

County Committee on School District Organization

Minutes of Special Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2021 -- Zoom – 2 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Education Office
4400 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Janet Zilli.

2. **Welcome**

Janet Zilli welcomed everyone and thanked the County Committee members for joining via zoom.

3. **Roll Call**

Members Present

Jan Clevenger

Linda Cordero

Judith Dale

Nancy Harter

Terry Banks (arrived at 2:10 p.m.)

Steve Minjarez

Margaret Ontiveros (Note: Administered Oath of Office at this meeting)

Robin Sawaske

Steve Straight

Janet Zilli

Members Absent

Bob Hatch

Others Present

Denice Cora, Secretary to County Committee

Amada Dulay, Senior Administrative Assistant

Anna Freedland, Executive Assistant to the County Superintendent

Austin Payne, Legal Counsel

Bill Ridgeway, Assistant Superintendent

Justin Rich, Executive Director Cooperative Strategies

Dr. Susan Salcido, County Superintendent -- Santa Barbara County Education Office

Ryan Zick, member of the Public

4. **Public Comments** - None

5. **Oath of Office**

Dr. Susan Salcido administered the Oath of Office to Margaret Ontiveros (Fifth Supervisorial District). Susan congratulated and thanked Margaret for her service on this important committee.

6. **Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2021**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 13, 2021.

MOVED: Steve Straight SECONDED: Linda Cordero

AYES: Clevenger, Dale, Harter, Minjarez, Ontiveros, Sawaske, Zilli

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

The minutes of the meeting on September 13, 2021, were approved.

7. **SBCEO Trustee Area Redistricting – Information**

Justin Rich presented the assessment of the population balance for the Santa Barbara County Board of Education seats. He reviewed the new demographic information from the 2020 Census to provide an overview for future creation of modified trustee area maps with recommendations for the next steps for the County Committee.

Demographic Information (See presentation from Cooperative Strategies)

Justin shared some observations from the recently released census data from the Department of Finance of the State of California. In Santa Barbara County, the area that is served by the County Board of Education grew by about 5.4%. Another high level and important insight is the fact that the share of the Hispanic/Latino population increased by nearly 5%. Based on this analysis, the trustee areas are not in balance and are outside of the threshold of 10% difference between the smallest and the largest areas. The new census data indicates that SBCEO is outside of that range at 12%.

Some areas grew more than others. For instance, Trustee Areas One and Six just barely grew. There was positive growth in each of the areas. It also shows that the largest area is Trustee Area Five. The smallest area in terms of total population is Trustee Area One. When thinking of the various considerations that go into drawing the trustee area boundaries, Justin categorized these in the following ways.

- items that we must do to comply with the law:

- make sure that the areas are roughly equal in population.
 - must comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act. Section two of the act states that the voting area should not be drawn in a way that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect the candidate of their choice. A protected class in this context means racial and language minority groups that are defined by the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- items that should be done:
 - keep communities together and provide for good representation
 - keep areas as compact and contiguous as much as possible
 - follow manmade and natural geographic features if possible (i.e., highways, mountains, rivers, railways, etc.)
 - respect incumbency to the extent possible

Justin concluded the presentation by stating that the next step will be drawing maps with adjustments to boundaries to balance the trustee areas. He shared that the County Committee's job, along with feedback from the community and with guidance from our legal advisors to ensure compliance with the law, is to approve new adjusted trustee area boundaries. Maps will be prepared to share with the County Committee for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

8. **Discussion regarding dates/timing for upcoming meetings**

As was discussed at our previous meeting regarding AB 361, a discussion ensued regarding the need to pass a resolution to continue conducting remote meetings due to the health-related pandemic. The County Committee decided to continue to meet remotely and scheduled a meeting to pass a resolution to support remote meetings. This meeting was scheduled for November 15 at 2 p.m.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denice Cora

Secretary to the County Committee on School District Organization