going to change again.

[00:18:13]

Judy Frost: I got thinking about that, and that would mean that for Tyree and Alex, presumptive on my part, that the voters would endorse either one of them in two years when they run again. They would be committing to stay here for six years or we would have another vacancy on the board. At their age, and with Alex, especially, with his potential, wow. I don't know if...I think in five years, in four years he could

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be bigger than what we, not "we" the county board, but "we" Santa Barbara. He could be beyond that, which I think would be great, would be really wonderful.

[00:19:00]

Judy Frost: I had a real difficult time with that. Since I have made that comment about Bob and that hadn't come up, I was wondering, I think Dr. Salcido actually did check on each of our candidates' viability in two years. Would you want her to share that with us now that I've said what I said about Dr. Niehaus? I've made the playing field not very level and I don't know if you want to get the low down on the rest of them or not.

[00:19:37]

Marybeth Carty: I'm interested.

[00:19:37]

Maggi Daane: I am too.

[00:19:39]

Susan Salcido: Great. When we were checking for qualifications for the trustee area, right now, we were also looking at 2022 and recognized that there were two individuals - at the time there were seven applicants - so, two individuals were qualified for this term and a provisional appointment, but not for 2022. Bob Niehaus is one, and then one of the two city college employees was also in that same boat.

[00:20:18]

Judy Frost: And that...they both dropped out.

[00:20:22]

Susan Salcido: Right.

[00:20:22]

Judy Frost: Of the ones we have up there, Dr. Niehaus is the only one that would definitely...we wouldn't have anybody running as a re-election candidate in two years.

[00:20:36]

Maggi Daane: Dr. Salcido, excuse me. Is he aware of that?

[00:20:41]

Susan Salcido: We did not communicate that with him. The board was saying, made comments in a previous meeting, that really it shouldn't be a factor here, so I didn't want to make it a factor for him, but we would, if we have a future conversation.

[00:20:58]

Judy Frost: I would have thought about it for the students because of the six years, just because we know they're students and they're graduating and what comes next. But I wouldn't have thought about it for the other ones except he volunteered that bit of information and that's, for me, blew the cover on the rest of them and I was, thought, to level the playing field then I would like to know. Anyhow, I ended up with Nadra and Alex.

[00:21:35]

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Joe Howell: If I can speak. I'm not the elephant in the room but I'm the trustee from Area 2 and therefore effected. I would consider it a non-issue, personally, and I'm more personally affected. I know when we were doing the redistricting, I think we had a really good conversation here. Dr McDougall was on the board. I was very aware the two of us, we've got the same trustee area. Had no idea that he was resigned and I certainly don't know what's going to happen in 2024, but it seemed to me, I really appreciated the fact that we had an open discussion. One of the things that I hadn't thought about was somebody's point that if we move my trustee area 2 a bit to the east, every one of the trustee areas would cover a high school that seemed to make sense. I guess I'm saying, I don't think it's a consideration. I think we have a diversity of opinion. Maybe we have a consensus. But it's not a consideration.

[00:22:58]

Bruce Porter: Thank you for that, Joe.

[00:23:04]

Michelle de Werd: I have a comment.

[00:23:05]

Judy Frost: Please do.

[00:23:07]

Michelle de Werd: I think that we are talking about appointing a position for the now and it's going to be for the next two years. Anything can happen in two years. We could move, we could have a divorce, it could be a new job. I think the fact that even came up...I didn't know any of this. This is a surprise. And I'm kind of disappointed that this is even part of our discussion. We're not planning for the future, we're planning for the now and the next two years. I think it's pretty unfair, personally, that we are going to eliminate someone because, a student. We can't see the future. We all might not get elected. I might not get re-elected in 2022. I might not be here. So why would we disqualify someone from being here for the next two years? I'm not happy about that, but this is even part of...

[00:24:11]

Judy Frost: I'm not talking about disqualifying him.

[00:24:14]

Michelle de Werd: Well, you're not disqualifying, but you are basically saying you didn't choose a person because this person might be an incumbent and run against... I didn't even think about that. And so I was like, wow, this is all just coming to the surface. And maybe he hasn't even thought about it. And all those districts were put up on the website and it was very public, so he could go look. I never bothered. I don't know where he lives, I don't even know him. But I just think that it's unfortunate, that shouldn't even be a factor.

[00:24:47]

Judy Frost: It wouldn't have had he not said it. I didn't go looking for it.

[00:24:51]

Michelle de Werd: I know, but it shouldn't even matter.

[00:24:56]

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Judy Frost: I'm disappointed, Mrs. De Werd, that you're not honoring or respecting my feelings, my thoughts, my outcomes on this for whatever reason. I didn't say that was the primary reason. I didn't say it was the only reason. I didn't say I disqualified him. I still listed him as one of the top three that I really liked. But personally for me, that did weigh into the decision. I respect that for you it would not, and I would hope that you would respect that for me maybe it did.

[00:25:37]

Joe Howell: I think the term disqualified is really unfortunate. That was never stated. I don't want you to attribute that. Well, everyone can speak for themselves, but...I appreciate everybody being open. I learned a lot and had some surprises from what each of you said in terms of attributes of certain candidates that really made me reconsider, but... From my perspective, everyone was very open in sharing their comments, and no one said, well, of course I didn't consider x, y, or z. That just wasn't stated.

[00:26:27]

Michelle de Werd: I apologize if I used disqualified, but I just think that it may be a softer word would be influenced your decision.

[00:26:35]

Judy Frost: I'm sorry that you don't respect my judgment.

[00:26:38]

Michelle de Werd: I didn't say that I didn't respect your judgment.

[00:26:40]

Judy Frost: Well, you're discounting it, and we're both disappointed, and we'll go on from here. As I said, I respect your opinion and I don't discount it. It's a very valid point and it's one that we actually had as the board before this ever came up. We said we didn't want to know. I appreciate that and I respect that as an opinion of the board previously. From there on, the thing was for each one of us to pick our candidates and we have. Where would you like to ask anymore questions of each other about their choices or their thoughts about the candidates?

[00:27:28]

Marybeth Carty: I'd just like to underscore that in our own individual judgment, I didn't hear anyone say, I would've chosen this person had they been eligible to run in '24. I didn't hear that, and I don't think it was here. I think when it was a qualifying piece of the puzzle, it might have been factored in, but I don't think it influenced anybody. I think characterizing that as being a game changer might not be entirely fair. Also, we're reading the same applications, and we are listening to and observing, actively listening and observing our interviewees. Then we're coming to different conclusions and that's what we're here to discuss. I would just like to make sure that it is a collegial discussion and we may disagree. It sounds like we have some disagreement. But I know that we have what it takes to move through it. We are so blessed that we had incredibly qualified candidates. I was thrilled. Because I was afraid that a provisional appointment might turn people off. Do I go through all this trouble? There's a chance I might not only do it for two years. These candidates were undeterred and further they were qualified. Now, why I might disagree with you about Tyree, I think it was the opposite of Bob that you said would hit the ground running. I think Tyree wouldn't, because I think that there was a lot more preparation that might need to happen. But the intent was clear, the will, the desire, and the spirit of volunteering for this position was clearly there. Again, pleased with every candidate. Agree with you, Mr. Porter, that any one

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of them would be an honor to serve with. But I'm really interested in the next part of this discussion, how we weigh our options from here.

[00:29:22]

Judy Frost: Any other comments?

[00:29:24]

Michelle de Werd: I just want to add one thing. I think I can disagree, but I don't think it's disrespecting you if you disagree. I just wanted to say that. It was not personal. But it was but a factor and I just wanted to express that and I'm sorry if it came out that I was disrespecting you because I think I was disagreeing with your opinion and not you.

[00:29:45]

Judy Frost: I took it that you were disagreeing with my opinion.

[00:29:49]

Michelle de Werd: But that's what we can do. That's what we're here for.

[00:29:52]

Judy Frost: Absolutely.

[00:29:52]

Judy Frost: That's what we want to share with each other so that we can look at this from many angles, many different directions, and then make the right choice for the board.

[00:30:09]

Joe Howell: One bright spot for those who ran in 2020. I challenged anyone to be able to figure out the precise boundaries of their trustee area when three neighbors across the street said, "I have your sign, but you're not on my ballot, what's wrong?" They literally live across the street from me. I tried hard to figure it out and I clearly couldn't. The good news is, each of us and everyone who runs, now with Google technology and the work that the redistricting commission and everybody else did, we will know. That is a "Pollyanna-ish" approach, but it really is helpful both for these candidates. The one thing I'll say that was a big surprise to me is this person runs in old Area 6 versus...so, we all get that. I'm prepared to make a motion. I don't want to cut off discussion.

[00:31:23]

Judy Frost: We can still discuss.

[00:31:25]

Judy Frost: I would move that we appoint Nadra Ehrman as the successor trustee or the trustee for Trustee Area 2. I'm 6, she's 2.

[00:31:43]

Maggi Daane: I would second that motion.

[00:31:45]

Austin Payne: I think we just modify it into a straw poll because of the way we're agendaized for today is just deliberating and the provisional appointment will be made on Thursday.

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[00:31:56]

Joe Howell: Understood. Just consider my motion is so tweaked.

[00:32:03]

Judy Frost: Further discussion?

[00:32:07]

Bruce Porter: Yeah, I just want to put another plug in for Alex Niles. I think rarely will this board ever get a chance to have this kind of individual coming from that community with that much insight and willing to put so much work into this. I think he'd be able to give us insights that nobody else except for maybe Tyree would be able to give us on what's going on in that part of our county, and I just think we may never have this opportunity again with that quality of individual.

[00:32:45]

Judy Frost: It's true.

[00:32:47]

Maggi Daane: Well, he certainly was in everybody's radar, in the deliberation process, there's no question.

[00:33:03]

Joe Howell: So, Austin, on a straw poll, tentatively we are checking the presumed votes for Thursday?

[00:33:19]

Austin Payne: Yeah. In reading it, it says the provisional appointment will be made at the regular board meeting. I don't know how we've got it drafted right now, but it seems to me that the actual vote on the appointment would be for Thursday.

[00:33:35]

Anna Freedland: Could this be a vote on the selected finalist?

[00:33:38]

Judy Frost: Yeah, because it says and we'll select the finalists for the provisional appointment by the board. The appointment will be made, but to me, the motion does say that we'll select them today.

[00:33:55]

Austin Payne: Yeah.

[00:33:56]

Joe Howell: How about I nominate Nadra Ehrman as our finalist to be voted upon in our next meeting on September 1st?

[00:34:07]

Maggi Daane: I'm sorry, Joe. How does that impact us notifying the finalist?

[00:34:14]

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Susan Salcido: What we outlined in our calendar, the board's calendar, was to determine, after the deliberation today, the individual whom the board would select so that I can connect with her and invite them to the meeting on Thursday. That was the purpose of having this meeting ahead of that meeting on Thursday. Rather than inviting all five, for example, on Thursday and then making the vote determination there.

[00:34:45]

Susan Salcido: It would be appropriate to have the finalists selected today so that we could then connect with them and invite them to Thursday's board meeting.

[00:34:57]

Michelle de Werd: The action item says "select finalist" or it has "s" in parentheses.

[00:35:02]

Susan Salcido: Correct. If the first person that is your finalist says, after thinking about it I realize that I'm moving, I can't make it, then it may be that the board would like to have a second person, a second choice, so that we could contact them in the event that the first person declines.

[00:35:25]

Maggi Daane: So would the motion then include the plural?

[00:35:30]

Susan Salcido: That's really up to the board I think, but really I think starting with the first and then moving on to the second, really make sense.

[00:35:36]

Marybeth Carty: So we need a second motion for a second finalist? Both would be present?

[00:35:41]

Susan Salcido: Mrs. Frost asked all the five to be available. If the first person accepts, then I think that would be it.

[00:35:58]

Joe Howell: The whole process both Friday and today is public. I think we've done a good job. But I'll certainly say in an interview context, I've never done anything like this. Often, there's a more robust discussion about candidates. I respect everybody's opinion, but speaking for myself, it's kind of odd.

[00:36:25]

Joe Howell: That said, I think we come up with a finalist today. We don't come up with a number 2 because I think that raises all sorts of additional issues that are frankly not necessary. I think we have a finalist. We vote here. That person, as we told each candidate, Dr. Salcido said at the conclusion, you'll be notified. All of them want to hear today something. I suggest that she inform them who our selected finalist is.

[00:37:04]

Joe Howell: We plan to vote on Friday. Anything can happen, if it does, we have to deal with it, but I'm inclined not to spend the time coming up with a number 2 because I think, hopefully, it will be unnecessary and it's a different dynamic.

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[00:37:30]

Maggi Daane: Mr. Howell, I understand what you're saying, but I also feel that we've been a prepared board anticipating maybe 20 candidates and how would we do the interview process. I think we need to anticipate. I believe that our number 1, one that you brought forward, will probably accept. But in the interest of being prepared for an unforeseen event in her life, that we should have our number 2.

[00:38:05]

Joe Howell: We don't have time to schedule a special meeting between now and Thursday, do we?

[00:38:14]

Austin Payne: Yeah.

[00:38:14]

Joe Howell: To me, that's the answer. I totally respect what you're saying, but if you make the contact today...

[00:38:25]

Susan Salcido: I will. Yeah.

[00:38:26]

Joe Howell: If we do that, then we have a backup. We don't want to go in Thursday...This is different.

[00:38:34]

Bruce Porter: The small risk is if she backs out on Tuesday or Wednesday, then there's not enough time, unless she does it early Tuesday.

[00:38:43]

Susan Salcido: I'll find out today.

[00:38:48]

Bruce Porter: Please no more people.

[00:38:50]

Maggi Daane: Well that was the intent initially, was to notify them today.

[00:38:54]

Susan Salcido: Yeah.

[00:38:55]

Austin Payne: Well, we technically have until the fourth or the fifth. I'm trying to remember the exact day.

[00:38:58]

Anna Freedland: Labor Day weekend. I think it's a Monday. Labor Day holiday, that's the day.

[00:39:02]

Joe Howell: That's a really good point.

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[00:39:04]

Anna Freedland: So we really have to appoint by Friday.

[00:39:08]

Joe Howell: We have lots of options. Special meeting could be...

[00:39:15]

Austin Payne: ...on the fourth or fifth. If we needed to not make the appointment on Thursday, it could be made on Labor Day or something like that.

[00:39:25]

Marybeth Carty: If, in fact, this devolves and we are forced to choose a second, could we call a special meeting after the board meeting on Thursday? Could that be the time that we huddle?

[00:39:38]

Austin Payne: Mm-hmm. That's, that'd be another option.

[00:39:40]

Marybeth Carty: Okay. And then further with respect to Thursday's meeting, if everything were to go as planned, if this motion carries, would there be anything that would prevent us from a unanimous vote on Thursday? Just wondering if we need any further discussion on reservations. I think to present a united front would be an important component of this process.

[00:40:10]

Marybeth Carty: I know it would be more comfortable for the candidate and the public to know that we are united in our decision. I'm just querying, do we need any further discussion on any reservations as expressed, either Mrs. de Werd or Mr. Porter, In anticipation of Thursday?

[00:40:29]

Bruce Porter: I'm not sure what you're asking.

[00:40:30]

Marybeth Carty: I'm asking do we need any further discussion about this candidate in the interest of hopefully, possibly having a unanimous vote on Thursday?

[00:40:43]

Bruce Porter: What would be the goodness of a unanimous vote versus one from our hearts?

[00:40:49]

Marybeth Carty: Well, I guess that would be the point. If there is something else that needs to be said...Is there anything else we could vet today while we're here rather than Thursday? Have a vote that is reflective if not the full support of the board for this appointment. And it's just a question, process question, I guess.

[00:41:13]

Maggi Daane: No, I think it's a valid question, Mrs. Carty. I think it would certainly put the selected candidate at ease that we are a united front and we welcome that person collectively. However, from

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the heart, I understand that perception as well. I would hope we would have that discussion here rather than Thursday.

[00:41:55]

Michelle de Werd: I have reservations and I don't want say anything negative about anybody and so I want to stay on the positive side and why I prefer my candidate. And something that came up earlier about Dr. Niehaus and his moving. I don't know geography of Santa Barbara, I'm sorry. I have never lived there. I don't know Hope Ranch. I don't know Santa Barbara. I don't know the difference. To me it's all Santa Barbara. I feel like it's unfair. My gut is that it is unfair.

[00:42:40]

Joe Howell: What is unfair?

[00:42:41]

Michelle de Werd: What is unfair is that we should look at a candidate in the now and not think about whether a student might not be here in two years or that a candidate is going to be out of his district. That's why I like Dr. Niehaus. Is that he can hit the ground running, he's very qualified, he knows budgets, he's retired so he also has the time to dedicate to this, and he came prepared. He knew, he reviewed the questions, he answered the questions directly.

[00:43:15]

Michelle de Werd: I'm sorry, I made the mistake of interrupting him because I didn't eat any food that morning and I lost my train of thought. But I just feel like the process was unfairly blurred by bringing up where a candidate lives, I guess. I'm sorry, that's just the way I feel.

[00:43:41]

Judy Frost: I guess what I'm having an issue with is that here you bring that up again. Everyone had already voiced their first and second before I even said that. Clearly, it was something that I caught that no one else either caught or cared about, so it didn't influence anything except it was a factor in my decision, but I'm only one. I disagree with the concept that it's unfair that that is being brought up now because I don't see, based on what's occurred here, that it's an issue.

[00:44:35]

Maggi Daane: I would just like to inject that this is a collaborative effort. It's been indicated that we have a candidate that is favored by four of this six board group and to negate the democratic process that we've gone through by clinging to a candidate that clearly is probably not going to be considered at this point for no other reason than the fact that he was not number 1, he was your number 1, but he was not number 1 collaboratively.

[00:45:17]

Michelle de Werd: He's a Top 2.

[00:45:20]

Maggi Daane: Agreed. But we're looking at one.

[00:45:23]

Judy Frost: Are we ready for a vote? A straw vote? A preliminary vote, a vote?

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[00:45:35]

Austin Payne: You can select the finalist.

[00:45:36]

Judy Frost: Okay.

[00:45:38]

Austin Payne: I'm being overly technical probably.

[00:45:40]

Judy Frost: All those in favor of selecting as a finalist, Nadra Ehrman for the provisional appointment to the board of trustees for Area 2 please signify by saying aye.

[00:45:58]

FEMALE_1: Aye.

[00:45:59]

Judy Frost: Opposed?

[00:46:00]

Bruce Porter: Nay.

[00:46:02]

Michelle de Werd: Abstain.

[00:46:09]

Joe Howell: Dr. Salcido, you'll, I'm sure, communicate things after?

[00:46:14]

Susan Salcido: Absolutely, I'll let you know immediately.

[00:46:21]

Judy Frost: We had a very deep discussion about having a second, just in case. The way I heard it come down, and we can do a vote to make sure that I got it right, was that we would rather let Dr. Salcido talk to Nadra this afternoon, and if for some reason she doesn't accept, Dr. Salcido will let us know and after the board meeting on Thursday, we will have a special board meeting to decide on a second. Is that a fair representation of where we're going with that?

[00:47:06]

Marybeth Carty: As long as Austin says, that works.

[00:47:08]

Austin Payne: Yes, that works.

[00:47:10]

Judy Frost: Okay.

[00:47:10]

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Marybeth Carty: That's in compliance and we can make...?

[00:47:18]

Joe Howell: Quick comment. I really worried about this process. Again because it's public, the interviews are public. Mr. Porter had a very eloquent sentence to say to some other candidate who maybe was in the room, you can stay, but you don't want to stay but you said it very...But that didn't happen. I also wondered about the vote and the straw. I was really concerned that it could be messy. I applaud Dr. Salcido, the president, and counsel. It worked very well and I think everyone was respected as a candidate. The Zoom. I said to somebody that Ms. Osgood and Mr. Byrd were the Marybeth and Joe of the prior meeting, you remember when we got [inaudible 00:48:18] we were frozen, we couldn't talk. That's the reality of Zoom. But I think, I applaud everybody, I think the process worked, and I was worried.

[00:48:29]

Marybeth Carty: It was not without its glitches, so thank you. Thank you, Anna, for staying abreast of all this and always delivering communication so clearly, Anna. Thanks for handling all this with finesse. It's really important to me that we always, always, beyond congeniality and collegiality, are trusted messengers for our entire county, and that we conduct ourselves with the utmost integrity and I think that we've accomplished that.

[00:49:03]

Joe Howell: We've got Matt in the corner who [inaudible 00:49:08]

[00:49:08]

Judy Frost: Made Friday happen for two of our candidates. Okay.

[00:49:12]

Susan Salcido: May I ask a clarifying question? Mrs. Frost, you had mentioned a potential special board meeting, if and only if, after the board meeting. When you say that, are you saying after the board meeting on Thursday?

[00:49:27]

Judy Frost: Yes.

[00:49:27]

Susan Salcido: A special board meeting on Thursday?

[00:49:29]

Judy Frost: Yes.

[00:49:30]

Susan Salcido: Making sure. Okay. Thank you.

[00:49:33]

Judy Frost: If needed.

[00:49:33]

Susan Salcido: Correct.

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[00:49:34]

Judy Frost: Which we hopefully will know tomorrow, at the latest.

[00:49:38]

Maggi Daane: Today.

[00:49:38]

Susan Salcido: Yes.

[00:49:39]

Judy Frost: If not today. I want to thank you all for going through this interesting journey together, and I appreciate everybody's comments. I truly do. I think it's very important that we as a board feel comfortable voicing our opinions and talking to each other as individuals and on a personal level rather than be stilted or not comfortable doing that. I think it's just really important that we can say what we're thinking and what's on our mind. Keep things in the open and be transparent about them instead of waiting until another time to voice our opinion or strike out or whatever. I appreciate that. Thank you all very much.

[00:50:34]

Maggi Daane: We will swear in our finalists on Thursday?

[00:50:39]

Susan Salcido: Correct.

[00:50:40]

Maggi Daane: Yes. Another question?

[00:50:41]

Michelle de Werd: And on our agenda.

[00:50:42]

Susan Salcido: Yes.

[00:50:43]

Michelle de Werd: So that's going to go out today and it'll have the straw poll. I thought the whole point of not having, receiving the agenda was because we were going to select somebody today, so we could send out for everybody because there certainly [inaudible 00:50:58]

[00:50:58]

Judy Frost: With their name in it.

[00:51:00]

Austin Payne: We're going to put their name [inaudible 00:51:01]

[00:51:01]

Michelle de Werd: So that's...

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[00:51:03]

Susan Salcido: It will have her name in it, for the board to appoint her on Thursday and then administer the oath.

[00:51:11]

Michelle de Werd: Okay.

[00:51:11]

Susan Salcido: Yes, so it will.

[00:51:13]

Maggi Daane: I have a [inaudible 00:51:13]

[00:51:14]

Susan Salcido: It'll be in the agenda. Correct.

[00:51:16]

Bruce Porter: So who will swear her in assuming she's the one? So not the President?

[00:51:23]

Maggi Daane: No, the superintendent. Dr. Salcido, I know that we've been very cognizant of posting the agenda, and if we do have special board meeting, do we need to do a posting in the event that that may happen?

[00:51:40]

Susan Salcido: Yes. It will be be a 24 hour. It'll need to be posted 24 hours ahead of that special meeting.

[00:51:47]

Maggi Daane: Okay. Great. Thank you. What a learning process.

[00:51:51]

Susan Salcido: It really has been.

[00:51:53]

Judy Frost: With the continuity that we have had on this board, it hasn't gone through this process with any of us before and it may not again, so we need good notes for the next people that need to make a provisional appointment so that we help smooth the path for them. I'm looking for a motion to adjourn or do we still have more than we would like to say?

[00:52:24]

Maggi Daane: Move.

[00:52:25]

Marybeth Carty: Second.

[00:52:27]

Judy Frost: All those in favor?

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[00:52:29]

Joe Howell: Aye.

[00:52:29]

Michelle de Werd: Aye.

[00:52:30]

Judy Frost: Opposed? Okay.

[00:52:31]

Maggi Daane: I'll see you all on Thursday.