

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

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting
Santa Ana Board of Education

Monday, October 25, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Board members present were Ms. Torres, and Dr. Alvarez. Mrs. Amezcua was absent.

Mr. Palacio joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Executive Cabinet members present were Superintendent Almendarez and Dr. Perez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

3.1 California Voting Rights Act

Dr. Rodriguez opened up the meeting to conduct a public hearing for the California Voting Rights Act. He welcomed everyone to the third public hearing and informed the public that the next public hearing is scheduled for November 8, 2021, at Century High School and the schedule of future hearings is posted on the District's website. He stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to provide the community with information regarding the CVRA and to receive public input from the public on the criteria that should be used to draw the boundaries for the five trustee areas that will be drawn. He added that after the public hearings on the criteria for the maps is completed, the District's demographer will provide the Board with several maps reflecting the public input that the Board has received. The Board will then hold public hearings to receive public input on the proposed maps. At a subsequent meeting, the Board will then make a decision on which map to adopt. Dr. Rodriguez mentioned a few major points. The CVRA is a state law, which prohibits at-large voting systems that impair the ability of racial or ethnic minorities to elect the candidate of their choice. The CVRA favors district-based election systems in which candidates must reside in a trustee area and only the voters residing in that trustee area vote for those candidates. This means that beginning in 2022, voters in those trustee areas up for election in 2022 will vote for one candidate in their trustee area and the remaining trustees will hold an election in 2024. The change in the election system will not affect school attendance boundaries. Dr. Rodriguez invited Angela Banuelos, Senior Associate Director, Cooperative Strategies, to provide the public with additional information followed by public input and table talk discussions.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Rodriguez asked Ms. Quiroz if there were any public presentations.

Public speakers addressed District elections.

After hearing public comments, Dr. Rodriguez declared the public hearing closed.

DISCUSSION

5.1 California Voting Rights Act and the Criteria for Drafting Trustee Area Boundaries

Board President Rodriguez invited meeting participants to get into small groups to engage in table talk discussions about the criteria that should be used to draw the boundaries for the five trustee areas. After table talk discussions, Dr. Rodriguez invited the groups to report back on their discussions. Groups provided input and asked questions. Legal Counsel Mr. Wenkart and Demographer Angela Banuelos answered questions.

BOARD REPORTS

Board members provided their individual input.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, motioned by Ms. Torres, seconded by Dr. Alvarez, Board President adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office.

ATTEST:  _____
Superintendent