

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

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting
Santa Ana Board of Education

Monday, November 8, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Board members present were Ms. Torres, Mrs. Amezcua, and Mr. Palacio.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Century High School student Francis Tam, 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 fourth public hearing and informed the public that there would be an additional public hearing on Monday, December 6, 2021, at Segerstrom High School. The schedule of the public hearings is posted on the District's website. Dr. Rodriguez stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to provide the community information regarding the CVRA and to receive public input from the public on the composition of the proposed maps for the five trustee areas that will be created. 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. Angela Banuelos provided a brief presentation on the CVRA Process and scenario maps.

Dr. Alvarez joined the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Rodriguez asked if there were any public presentations.

Public speakers addressed District elections by-trustee areas.

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

DISCUSSION

5.1 California Voting Rights Act, Criteria for Drafting Trustee Area Boundaries, and Review of the Proposed Maps

Board President Rodriguez invited meeting participants to get into small groups to engage in table talk discussions about the criteria for drafting trustee area boundaries and review of the proposed maps. After table talk discussions, Dr. Rodriguez invited the groups to report back on their discussions. Groups provided input and asked questions and Demographer Angela Banuelos answered questions.

BOARD REPORTS

Board members asked questions and provided individual input.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Board President Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office.

The next public hearing will be held on Monday, December 6, 2021, at Segerstrom High School.

ATTEST:


Superintendent