

May 4, 2022, Orange County Board of Education Meeting

BARKE: Welcome everyone. Start with the roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: I am here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Gomez?

GOMEZ: Present.

WILLIAMS: I move for the Agenda for today, Madam President.

SPARKS: Second.

BARKE: All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE: Aye.

WILLIAMS: I make a motion for the Minutes.

BARKE: I didn't hear from Beckie.

WILLIAMS: Oh.

GOMEZ: I will approve the Agenda, but I would just like to pull item nine when we get there.

BARKE: Okay.

GOMEZ: Otherwise, I'm fine with the Agenda.

WILLIAMS: I'll accept that.

BARKE: Okay. And you were saying, Dr. Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes, I would like to make a motion for the Minutes, April 6th.

SPARKS: And I'll second that.

BARKE: All right. All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE: Aye.

BARKE: Beckie?

GOMEZ: Just double checking, making sure.

BOYD: Mari, were you second on that one?

BARKE: Oh, Lisa was.

BOYD: Lisa. Thank you.

GOMEZ: I would just like to request, when we do the Minutes, when we have any invoices that we indicate the amounts of the invoices. Looking at item number 14, I would just ask that that be amended.

WILLIAMS: Item number 14 on today's Agenda?

GOMEZ: No, on the Minutes.

BARKE: On the Minutes.

GOMEZ: Page 8, number 14.

WILLIAMS: What page is that on?

GOMEZ: Page 8.

BARKE: Page 8, number 14.

SISAVATH: I think that is the A-G. Oh, the notation on the report out?

GOMEZ: Yes.

WILLIAMS: What number is that?

BOYD: It is the report out.

GOMEZ: Yeah. It is below 14. It is actually the report out, my error.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

GOMEZ: The report out got stuck in an odd place just because we did things out of order last time. Not a big deal.

WILLIAMS: Repeat what you want to do.

GOMEZ: I was saying during the report out, when we have invoices, we should indicate the amounts of the invoices for transparency.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Rolan, your legal thoughts and counsel on that for the Board.

ROLAN: Trying to figure out the light. I'm not familiar with the requirement that the report out needed to include the invoice amount. I haven't looked into that. I didn't anticipate the issue, but I'm not, off the top of my head, familiar with such a requirement.

WILLIAMS: How are we doing that now? That comes out of the redacted invoices that we vote on in closed sessions. Is that correct?

ROLAN: Correct.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

GOMEZ: Well, if you look at page 7, we have the invoices and the amounts. But then when we get to the report out, we don't have the dollar amounts.

ROLAN: Right. That is why I'm not sure that we have to verbalize the dollar amounts.

GOMEZ: I'm not saying it is a requirement. I'm saying for transparency purposes.

WILLIAMS: I think it is more for political purposes, Beckie that you are using it to be quite honest with you.

GOMEZ: No. I'm just asking for some consistency, because we did it in some other invoices.

WILLIAMS: Help me out here. Don't we have, Greg a policy on that?

ROLEN: Yeah. We have a policy. We have a board policy on how the invoicing is done, and how the Board votes on it and how it is reported on the Agenda.

WILLIAMS: What is our board policy?

BOYD: Give me just a moment.

WILLIAMS: Do we have that number? That means we should, if we are going to change this, we should look at the policy. Would that be reasonable to assume?

ROLEN: That is reasonable. That is reasonable.

WILLIAMS: We are all for transparency. It is just that we need to do things by the rules and there are policies. If the policies need be changed, they need to be changed.

ROLEN: We are being transparent to the extent that we are putting the amount on the Agenda.

BARKE: Mm-hmm. Yeah, because that is not necessary if I remember—is it?

ROLEN: I'm not even sure if that is necessary.

BARKE: Mm-hmm.

ROLEN: But that is consistent with the Board's transparency.

WILLIAMS: Did Beckie talk with you before about this issue?

ROLEN: No, sir.

WILLIAMS: It is a surprise issue that she is bringing up.

ROLEN: That is often the way we do things. That is okay. That is actually appropriate.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

ROLEN: That is why we are having a public discussion about it.

WILLIAMS: Right. It is just that it is delaying the most important thing, which is interdistrict transfer here.

GOMEZ: Well, we can delay the Minutes if you'd like, and let's continue with the transfer. Then we can come back to it.

WILLIAMS: What is the--

BOYD: The Board policy is 100-21. It states that, "The redacted legal invoices from the legal counsel of Orange County Board of Education (Board) is public information for the purpose of board confidentiality and preserving the privacy of the attorney-client relationship. The Executive Committee is empowered by the Board to inform the Superintendent of the approval of invoices for payment. The approved invoices will be agendaized under consent calendar for each board meeting and the redacted invoices available for public review. Any member of the Board has the ability to review any unredacted legal invoices with Board counsel.

GOMEZ: So, it is silent.

ROLEN: Correct. It doesn't speak to verbalizing it in the report.

GOMEZ: All I'm saying is for consistency, we should do that. We did it on item seven and eight, so the report out should be consistent.

WILLIAMS: How about Beckie--?

GOMEZ: But if we want, I'm okay with delaying this so we can get the hearing going.

WILLIAMS: Right.

GOMEZ: And come back to the Minutes.

WILLIAMS: I think it is reasonable if you want to work with Greg if you want to change a policy. Let's don't change on a whim like that. Let's let you work with Greg and bring the--

GOMEZ: I'm happy to do that.

WILLIAMS: --policy to the next meeting. That would probably be what I would feel more comfortable with. Okay. Madam President, we have a motion and a second. I call for the vote.

BARKE: All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE: Aye.

GOMEZ: I will oppose due to my concern about the dollar amounts.

BARKE: Okay. It passes 3-1.

BOYD: There are no public comments related to the closed sessions.

BARKE: Okay. Then we will go into closed session.

BOYD: We will start the appeal hearing and then the board will go into their closed session after the hearing, correct?

[The Orange Board of Education holds an inter-district appeal hearing in closed session and returns to open session.]

BARKE: We would like to start the meeting today with our invocation please.

HILL: As I pray and reflect in my tradition, I invite you to pray and reflect in your own tradition as well. Our great God, we gather this afternoon in a room where authority is dually exercised and where decisions are rightfully made for our county's educational system. For this reason, we think it is appropriate and right that we begin by coming in a posture of humility, recognizing that the many things we have to be thankful for in our lives and in this community are the result ultimately of your graciousness to us. We pray for board members, Gomez, Barke, Williams, and Sparks and Superintendent Mijares; that they would love justice and their decisions would promote students thriving in our schools. Grant them the wisdom necessary to make the decisions they must.

We have many things on our minds as we come into this chamber. We are reminded of the political divides that exist in our communities. We ask that you open our eyes to the humanity of our rivals and build in us a compassion for each other that transcends politics. Finally, we ask you our great God that we might honor you in this chamber tonight as we pause to recognize the overwhelming value of each student, each parent, each teacher, each administrator in the County of Orange. That comments from tonight's contributors and board members would honor the inherent human dignity of every person here tonight, regardless of their position on any matter. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

BARKE: Thank you. Next, I'm going to call up Major Harvard to do the Pledge of Allegiance from the Freedom Committee. Following that, we are going to have Cadet Ashley Joya do the National Anthem, so we are in for a real treat tonight.

BOYD: The Color Guard is coming in.

HARVARD: Would you please stand? If you are a veteran--

BOYD: Excuse me.

BARKE: Sorry. Sorry.

BOYD: The Color Guard is going to start first.

WILLIAMS: The Color Guard needs to come in at this time to present.

BOYD: You can stay where you are.

HARVARD: (Inaudible).

BOYD: Yeah. Otherwise, he is going to have to go around, but that is fine.

BARKE: I think we wanted to bring you up, so it would be easier once they arrive.

[The Color Guard walks in and plays a drum.]

COLOR GUARD MEMBER: Color Guard, halt. Left turn, march. Color Guard, halt.

BARKE: Major Harvard, would you please come up now and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

HARVARD: All veterans (inaudible) if you have them?

COLOR GUARD MEMBER: Present, colors.

HARVARD: Veterans, please render the hand salute.

HARVARD AND AUDIENCE: 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.

BARKE: Thank you.

JOYA: [Sings the Star-Spangled Banner] O, say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed, at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming? And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

COLOR GUARD MEMBER: Carry, colors. Right turn, march. March, march.

BARKE: I would like now to invite Mr. Scott Williams to the podium, please.

WILLIAMS: Board President, members of the Board.

BOYD: Can you raise the mic up?

WILLIAMS: Oh.

BOYD: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: President, members of the Board, Superintendent, thank you for allowing us to be here with you. Today we have four of our members of our board of directors. Unfortunately, as we age, we are not getting out as much as we used to. I would like our veterans to introduce themselves. They will give their name, their rank, their military service and the theater of operation. Al, would you lead us off?

HARVARD: Let me get up first. My name is Al Harvard.

BOYD: He needs to come to the microphone. We are recording.

WILLIAMS: Al, they need you at the--

HARVARD: Oh, you are recording. I don't know about that. My name is Al Harvard. I am a major in the Army, or was. I did 22 years in the service. I did 8 enlisted, went to Officer Candidate School and became an officer. I retired as a major. My theater of operation for any war time was in Vietnam. I was a company commander for the Replacement Unit, and I was there for a full year. I came back to the states. The Army decided to send me to school, so I got my degree. Thank you to the Army for that, so, then, I retired in 1979. Did I miss anything?

WILLIAMS: Captain Tim Richards.

BARKE: Thank you for your service.

RICHARDS: Good evening, I'm Capt. Timothy Richards, U. S. Army. My branch was the Army Corps of Engineers. I served in Korea and Vietnam and served for 27 years. Now I'm retired. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you for your service.

TEGEL: My name is Gary Tegel. I served 28 years in the U.S. Navy. I served on nine different ships. I did a tour in Iraq. Most of my time was on ships in the Pacific, and did a tour in Japan as well; and just blessed to be here tonight. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you for your service.

WILLIAMS: My name is John Scott Williams. I go by Scott Williams. Born and raised in California. I went to local schools, graduated from Matter Dei High School. I was motivated by my father to go to college. When he grew up in Butte, Montana and he worked for the CCC. He sent his check home to his mom, which was going to go for his college education. She needed the money to spend for items, food and provisions. I think he got one year in at the Butte College of Minds so that was the motivation. In 1966, I graduated from the University of California of Santa Barbara with a degree in economics. I was married to my wife, Linda. She had a degree in sociology. We were ready to go and get some jobs and really build our bank account, because we were living in student housing and paying our own way.

I had a job as a landscaper at the school. I also mowed the football coach's yard on Saturdays. Now, his yard was three quarters of an acre. When I first signed up for that, I thought it would be a front yard like what we have around here. But it was in the foothills of Goleta. That is how I got through college. I graduated, and then I got my notice of induction to the United States. I reported to Fort Ord, which is now Monterey State College. I remind the kids that are going there to watch the trails and don't go too deep into the foothills, there may be unexploded. No, I kid them when I do that. It gets their attention.

From there, I went to basic advanced infantry and then went to Officers Candidate School in Aberdeen Proving Ground, which was the Ordnance Core. Thinking that I'm going to be in ordnance, either missiles or ammunition, that type of thing. I ended up back at Fort Ord as a training officer at a basic infantry training unit. Then about three months later, I became the executive officer for the battalion commander. The battalion commander was Calvin B. Nat's, Lieutenant Colonel. He went into the Army in 1948, and I think this was his last duty station. Did I mention that he was a Black person? In 1966, the battalion commander and lieutenant colonel.

From there, I was assigned to Vietnam, arrived in country in September of 1968 and worked in a forward support repair. We repaired armored personnel carriers, tracked artillery and anything that had to do—that you needed to have third echelon repairs. Then I came back home, got a job with Shell Oil Company, and continued with them. I went to college at night, got my law degree, and I practiced law for 15 years. Then I took a job as a general manager for one of the local companies. Thank you for having us here.

Could I tell you about Jack Hammet? Jack Hammet was the president of our organization. He passed away December 13, 2014. Our organization started out with the World War II Veterans Gathering for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Some of the Congress people thought that our citizens had forgotten about victory in Europe and victory in Japan. As I sit here today, I can't imagine that. We have short memories, but this was a huge victory for freedom and for the United States. They took that. From there, they would meet in coffee shops. Eventually they started meeting at the Historical Society in Costa Mesa. At that that time, it was around, I think it was 2010. They would typically have enough room for about six or seven veterans. Then

it grew from there where we ended up, in 2013, we were at the Neighborhood Center in Costa Mesa and we would have 100-120 veterans and associates and community members.

We continued that mission on. Jack was looking forward. The board of directors elected me to follow him, which were big shoes to fill. We are continued to go on. We are now meeting at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, because the city knocked down the Neighborhood Center, which was a building that you could have over 100 people. They replaced it with a library with 40 people in the room, so anyway, we are doing well.

We just had an essay contest ourselves, and we just awarded a scholarship, or not scholarship, \$500 to four students in Early College High School, Costa Mesa High School, and the Cloud Campus. Each one of them will get \$500. The grand prize winner gets \$1,000, and we will award those funds at the end of the year when they have the school award ceremony.

Quickly, Jack Hammett was a kid that grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He would always say that he wasn't doing real well in school. He was doing pretty good at recess. He played in the band, and he was doing a little bit better and he was doing lousy for the girls. His dad was a house painter, I believe. He decided when he was 17, that he was going to join the Navy. At that time, they had a Navy training base off of, whatever great lake I should know, off of Cleveland, Ohio. Being from the West Coast I don't, it was Lake Ontario, I don't know. He joined the Navy. He graduated, because you had to have a high school degree to get into the service. In 1937, he gets transferred. He comes to Long Beach where they had the Navy port.

On the weekends, he played the saxophone for a band that he and his guys formed. He happened to notice a young lady in the crowd. He introduced himself to her, and he was at that time 19. Then she introduced him to her mother who was her escort. Eventually they got married. They got transferred to Pearl Harbor. On December 7, the shooting started and they both were unharmed. That started Jack's career in the war, continued serving until 1946. Also, continued to serve until he retired. I was showing one of the pictures of what he did when he got out. He was a business manager for the Bristol Medical Center and that was at Bristol, just off of Baker. My kids went there when they were in their early ages, which is now, that was the first transition, I think, where doctors got together in groups. Then, here we are today where we have a whole different system. Anyway, he then became also at the same time he became a reserve police officer for the city of Costa Mesa. There is a theme here about giving back, and that is what our veterans do. We have served our country, but at the same time we believe that there has to be a connection to the past because otherwise, you don't have a country.

One of the things I remember that, Bob Davis who was a radio operator on a B-17 bomber, got shot down over Germany, and became a prisoner of war. I remember one of the kids during the classroom visit asked him what kept him alive, because they had horrible treatment in these German prison camps. And he said, "I'm going to outlive the SOB, the guard, and he did. That is what I learned by being around the World War II veterans is the hardships. Bob Davis would say, when he went overseas, these were kids. They were boys who loved their country, and they were going to fight for their country. We asked the generations coming up now, that if that is their country, they have to take on those responsibilities. To do that, you have to have a high

school degree and you have to be a citizen of this country. Those are two things that a sovereign nation does.

I would mention that, you know, when we get sworn in, we become employees of the federal government, there is no state government that protects us from the enemies, foreign or domestic. With that, I thank you very much and look forward to—just one last commercial. We sponsor and we participate in Memorial Day service to remember and honor those that have died in service of this country. Now, I realize that is a long time ago for big numbers. We lost 406,000 in World War II. You can go back through the Revolutionary War. You can come forward and there is about a million people. Then for every one that died, there is probably, at least, families of six or seven, plus friends and family, so you probably have 10 million people impacted. On the last Monday of May at Harbor Lawn, Mount Olive Memorial Park, at Gisler and Harbor, we will be having the ceremony at 11 o'clock. We have an opening fly over by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing aviation. They haven't promised me which airplane it is going to be. I had asked them to do the same thing they did for the Super Bowl, but I don't think that is going to happen. Then, we will have the 3rd Marine Aircraft Band, and they will be playing for us. We will have a bag piper, we will do the eco trumpets, and then we will close with a flyover of T-34s with a missing man fly over in wrapping up.

The thing that I don't tell people, but you look like you are—we will provide 1,000 meals from In-N-Out Burger cookout. They are going to bring in two trucks, and we will start feeding after the ceremony. If you are there, if you jump in line, we are going to have one of these sergeants set you aside. Anyway, that is how we try to keep involved. I did give a couple of our newsletters. We do a quarterly newsletter, and we try to give all of the visits we have had at the schools. With that, I thank you very much and appreciate the time. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you. Thank you for your service. Next, I would like to call up Dr. Christine Olmstead please.

OLMSTEAD: Good evening, President Barke, members of the Board, Dr. Mijares. The ACCESS and Special Schools teams deeply appreciate the opportunity for our students to participate in this annual Jack Hammett Memorial Day Essay Contest. Students were invited to participate from across the ACCESS and Special Schools programs. We had 36 submissions from our ACCESS students and in the inaugural year of inviting our special school students to participate, we had 14 submissions either in written or pictorial form from our ninth through 12th grade adult transition students. As a reminder to our guests, ACCESS is OCDE's outstanding, nationally recognized alternative education program offering transformative learning experiences and support to students across Orange County, and our amazing Special Schools program at OCDE serves students with the most significant disabilities.

Before we get started with celebrating the students tonight, I would like to introduce to you our ACCESS team members who have supported these students. If you are in attendance tonight, please stand to be recognized. Vern Burton, Assistant Superintendent; Sunburst Principal Dinah Ismail; Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Gilbert Sanchez, director of Sunburst Youth Academy. Also, who supported our students, but not in attendance tonight are Principal Chris Alfieri, Principal Dr.

Ken Ko, Principal Kirk Anderson, Principal Michelle Kilgore. Teachers on Special Assignment Ryan Hinkle and Gavin Gates; Program Specialist Jina Reed; ACCESS Executive Assistant Virginia Castillo, we thank her for organizing the contest. Teacher Jacqueline Cerbin and Teacher Steve Larkin.

She was hiding. I didn't see her. Good to see you. Then for our Special Schools, I would like to recognize Chief of Special Education Services Analee Kredel; Director Chris Romanosky; Principal Dave Longo from our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program; Principal Chris DePaul from our Harbor Learning Center in Golden West College Adult Transition Program. She has got a long title; Teacher Laurie Drago and Teacher Dominique Vellanoweth; Teacher Joe Arnold also supports our students, but was unable to be with us tonight.

We wanted to let you know that we are celebrating the 50 students who submitted Memorial Day Contest essays. All students will receive a gift card and certificate for their participation. Additionally, we will be honoring the first, second and third place awardee. Prizes for first place are \$350; second place \$250; third place \$150. We have a new category this year for art, which is \$100. We are very proud of the work of all of our students, the teachers, the administrators and staff who support them. Thank you members of the board and the OCDE cabinet for your financial contributions to make this award possible today.

Trustees, you have been provided with the essays for your reading pleasure. But now, I am delighted to recognize the writers of our top three essays from our ACCESS program. When I call your name, please come forward. Our third place awardee and the winner of \$150 is Cadet Destiny Campos from Sunburn Youth Academy. Dr. Williams is presenting her certificate and her cash award.

[Trustee Williams presents Destiny with a certificate and award.]

OLMSTEAD: Our second place awardee and the winner of \$250 is Cadet Nazim Abdellali, Teacher Jacqueline Cerbin.

[President Barke presents Nazim with a certificate and award.]

OLMSTEAD: His award is being presented by President Barke. Another shout out to their teacher Ms. Cerbin for helping them today. Our first place awardee and the winner of \$350 is Keon Ferber. He is from our Tustin site and his teacher is Steve Larkin. Unfortunately, Keon is unable to be with us tonight, but we do have a video presentation for his essay, which Trustee Gomez would have presented to him. Let's go ahead and play his video. You can go to his site and present it to him.

[Video plays.]

VIDEO VOICE 1: Hi, my name is Keon Ferber. I'm in the 11th grade and I was nominated to win the Memorial Day Essay Contest. I'm going to read to you my essay right now.

Memorial Day is the time to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to our country. It is the time of remembrance for the men and women who have died serving the U.S.A. Thanks to their lives, time and effort, we have our freedoms today. My great grandpa served in the Vietnam War and my father served as well. I am thankful for them and all the military personnel who are continuing to serve this country and creating a better future for us.

I remember being at a loss of words at the Vietnam Memorial on a family trip to Washington DC. I watched strangers taking a piece of paper, placing it over a name, rubbing the name with the pencil to transfer it onto the paper. The walls looked as if they went on for miles full of so many names of Americans who never came home to their family and friends. I saw my grandfather reading the names on the wall as teardrops came one after another from his eyes as he went from name to name. Their legacy lives on this wall, which honors them with love and pride. I felt sad, and then I saw my reflection on the wall as if it was a mirror in my soul. I remembered to show appreciation. First, I always remember the fallen veterans. Second, to give thanks for them. And finally, to cherish their memories and try to continue to make our country great. Every day, not just Memorial Day I pray and give appreciation to the brave service members who fought to the very end.

Memorial Day is a day for admiration towards those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Memorial Day means more than just honoring those who have died on that day to me. It should be a reminder that we should appreciate these people every single day of our lives. We should remember that every single day we go to our school or do things that we enjoy. The freedoms and all the endless things I can go on about, someone out there is fighting so we can have normal lives. Thanks to all those brave, amazing people. We are all here today, continuing to live with the freedoms they fought for. We must carry their legacy by honoring our freedoms and doing our part for the country. For me, Memorial Day is not just today for recognizing someone's sacrifice, but rather cherishing their memory every day for the rest of our lives, because they certainly have earned that respect.

I'm Keon Ferber. I just want to thank you very much for choosing me to win this essay, and I hope you guys have a good day.

OLMSTEAD: Now for our winners from Special Schools. In the art category, Taylor Hanley is our winner. Come on up, Taylor.

[Trustee Gomez presents Taylor with a certificate and award.]

OLMSTEAD: Taylor is a 21-year-old student from our Adult Transition Program at Golden West College, and Taylor's teacher is Joe Arnold. Taylor is receiving \$100 for their beautiful artwork. Taylor got some cash. Our second place essay winner receiving \$250 is Cindy Rodriguez. Cindy is deaf and hard of hearing so when we salute her, please do this [raises hands]. Okay. But I have a little bit more to say. Cindy is a 14-year-old, ninth grade student from our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at University High School in Irvine, and Cindy's teacher is Lori Drago. Come on up, Cindy.

[Trustee Sparks presents Cindy with a certificate and award.]

OLMSTEAD: Trustee Sparks presented Cindy with her award. Thank you, Trustee Sparks. Our first place essay winner tonight receiving \$350 is Noah Galvez who unfortunately was unable to attend. We do have a video presentation of his essay. Noah is a 20-year-old adult transition student at Harbor Learning Center, and his teacher is Dominique Vellanoweth. Let's see Noah's essay.

[Video plays.]

VIDEO VOICE 1: Hi, I'm Noah Galvez, and I'm at (HLC) Harbor Learning Center Special Schools. I would love to read my essay. What Memorial Day means to me, Memorial Day means celebrating the day of these famous U.S. Army and U.S. Marine soldiers that fought in World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War to serve our country. One person I'm familiar with is Tony Stein who served in the U.S.M.C. during World War II against the Imperial Japanese army. He was famous for building a gun called the "stinger." He used the butt of a Browning automatic rifle and the body of an M1919 Browning heavy machine gun to customize a special heavy machine gun. When he was in Iwo Jima, he killed a lot of Japanese soldiers with the stinger and kept running back to get more ammo for his weapon. Then suddenly, he was shot by an enemy soldier and died for honor and won the Medal of Honor.

Another person I'm familiar with is John Paul Bobo, who was a U.S. Marine soldier who fought in Vietnam and was famous for fighting the North Vietnamese Army and NVA soldiers with only one foot and managed to save his comrades. He and his men were in a gun fight against some NVA soldiers when one of the NVA soldiers fired a mortar at John and blew up his left foot. He used something to stop the bleeding and shot a lot of NVA soldiers with his M14 rifle until he was shot by an NVA soldier and died for honor and managed to help his men to escape. After he died, he won a Combat Action Ribbon, National Honor of Vietnam and a Gallantry Cross.

Another famous person I'm familiar with is Benjamin Lewis Saloman who was a U.S. Army soldier who fought in World War II in the battle of Saipan against the Japanese. He was a dentist. Then he joined the Army and was a U.S. Army dentist. Then he became a frontline surgeon and fought an entire banzai charge. He helped a bunch of wounded men and then saw Japanese soldiers stabbing one of his comrades, and shot him with his M1 Grand and saved the wounded man. After that, Benjamin was killed in action July 7th, 1944. He was 29 years old and was awarded the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart and was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.

In conclusion, Memorial Day is a special day to me to honor those men that have died in the battle for my freedom. That is what Memorial Day means to me. We got pictures of the famous men who fought in these wars. Tony Stein - September 30th, 1921 to March 1st, 1945. John Paul Bobo - January 14th, 1943 to March 30th, 1967. Benjamin L. Saloman - September 1st, 1914 to July 7th, 1944.

OLMSTEAD: All of our students will be presented with their certificates and cash awards by their outstanding principals. Thank you, President Barke and members of the Board for your support for this wonderful initiative, and special thanks to our veterans for whom we honor.

BARKE: Thank you.

BOYD: Can we get a group picture? Yeah. We are going to do a group picture after you do that one. Stay Mari. The rest of the Board members and all of the students, we would like you to come back to the front so that we can get a group picture with the full Board. We will do one with just the Board and the students, and then we would ask the County Superintendent to also join them. We will do the vets too.

Al, you want to make your way down? Stay where you are. Al is going to join you. Then we are also going to ask the veterans to join. Yeah. Take the picture. Scott, would you bring the veterans that are here today to come up for this picture also? Before you leave, the principals, assistant superintendent. Chief, please come up; teachers, yes. We know you want these for your program. We want to get it now with the Board. Am I in the way? Thank you so much. I know the cadets needed to leave.

WILLIAMS: Can we take a five-minute break?

BOYD: We suggest that. Yes.

BARKE: We will take a five-minute break now. Thank you again for your service and for attending tonight. We really appreciate it. It is a very special evening. Thank you.

[The Board takes a recess.]

BARKE: Do we need to make a motion to switch the Agenda? No? Okay. Welcome back, No. Okay. So, we are going to switch the Agenda and we are going to go straight to item number--

BOYD: Fifteen.

BARKE: Number 15.

BARKE: And there is public comment. I believe, Ken has four for 15.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

BOYD: There might be a couple

WILLIAMS: Right. Mr. Collin Felch, if you can come up, and Javier Orduño.

BOYD: I'm not sure they can hear you with the mic.

BARKE: Javier, you will be second on deck. First on deck is Collin.

GOMEZ: Nina, this thing is missing on the microphone.

FELCH: All right, good evening, Board, Superintendent Mijares. I had to take some notes or else I was going to add a little too much. But you all know me, Dr. Collin Felch, Assistant Superintendent at Vista Charter Public Schools. It is a pleasure to be here this evening on behalf of the charter community in Orange County. I'm asking for your approval on the resolution before you tonight, honoring the 30 year anniversary of California charter schools. Obviously, as a charter school leader, speaking on behalf of charter schools, there are a number of reasons why charter schools are such an added benefit to the community and school choice in general, offering parents a choice to send their kids to a school that really suits their unique needs. Charter schools also serve a population that often isn't heard from. In California, over half of the population in charter schools is low-income minorities, and that is even higher in Orange County. I know like my school specifically, we have 98% free and reduced lunch. It is really serving a high need population, so tonight I just ask for your approval to honor the 30 years that charter schools have been here in California. Thank you very much.

BARKE: Thank you, and thank you for all you do in the charter world, Collin we really appreciate it. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Javier.

ORTUÑO: Good evening, everyone. I have a letter from 18 leaders that couldn't be here, and I have their logos. I'm going to read the letter and then I will deliver it to you. "Dear President Barke, Vice President Williams, Superintendent Mijares and Board Trustees. My name is Javier Ortuño, and I'm the Orange County local representative for the California Charter School Association. I represent the association in recommending the approval of the resolution before you tonight, honoring the 30 year anniversary of California charter schools. The California Charter School Association is the membership and professional organization serving the vast majority of the over 1,300 public charter schools in the state of California. Our mission is to increase the student achievement by strengthening and expanding access to high quality, public charter school education.

As you may be aware, the year 2022 marks the 30 years since the passage of the Charter School Act in California. As one way to mark the moment, we are asking county boards of education in Southern California to pass a resolution in celebration of this moment. I would like to thank this Board for introducing a resolution that acknowledges the great work public charter schools have done over the last 30 years in California. On behalf of the 20,661, K-12 students and families that are being served at the 35 diverse charter school options that are part of the Orange County community, we seek your support in the passage of this resolution that celebrates 30 years of

innovation, flexibility and quality options that allow students to learn and thrive. Looking forward to continue to partner with the Board and the community to improve educational outcomes for students. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you. Thank you, Javier for everything you do.

WILLIAMS: We do have other public comments. We have the good Judge Riddle and Mr. Christopher Ganiere.

BOYD: Just for protocol, they were just doing item 15.

BARKE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

BOYD: And then we will come back to the general public comment.

WILLIAMS: Okay. My bad. Very good. Yes. Being the maker of this resolution, I would like to put it into formal motion.

SPARKS: I'll second that.

BARKE: Excellent. We have a motion and a second.

BOYD: Is your mic on?

BARKE: Hello?

BOYD: There you go. Now it is.

BARKE: We have a motion and a second. Do we have any discussion? Well, I will just make comments that I'm thrilled to be here to celebrate this 30th anniversary with you. I hope that we have another 30 plus wonderful years to infinity. The students you serve, it is so important. It is so important to offer choice so our children aren't trapped by their zip codes. You really do a tremendous service in the community and education. You really change the trajectory of so many children's lives, so we really appreciate you, everything you do. Thank you.

SPARKS: I would just like to echo, everything that Mari Barke just said. You all are doing really the heavy lifting every day. We are here to support you. We have your back. We are so proud of everything that you are doing and just keep up the great work.

GOMEZ: Just a quick comment. For the resolution, it would probably be good if people when they read this, they know where we got the numbers from. If we could provide the citations, you know, on the breakdowns and some of the statistics that are in the resolution, I think that might be helpful for folks. Looking at the bottom of page 33 and the top three items on page 34, that would just be my suggestion to add to the resolution for clarity.

BARKE: Okay. So, noted.

WILLIAMS: Sure. I don't have any problems with that. I take that as a friendly amendment. I will ask Mr. Miles if you can certainly get that information and we will add it to it. My thoughts are to, once again, thank all of you who are very hard working at the grassroots to help those families and children who don't always have the opportunity to rise and climb the ladders as fast as others in more fluent communities. You folks on the frontline are the warriors. We have stood very firm and strongly backing charter schools here because of what you do. You do something very different. We do appreciate what you contribute to public education, so thank you very much.

BARKE: Thank you. All right. I'll call the vote. All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE: Aye.

GOMEZ: I will support it with the amendment. Yes. Thank you.

BARKE: All right, so it passes 4-0.

WILLIAMS: Public comment.

BARKE: Thank you very much for attending tonight. We would be thrilled if you want to stay. Now we are going to move on with public comment. If anyone leaves, thank you. We really appreciate you making the effort to come out tonight, and we honor you. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: With public comments, the first is Mr. Christopher Ganiere. Number three is the good Judge Lynne Riddle.

GANIERE: I am Christopher R. Ganiere, candidate for Orange County Board of Education, Trustee Area 2. As you probably know by now, I'm an architect. This night was pretty thrilling for me because the Orange County Board of Education funded the Deaf and Hard of Hearing School. And guess who was the architect? That was me. I took it through the state architect and got it approved.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

GANIERE: Also, the Sunburst Youth Academy, that first one, was early part in my career when I worked mainly on schools, Sunburst Youth Academy. Right now, I work more on federal projects. The Sunburst Youth Academy, I am the architect on that for Building 20. It was a great thrill to see those students here, both from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and from the Sunburst Youth Academy.

Well, I would like to say that my professional motto is to make the world a better place, one project at a time. And through my life, I've gotten a few quotes that I like to think have added to me. One of them, you can find it engraved in stone at the London Stock Exchange, "My word is my bond." Lord Admiral Nelson, "Let every man do his duty." Patrick Henry, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided and that is the lamp of experience." And of course, I need to have an architect one, right? Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, "Less is more."

I applaud this board for cutting spending. It is fiscally responsible to cut spending in the face of inflation, which is a gathering threat to our nation. Rather than burdening Orange County families even more, while they face that same inflation and it is eating into their budgets. I expect to see innovative ways that this board carries out its mission going forward while shrinking spending. I expect the Board to lead by example and by fiat for the other districts that they are supervising. Their budget should also reduce costs in the face of inflation in the face of declining enrollment and declining funding. I am Christopher R. Ganiere, candidate for Orange County Board of Education, Trustee Area 2, and I ask for your vote.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Ganiere. Judge Riddle, you are up ma'am.

RIDDLE: Good evening, Board members and fellow residents of Orange County. I'm Lynne Riddle. As best as I can recall, I attended my first board meeting here in early June 2018. I was first drawn here on account of the Board's interest and its diligent public information efforts regarding the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) for short, a statute mandated certain comprehensive sexual health education in all of our public schools. I've maintained my interest and my support for CHYA, and I'm sure that you have as well. It is on that account that I want to be sure to invite you Board members and indeed all residents of the county, but especially junior and senior high school students to a rally in support of, not only comprehensive sexual health education, but in support of as well, family planning, access for all to all reproductive health services including contraceptives and abortion care available to all genders. Those who identify as woman, as man, heterosexual, bisexual, LGBTQ, et cetera. Mark your calendars please for Saturday, May 14, at 10:00 AM, at Santa Ana's Centennial Park at 3000 W. Edinger at Fairview. Please, especially CHYA teachers, parents and students, come and support reproductive healthcare education, reproductive and sexual health access, reproductive choice and indeed reproductive justice in OC's first ever Bans Off Abortion Rally.

Now, I want to mention as well, my gratitude to OC's Fourth District PTA and to the Central Orange County League of Women voters for their very excellent OCBE OC Superintendent of School's candidate forum held via the internet just last night. Both the League and the PTA groups are, as you know, nonpartisan. Each candidate was given time to make a brief candidate presentation and then the host proceeded with some excellent and neutral questions. The host, as

I understand it, had invited all OCBE and OC Superintendent of Schools candidates to participate. Indeed, I observed that a majority of those candidates now on the June 7th election ballot did participate. Yet, not one of you present incumbent board members attended. These kinds of public candidate events are essential to our democracy. I hope that you will be able to, and will, participate in any and all, independent candidate forums prior to June 7th. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Is that the end of public comments?

BOYD: That is all that I have.

WILLIAMS: That is all that you have? Okay. Moving on to consent calendar, I make the motion for the consent calendar, except as previously, Trustee Gomez wanted to remove nine. If acceptable, I would like to remove and vote separately on item eight, which is the resolution to recognize Memorial Day.

BARKE: Absolutely.

WILLIAMS: Okay. So, I'll make the motion for item's five, six and seven.

SPARKS: I'll second that.

BARKE: All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, GOMEZ: Aye.

BARKE: Okay, 4-0.

WILLIAMS: Madam President, I would like to make a motion for item number eight, which is our Memorial Day Resolution. This is something that this board has passed for many, many years now and it brings me great joy to, once again, recognize this very special day, May 30th in recognition of those men and women who have given their lives for our liberties and freedoms to say whatever they want to say without being cancelled out, or without being told they cannot talk or say anything that is on their hearts or minds. Thank you for your support for this resolution.

SPARKS: I would be honored to second that.

BARKE: Well, and thank you, Dr. Williams for always spearheading this great effort in memory for us. Okay. Any discussion? All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, GOMEZ: Aye.

BARKE: Okay, 4-0.

WILLIAMS: I would like to make a motion for item number nine to approve the invoice for Haight Brown & Bonesteel.

SPARKS: Second.

BARKE: Okay. Any discussion? Okay. Hearing none, I will call for the vote. All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE: Aye.

BARKE: All those opposed?

GOMEZ: Opposed.

BARKE: Okay. That is 3-1. Do we have any charter submissions?

BOYD: There was a material revision from Explore Academy that you will hear at next month's board meeting.

BARKE: Excellent.

GOMEZ: Do we have that? Will we get that tonight?

BOYD: No. This is just for a facility. When they first came to the Board, they did not notice one of the districts that they actually found a facility, so they are going through that process right now. It is just a facility. There is nothing else that is changing in the petition.

GOMEZ: Okay. Thank you.

BARKE: I would like to call Renee Hendrick to the podium please.

HENDRICK: Thank you, President Barke, members of the Board. Thank you for taking the time to allow us to have our public hearing. The first one this evening is to conduct a public hearing on OCSEA's Initial Proposal to the Superintendent for negotiations for 2022-23. With that, I open the hearing to the public. Hearing no comments from the public, I would like to close the public hearing at this time.

BARKE: Sorry.

GOMEZ: No, I'm just laughing. It is like gogo gadget.

HENDRICK: Next, I would like to open the public hearing to conduct a public hearing for the Superintendent's Initial Proposal for OCSEA for the 2022-23 year.

BARKE: Thank you.

HENDRICK: Hearing no comments from the public, I would like to close the public hearing at this time. Okay. Only two more to go. The next one is to open the public hearing for CSEA's Initial Proposal to the Superintendent for the 2022-23 school year.

WILLIAMS: Renee, before you close anything. Just for my understanding, these public hearings are required by law, is that correct? Could you give me some background?

HENDRICK: They are. They have to sunshine. It is called sun shining the agreement so that is why it is required by law.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Nina, if you can help me, are all these documents on the website?

BOYD: They are not on the website, but we do have all of the documents as of this evening. Typically, the initial proposals by the associations aren't posted there, because they are internal in terms of negotiations. We don't post that. Their actual agreement that has been settled I believe is available and posted to the website, but not when they are going into negotiations.

WILLIAMS: Right. So, this is just announcing they are going into--

BOYD: Yes.

WILLIAMS: --negotiations.

BOYD: Right.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

BOYD: The classified bargaining unit as well as the certificate bargaining unit after tonight's meeting will be able to schedule meetings to start having conversations about the openers that they have identified for next year's contract.

WILLIAMS: Okay. For instance, CSEA, the chapter here, 468, what they are asking for is not sun shined or it is?

BOYD: It is sun shined as of tonight.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

BOYD: Yes. That is the process that she is going through now.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Does it go on our Board Minutes? Where is the access?

BOYD: In terms of what they actually are?

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Like these that are being passed out.

BOYD: Right. We typically just put those on the back table for the public if anyone is interested or if they request a copy of it, to know what the associations are bargaining. Then we make that available, but we typically don't update anything related to their agreements until they conclude negotiations.

WILLIAMS: Okay. At the conclusion of negotiations, how is that announced?

BOYD: We let the Board know when they have settled. Typically, Renee comes to this meeting and lets the Board know that the bargaining units have settled their agreement. If there has been compensation benefits, then that is announced at the board meeting.

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

BOYD: Then their collective bargaining agreements are posted on the website once the Superintendent agrees to whatever the ask is, or we have negotiated what we have asked for with them. Then, that is how that is.

WILLIAMS: Right. For the record, this board has nothing to do with that because we are not the employer.

BOYD: Correct.

WILLIAMS: That is strictly Dr. Mijares responsibility, and Renee and the staff.

BOYD: Correct.

WILLIAMS: And whoever is negotiating. When they ask, just out of curiosity, when they ask for like, Caesar Chavez, and Juneteenth holiday, and an additional floating holiday, and more vacation approval time, how do we know if that has been actually reached as an agreement?

BOYD: We will tell you.

WILLIAMS: You will tell us?

BOYD: Yes. Those are things they have asked for in the past. Those aren't new items--

WILLIAMS: I see.

BOYD: --with the exception of Juneteenth, because that was just approved last year, you know, from the federal government. But, Cesar Chavez has been in existence for a while.

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

BOYD: Some districts have negotiated that day, others have not. Our bargaining units have requested that, but because of other things that we feel offset that, we have not reached agreement that we believe that is something that we were giving on or the Superintendent has.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. Well, you answered my questions.

HENDRICK: Maybe to help clarify also, depending on negotiations, Ms. Boyd is our lead negotiator for the teachers. Based on the year, say this year, they only have two openers plus salary and benefits. It is different every year, but it is usually not the full contract, because they only can negotiate a couple items normally each year. They have to pick which one.

WILLIAMS: And you take that into consideration for the budget that will be presented to us June 1st, correct? Okay.

HENDRICK: Okay. I think we are actually still in the open public hearing for the CSEA Proposal. I'm going to—hearing no comments, I'm going to close that hearing and then move to the last public hearing, which is for the Superintendent's Initial Proposal to CSEA. I think you just got that going around. Hearing no public comments from the public, I would like to close the public hearing. I now turn the meeting back to you, President Barke.

BARKE: Thank you. All right, we covered 15, so we are moving on. All right, we are going to go to item 16 now. I am going to call up Mr. Rolen please.

WILLIAMS: So just for parliamentary procedure, I'll make the motion to adopt the revised Board Policy 300-02.

BARKE: I'll go ahead and second that.

ROLEN: Just by way of introduction, members of the Board, Mr. Superintendent, the Board by consensus and at the direction of the Executive Committee wanted me to create some amended board policies. With the idea being that, not only parents but also school districts have a better idea of what we are thinking and how we are making our decisions. The policies that the Board

was operating under formerly are good, but we just thought they could be a little bit better, a little bit more specific and enlighten the path for parents and school districts about how we are making our decisions with regard to interdistrict transfers, which of course are one of the most important things we do.

WILLIAMS: Very good.

BARKE: Okay.

ROLEN: Do we have any questions on any potential policy? We can discuss the policies. We can approve them in a whole hearted manner. We can slice/dice, do whatever the will of the Board is. This is the time for discussion.

BARKE: I would love to make some comments.

ROLEN: Certainly.

BARKE: Interdistrict transfers are very near and dear to my heart, and I appreciate you bringing these amendments forward. This really touches on the very reason I ran for the Board of Education. We all say we want to improve peoples' lives and interdistrict transfers really do. Public education is a big and complicated business, and sometimes the little guy gets lost. If you guys don't mind, I made some notes. I'm just going to read them so I don't lose my train of thought here. When we hear these appeals, we hear real problems from real people who genuinely love their children and are doing everything in their power to make their children's lives better. We see this month after month. We can help keep a family together. We can help a single mom feed and educate her children. We can help siblings go to the same school and help education provide hope for the future. If we can do that for even one student, we have done our job here. Recently, a local newspaper questioned if this Board should even exist. I guess that newspaper did not ask the families that took the time out of their busy day to attend our board meeting and ask that we do one small thing, to make their child's life better.

I've said it before, and I'll say it now. I believe, and I always believe, that parents make the best decisions for their children every day. These policies give the Board specific guidance, they identify the large and complex issues that we face and understand the real life problems that OC families are facing and come here to discuss with us. I want to thank all the local school districts and employees who help the process. I want to thank the OC staff here for what they do, because I think together we can all improve the lives of children, parents and families one appeal at a time. I truly thank you for making this effort to make sure that we are doing it right, because this is such an important thing that we do here at the Board.

ROLEN: Thank you.

SPARKS: I'll add to that. I really like that we are, you know, addressing interdistrict transfers in terms of a policy and making it a high priority. I think that, you know, we have shown that we

are putting kids first in all of our decision making and we get sage counsel and guidance from our sage legal counsel. You know, a lot of people don't really know what we do with interdistrict transfers. You know parents, as we see in our closed sessions, parents have, you know, different reasons for wanting interdistrict transfers. They have their reasons that we don't know, you know. And parents know, like President Barke was saying, parents know what is in the best interest for their children. Sometimes it could be that a kid is bullied, it could be a childcare issue, it could be a transportation issue, a grandparent, a work situation, it could be a specialized academic program, as I said, proximity to work. Whatever it is, it is always very important to each family that comes and sees us and asks for us to grant an interdistrict transfer.

I ran for this board as well because, you know, I care about the kids and the parents making the best decisions for their children. The fact that we can sit here and change one life at a time, and yet, you know, as you all know, I'm not here to rubber stamp bureaucratic decisions, union or special interests already have their representatives. I'm here to make sure that parent voices are heard. that every student feels safe, protected and can meet their God given potential. As a professor, as you all know, I like to make data-driven decisions. These policies will help give us very clear parameters for decision making so there is complete transparency in everything that we do. We really strive for that, so thank you for this. I'm going to definitely be supporting these policy amendments.

ROLEN: Well, I guess I'm old enough now to be called sage.

BARKE: Any other comments?

GOMEZ: Yeah, I have a few comments. There is some grammatical errors in here, and I think we just need to kind of clean those up and clarify those. I would like to maybe work with you if we could, maybe bring this back next month just for clarity so that you and I can maybe chat a little bit about some of the grammatical errors and some of the clarifications. For instance, number 14, there is an incomplete sentence that starts that paragraph. There is just some cleanup items that just for clarity I would like to see. Then, you know, obviously we have got the Ed. Code section there, which is great. I just want to be sure that it is consistent with the Ed. Code. I didn't look that up before tonight's meeting. I would just like a little bit of time to work with Mr. Rolan to clean that up so it is clear

ROLEN: If the errors are grammatical, we can pass that subject to the grammatical corrections, but I guess I'm no longer sage if I'm making grammatical errors. I'm happy to work with you on that. I'm happy to--

SPARKS: I'm happy to provide edits as well.

ROLEN: Okay.

WILLIAMS: By the way, Beckie, specifically in number 14, are you saying there is--

GOMEZ: Well, it starts off with an incomplete sentence. Number 12--

WILLIAMS: Right, and four.

GOMEZ: --and again, just for clarity, number 12 at the top of page 39, where it says, “the parent or guardian may offer written proof.” Don't we want to require that so that we, again, we have good documentation to make decisions? It is things like that, that I would like to kind of work through some of these things.

ROLEN: I can share the thinking behind the “may” versus “shall” distinction. We have a lot of families come before us that do not have readily access to doctors. We want to give the guidance that we would like that kind of documentation and that is something we will take into account, but we are not going to make it an up or down, yes or no, mandatory thing.

GOMEZ: Well then maybe it is a “should offer” or “it is recommended that they offer,” something along those lines so that it is apparent that we want that so we can make a good decision. You are right. They may not have a regular provider, but maybe if we could word it differently to encourage that information? I think that would be better.

ROLEN: Certainly. Would we like to do this now, or we would like to have—the Board can appoint a subcommittee of Trustee Sparks and--

WILLIAMS: I am still trying to figure out where the errors are.

SPARKS: I would like to make a motion to approve it with minor edits.

WILLIAMS: I've already made the motion.

SPARKS: Oh, you already made the motion.

ROLEN: Okay.

SPARKS: Sorry.

WILLIAMS: You can make a subsidiary motion.

SPARKS: Taking into account the minor edits, or?

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah.

SPARKS: Or, we just do your motion first.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. There may be some grammatical issues that have been missed, but I don't think the substantive part of this should be delayed. I think it is reasonable. I will be more than happy to withdraw my motion and make a new motion that is subject to grammatical changes. I would make the motion to pass this item and allow that to be done and completed by yourself (Lisa) and Beckie, and with Mr. Rolen.

SPARKS: I'll second that.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

BARKE: All right, I'll call for the vote.

GOMEZ: Well I—

BOYD: Just as a point of clarification, it doesn't say when this policy would be effective. In the past when districts have made changes to their policy around inter district, it has been the next year, as opposed to immediately. I just want to ask if you—I don't know if you took that into consideration or not so that they get notice on it, and they know what they are supposed to do and when they are supposed to do it. You are getting ready to go into interdistrict season so that is why I want to make sure.

BARKE: Did we really make any substantive changes, or have we really reinforced our policies? Is it something you think we need to warn those coming before us?

ROLEN: I think we can put this on the website immediately. The changes are substantive, but they are more specific. They would, to Nina's point, guide people's thinking. But if we are coming up on interdistrict transfer season, we should guide their thinking sooner, rather than later. I think we could, you know, we can pass these immediately because, she is again right, that school districts do this on a yearly basis. But as we are learning, we are not a school district. We are an appellate body in this case.

BARKE: Mm-hmm. Okay. I will call for the vote again. All those in favor?

SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE: Aye.

BARKE: All those opposed?

GOMEZ: I will oppose it.

BARKE: Okay, 3-1.

ROLEN: Who should I interact with regarding the edits?

WILLIAMS: I made the motion for Lisa and Beckie.

ROLEN: Okay.

BOYD: Point of clarification, what I understood you to say is this will get posted to the website, and it is effective immediately. Those we have in the pipeline, just pointing out, you will just face that when they come in?

ROLEN: Certainly.

BOYD: There is some scheduled already, you know, that they are working with and so forth.

ROLEN: We will work with that. I'll work through you.

BOYD: Oh, thanks.

BARKE: Okay. Should we do the report out now?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

BARKE: Okay. Now I would like to invite up Mr. Brenner to do the report out from our closed session, please.

BRENNER: Thank you. Good evening members of the Board, Superintendent Mijares. This is the report out for closed sessions 1-4. The Board held a discussion with counsel. Trustee Shaw was not present for any portion of the closed session. The Board took no action in any closed session except to approve Epstein Becker Green's invoices. Those are invoice numbers 1082723, 1082724 and 1082725, all dated April 30, 2022. The vote in approval was Trustees' Barke, Williams and Sparks in favor; Trustee Gomez opposed. That is the report out for the closed sessions. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you very much.

BOYD: Again, point of clarification, we had some discussion with regards to outstanding invoices that you have for Ms. Leoni. At the March meeting, Mr. Brenner you gave us reference to an invoice number, and we have never received that invoice. But yet we have received three other invoices, and there has been no discussion with regards to—I had mentioned to President Barke. Just a point of clarification, if that invoice was incorrectly cited, we need to correct that. If it is the correct one, then we need to get the invoice.

BRENNER: Noted, and I will certainly be happy to assist with follow up on that. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you. Okay. Trustee Sparks, do you have any report out on the Board website?

SPARKS: Well, I think we got a new picture up. I think you guys uploaded a new picture, so it is moving along slowly, but that is all I have for the moment.

BARKE: Okay. Anybody, report out in the 22-23 Budget Development?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, I think Renee is going to come up for that.

BOYD: Yes, Renee.

HENDRICK: Thank you. A couple quick state updates for the budget. We are hearing that revenues came in higher than was anticipated, so we are anxiously waiting for what the May Revise will show us. It will probably be a bit higher than even the presentation I gave you last month. Then following up on our meeting from last month, I did hear from Dr. Williams wanting to add funding to the budget for social—like for the Board website I guess, or social media. I had not heard from any other board members, and so I wanted to make sure. This is our last chance to be able to get that information. Also wondering if you could assist me with how we can work with forecasting on the attorney's fees, because it is a little bit different this year than we have had in the past. I don't really know how to judge those dollars, so maybe that is something you can work with your attorneys to give me a little more accurate number?

GOMEZ: Can I ask a question about the request for the website, or what was that, social media?

HENDRICK: Yes. Dr. Williams requested \$100,000 for the Board website and social media.

GOMEZ: Okay. Trustee Williams, can you share with us what that would entail?

WILLIAMS: Sure. If we look at—first of all, that is not where I was going to go. I'll be more than happy to do that. I first wanted to talk about the contracts that are in the budget. Those contracts we did have Maggie Chidester present, I believe it was in February or March. Are those contracts that were brought up and reviewed where Ms. Chidester stated that the Board needed to have approved them, are those still in the budget?

HENDRICK: For next year?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

HENDRICK: I am not sure at this point.

WILLIAMS: You are not sure, okay. That would be important. Because if the law, the Education Codes, do say that the Board needs approval of certain contracts, and we know that the Board doesn't have to approve all contracts, that would be important for us to know. If they

are not approved by the Board and they are required to be approved by the Board, I would hope that we would be able to have those come before the Board so we can do the appropriate approval process, and review and oversight. That was what I wanted to say first about the budgets. Lisa, do you have any?

SPARKS: I agree.

WILLIAMS: Your contracts were a big issue for you.

SPARKS: Mm-hmm. I agree 100%. That helps us to do our job in a more holistic, complete way when we have that specific information.

HENDRICK: If I can remind the Board that you do have the list of contracts in every single budget item I give you. We are always more than welcome to, you know, happy to share that full document with you as requested. I know Dr. Williams, you requested that quite a few times.

WILLIAMS: And where is that again?

HENDRICK: You have it multiple places in that book. In the very end, I think this one says contracts, grants, and entitlements.

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

HENDRICK: It has a listing of every single grant, entitlement and contract. It is also listed in the narrative section and also in the revenue section if it is a revenue contract, multiple places.

WILLIAMS: Has all of those grants and contracts, I'm going to call it a Chidester Formula, have they all gone through the Chidester Formula to determine whether or not the Board needed to review them and improve them? If not, that is okay.

HENDRICK: Well, you have approved them as part of the budget.

WILLIAMS: Well, that is not very good governance and oversight just to approve them because they are put in there and we don't know anything about them. Part of the--

HENDRICK: Out of fairness, Dr. Williams, you are asking a legal question that you know I can't answer.

WILLIAMS: I appreciate that, but it still is a question. If it is required, has it gone through the Chidester Formula to determine whether it requires Board approval? It has to do with the oversight, and their purpose, and the role of this board. Not one person runs this Department, it is one person plus a board, and there is an oversight responsibility. If we don't know what is in these contracts, we are not doing our oversight. I just bring that to our good Superintendent's

attention as well as to you as you go through the laborious and difficult task of creating this budget. I know it is difficult.

HENDRICK: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: I know it is honorous. You made a wonderful memo, June 15, and all of my Board members have it in their red packets here, about the communication and social media of the Department. It is a really good Department that we have here, but it is expensive. The budget over the last 10 years, has increased 47% from \$876,000 to \$1.865 million last year. May I ask, is that budget going to be increased for this next June cycle? Do we know?

HENDRICK: Yes, my understanding is it would be based on all of our positions will receive step and column, so salaries alone; but, also we have a lot of projects that are planned for next year.

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm. Some people would criticize the fact that there is over a half million dollars in benefits and wages, and can that be privatized, those services?

HENDRICK: Well, I will remind you that some of those are bargaining unit positions and that would be unlawful.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Very good. How does the Board, because for some time now we have been discussing how to be efficient and economical and trying to establish which ways to get the message and communication with our constituents? We have a website that was just completed. It cost around \$30,000.

HENDRICK: It was close to \$50,000. You did use that same staff that you are noting there, did that for you.

WILLIAMS: Okay. It was about \$50,000, it costs. The question is, what is the ongoing cost to keep that going forward just for the website? Is there a figure?

HENDRICK: I don't have that, because it has been internal staff doing it. We don't bill hours or anything like that.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

HENDRICK: The software piece has been paid for, so there is probably just a very minimal maintenance fee.

WILLIAMS: Okay. There is a cost to do our website as well as the OCDE website?

HENDRICK: Yeah. There is a maintenance agreement for every piece of software it feels like so that is not unusual.

WILLIAMS: Right. The consideration that the Executive Committee has is that we would like to see either a cut in that budget and adding some of that so that the Board can communicate its message and social media outreach. That is part of the email communication and the desires of the Executive Committee. I would like to see that in the budget as you are developing that.

HENDRICK: I think your question was, either you wanted to see an increase in the budget or a cut there. That was how you worded it.

WILLIAMS: Right. Exactly, exactly.

HENDRICK: I am taking my notes. That is why I was asking if there was other things, now would be the time to ask those questions.

BOYD: I guess the question is, again, and we have had some one-on-one conversations with regards to what it is that the Board is wanting in order to be able to determine, you know, what position is doing that work, or what it is that is not occurring that the Board has an interest in doing so then those questions could be answered? Then Renee can factor that into the budget as appropriate, and we can dialogue with the Board in terms of what we need to do. My understanding was you were still vetting what your options were as opposed to being ready to, you know, fully dialogue about it now because you are trying to look to see what the Board's interests are.

SPARKS: Well, yeah, I mean, I think if we had a dedicated, you know, x hours a week. A dedicated person to address just specifically our needs for creating social media accounts, maintaining social media accounts, where you all are blasting information to them, and we have got a dedicated person that is, you know, peppering our information in a, maybe not totally equivalent way, but in a significant way with the resources that you have for your information.

BOYD: Okay. And again, the question is really because we haven't seen any requests coming from the Board to do that so that it is why it is difficult when you are saying we want dedicated amount of hours. We don't know what that looks like because the Board hasn't asked for anything that we have not done, or that the Board has said, you know, there is a void here. We want this to happen and can somebody do this? That is why I'm trying to—

SPARKS: Right. Well, that is what we are talking about right now. We are ideating about, you know, having a dedicated amount of time, a dedicated person. I don't know. I'm ideating with you guys.

WILLIAMS: Right. Right. It is the administration of the website, social media and communication. That is what we were talking about. We have, again, let me remind everybody that 10 years ago, the budget for this was not quite \$900,000. It has doubled that in 10 years, and

what are we getting for the over million dollars that it has taken? I mean, we are creating videos for the Orange County Health, Orange County Superior Courts. You know, to get out the communication and social media dialogue is important for this board as well as for our constituents. You brought up that we are now beginning the dialogue. The Executive Committee made the formal request. I think you are getting Lisa that is agreeing that there should be some opportunities for the Board to have that social media and communications administration, because it is a direct conflict of interest for the Superintendent to do that. He cannot do that because some of the positions, some of the communication may be contrary and different than what he is promoting. For that, we have to have this, most likely. The details have not been worked out. It is only in concept here. But we are going to have to send that out and have that done as an outside service. That is the thought, and we can do that because the Board is different than the Superintendent. The Superintendent is responsible and has collective bargaining's but we are not the employer, so we can outsource this service.

MIJARES: Just for the—am I on?

WILLIAMS: You have to turn it on.

MIJARES: I think it is on now. Okay. Just to get clarification of your request, we have a Media Department that does a multitude of things for all the 28 districts that we serve, the 400,000 plus students. We also provide information there that applies to charters and occasionally we do private schools as well. They get broadcast when we are getting awards like the National Blue Ribbon Award, which is often given to charter schools, excuse me, to private schools so that same unit is here to serve you. And as Nina said, every request that you have made, I think we have delivered on. What is it that you want beyond that? What other requests are you going to make where you feel we aren't delivering? I would like to know that. And the reason I want to know it is because if we are not performing as you want us to, then we need to work on our internal processes so that we do a better job.

If you are wanting us to go in and cut from that department, then something is going to have to go out. The money is not just there to sit there in a reserve. Everything is spoken for. If you are asking me to cut and we have to cut staff, then that is a whole other discussion because now you are talking about the disengagement of staff. You are talking about letting people go, and there is a process that we have to follow under law. Collective bargaining addresses all of those things as well as the codes that we have to follow. If you say, "Well, don't cut staff, cut something else." Then I have to know what that is. Remember that we do a lot for the districts. In fact, much of what we do is for the districts. And yes, there has been an increase over the maybe year that you mentioned, or two or three years. I can't remember, but we will be happy to detail that for you. But it is because the work has expanded.

We have gone through a revolutionary funding formula with the Local Control Funding Formula from the way things were previously funded. There is far more mandates from California and a few from the U.S. Government, much of which is tied to funding for special needs students. Everything in the budget has a place. It has a purpose. You say, "Cut \$100,000 out." Why? Why do that, so that you can have \$100,000? What is it that we are not doing that you now need? That

would be my question. Everything we do, by the way, is predicated upon the needs of students. It is not driven by things that, in fact, I engage when I have to engage.

The Media Department under Ian Hannigan, he is our chief. His staff, they have their ear to the ground, constantly working with districts, showcasing the work that we are doing so it builds public confidence. Not just what we are doing, but what the districts are doing. In fact, that is first and foremost, that is our lens. Whatever you can do to, you know, create better understanding on my part, I would appreciate that.

WILLIAMS: Well, that is why we are talking about it now. No one is saying that the services of Ian or any of the staff is substandard or incompetent, you know. We have to identify that over the years there has been a significant increase, almost 47% from \$876,000 to \$1.8 million in the budget. It is probably going to be higher next year. One of the questions is what are we getting? Is it effective? If you include the communication and social media administration that the Board would like to have, we haven't even figured that in there, so how do we do that? That is why I sent you an email asking you how it is best to accomplish this. When you go to figure out the budget, we would like to see the Board be able to communicate this. With all due respect, Al, it cannot be oversight by you. The Board's communication has to be totally independent and separate.

MIJARES: And we have always, we have always taken--

WILLIAMS: Yeah, but you are the employer. If we say anything, or do anything, or put anything in social media where there is a conflict of interest with an employee saying, "I'm not going to do that," because he is under your direction. It is just like GC litigation.

MIJARES: But can you give me a conflict where that has occurred?

WILLIAMS: Well, it has not occurred. I'm saying of the potential for it to occur. We know that because you are the employer and you have control over your employees. If there is something we do they don't like, they go and tell you, "Well, this is what the Board is doing."

MIJARES: They have not come to me with that concern.

WILLIAMS: Because we don't have any social media and communication.

MIJARES: But why are you trying to—okay. Okay. I'm just trying to understand the thinking. I'm not trying to challenge your premise. I'm trying to understand it.

WILLIAMS: You are challenging the premise.

MIJARES: Well, I'm trying to get clarification is what I'm doing. If you interpret that as a challenge, then that is your interpretation. But what I'm trying to do is understand exactly what

you are asking of us. Because I feel that everything you have asked us to do, we have delivered. You just said, it is not that. It is not the quality of that. So, you are anticipating that there may be a time when we won't deliver, and we haven't gotten there yet.

WILLIAMS: The other issue is for what could be done. It is certainly less to outsource it than to have our staff do it. It is going to be more expensive. So, that is part of the thought process that we have in asking for that to be put into the budget so we can outsource it and not have to go through the Communications Department. It is as plain and simple as that.

MIJARES: In the world of public service and what we do, that is a challenge. I think Renee alluded to it earlier and perhaps both our general counsel, Mr. Riel and your general counsel, Mr. Rolan can meet to talk about that. But recognize that if you are trying to outsource the function that we do, that is a challenge. We have to figure out just how that is going to work.

WILLIAMS: So, we are not asking the OCDE to do this. The Board will do this. We are not asking you or your staff to do it. The Board is a complete, different functioning entity than the OCDE. We have different responsibilities and duties, and we clearly know those responsibilities and duties. We have articulated, discussed that in the past. What we are we are doing is we are trying to not—

MIJARES: Right.

WILLIAMS: —allow influence by a conflicted entity.

MIJARES: Right. But generally speaking, you have a public service available to you here, and you want to now outsource that, is what I'm hearing.

WILLIAMS: It is cheaper.

MIJARES: It may be cheaper, but we have to look at the legality of that.

WILLIAMS: Well, so anyway, we have a budget that is coming up and I'm trying to avoid—

MIJARES: Yeah, no, these are great discussions. I'm not taking it personal.

WILLIAMS: I'm trying to avoid any problems so when that budget is coming before this—

MIJARES: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: —that we can agree.

MIJARES: Sure.

WILLIAMS: That this is going to be the budget that we are going to adopt. It is going to be real hard to sit here and have a conversation about these issues when now you are mentioning that there has to be lawyers involved. I just don't think that is necessary. I think it is clearly established that the Board is a different entity. It doesn't have to go under the same rules that you do have and that restricts you. Anyway, we can have lawyers talk. I'm just beginning the dialogue.

SPARKS: I would like to add one more thing that I think is a simple solution here. Just having a line item of a discretionary account for the Board. Then, we get to decide. It is discretionary. If we decide to contract it out to a videographer, or we decide to, you know, have—

WILLIAMS: Business entity.

SPARKS: Business entity, you know, whatever.

HENDRICK: Can I remind you that you do have \$350,000 set aside for that in the current budget also?

SPARKS: For just the Board?

HENDRICK: It says discretionary for Board. You had asked for that last year.

SPARKS: Yeah.

HENDRICK: In the current budget.

SPARKS: To me, that is the line where we could draw on for this kind of thing. You know, we make a request, we draw on that line and it is all good.

WILLIAMS: What object code is that? Do you remember off hand?

HENDRICK: Last year, Dr. Williams you had instructed us to put in under 5875, so it is listed under there. But you also have it in a fund balance set aside, so we could move it to services, which is 5865, miscellaneous services. But last year you had instructed me to put it under legal services.

WILLIAMS: Those funds are still there?

HENDRICK: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Okay. So, they haven't been spent?

HENDRICK: Right.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

SPARKS: Yeah. So, something like that would be a simple solution.

HENDRICK: They have been spent. We just haven't utilized that line, because they are, obviously legal expenses have been spent. But we didn't reduce the \$350,000.

WILLIAMS: So that object code that we put the funds in, that was for?

HENDRICK: Legal services.

WILLIAMS: The legal services.

HENDRICK: That is what you had requested last year.

WILLIAMS: Okay. So that was for the existing litigation, correct?

HENDRICK: You were clear. You said you wanted a line item for Board contingency, so it is been left there and we didn't use that as part of the litigation funds.

WILLIAMS: So, the litigation funds is a separate object code?

HENDRICK: It is a separate account, same object code.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

HENDRICK: But if you were to do services, that is a different object code.

SPARKS: Yeah. We could just have a different object code, not legal services, just have services. That would give us flexibility when we have a special project or we have something that we want to do, and it goes against that line.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Yeah. Does that make sense?

GOMEZ: Can I ask a question? Under the Ed. Code, you know, what discretion do we have in order to make contracts? I didn't think we could for services that are already going to be duplicated. Maybe you can clarify that for me?

HENDRICK: I probably, I am not sure. You can contract for special services is my understanding.

GOMEZ: Right? But these are services that are already duplicated.

HENDRICK: That is why we would need more clarity on it. Is it something specifically that our staff are already doing, or what is it? That is why some of the reasons we were asking for the clarification, right.

GOMEZ: And that is why I started out wanting the clarification.

BOYD: Well, and that is why we had suggested maybe Mr. Rolen, and Mr. Riel, and myself, Renee have some conversation so that we could make sure that both parties, Board as well as the Department are complying with the statutory requirements by Ed. Code.

GOMEZ: Okay. Because I would also like to see what—I know you threw out the number of a \$100,000, Ken. But I would like to see what that entails, because I think that would help support what we are trying to do and identify what is a duplication and what is not. I know we have been struggling over this website. I think, Mr. Hannigan and his team have already done the website, so it wasn't something that we had to go outside to do. He was able to do it. It seemed like the Board who was the subcommittee was happy with it other than us trying to get some newer pictures.

WILLIAMS: Right. I think what I'm referring to with the Executive Committee is creating the administration of our social media and communication with our constituents. We don't have that now. That is totally separate than the website build out, but some of the information, again, the details I'm still filtering those and processing that. But the website would be part of that, because that would be part of the continual and regular updating of information and distribution of information.

GOMEZ: But things like the resolutions and other things that we have asked to be posted on the website, Mr. Hannigan's group has been able to do that. That is why I'm struggling a little bit. I know you mentioned social media.

WILLIAMS: Right.

GOMEZ: But you know, how many hours are we talking to do that?

WILLIAMS: Well, it would have to be within that budget.

GOMEZ: But where did that budget come from? Where did that \$100,000 come from? That is what we are trying get to.

WILLIAMS: That is what we are dealing with. Great question. So, let me just—the object code for the legal, that \$350,000, what object code is that again?

HENDRICK: It is currently in 5875.

WILLIAMS: 5875, to move it to administrative service, what would that be? To which one?

HENDRICK: 5865, which is miscellaneous services.

WILLIAMS: I'm impressed that you know all these. That is pretty good. Okay. So, basically those funds have been sitting in 5875 for how many years now?

HENDRICK: You requested it for this current budget we are in, so this year.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Okay. They have been sitting in there for the 21-22 budget.

BOYD: But they haven't really been sitting there. I just want a point of clarification. You set a budget for legal fees. Each month it is reported out how much, and you all sign off approvals and so forth. We just have not moved that money. When you say these are approved, I sign off on those, send it forward.

WILLIAMS: So, you are not taking it out of that code?

BOYD: We are not taking, it has not been taken out of that.

WILLIAMS: Oh.

BOYD: I don't want you to be misled to think that money is sitting there. That money has been spent several times over. I want the record to be correct.

WILLIAMS: Okay. So, these funds, these \$350,000 in object code 5875 are just sitting there, although it comes from another fund to pay for all the litigation. Is that correct?

HENDRICK: Right. To that account, we haven't been charging the litigation. Correct.

WILLIAMS: Okay. We are taking it out of what account then?

HENDRICK: Well, we have, if you remember my little chart, so we have subaccounts. That right now is just sitting in a holding account, because you also had a fund balance that matches that. You wanted a reserve setup also, so we have the expenditure and the reserve sitting there.

WILLIAMS: Okay. This object code 5875 where these funds are sitting in right now, they are not being used. It is coming from another fund, right?

HENDRICK: It is all the same fund. It is really just a different account, so it is all the same fund. Like Mrs. Boyd was saying is that those funds really have been utilized because the litigation has been, obviously more than that \$350,000. I guess what I'm hearing you say is you would like to see, instead of holding that line for you, you would like to see that in another object code is what I'm hearing you say. Is that the consensus of the Board? I just need a clear direction.

SPARKS: Yes.

GOMEZ: Yes what?

SPARKS: Yes.

GOMEZ: Yes.

SPARKS: Miscellaneous services.

GOMEZ: You are asking for a discretionary fund?

SPARKS: Yeah.

GOMEZ: We already have \$350 there, correct?

WILLIAMS: No, that is in legal.

BOYD: That is going to be moved. It has already been spent.

HENDRICK: Right.

GOMEZ: It has already been accounted for.

HENDRICK: Yeah.

GOMEZ: Okay, so the legal fees?

WILLIAMS: Why should we even have it? Why should we have that \$350 in this object code if we are not using it?

GOMEZ: I thought we were.

HENDRICK: Well, you have used it though. That is the reality. You have used it.

WILLIAMS: I know. I know.

HENDRICK: Yes.

WILLIAMS: But yet, you are saying we used it, but yet it is fully funded, right?

HENDRICK: So, yes.

WILLIAMS: The \$350 is still there.

HENDRICK: Okay. I'm not sure if I can explain it. Just like last year, at this time last year you had said, I want you to set aside \$350,000 in legal fees for the Board contingency fund is what you called it. We have left that line there, but there is money for everything. Every time you had a new legal bill, every budget we have increased those legal fees, right? Every budget we have increased it. Those monies could be gone, so at this point we are asking you, what do you want the mark to be for this next year's budget?

SPARKS: Right.

WILLIAMS: I would say that why don't we get rid of this \$350,000? Again, I'm just thinking out loud. I'm not saying this is what we have to do, but this is a very spontaneous conversation here. If we are not using those funds that are in object code 5875, let's move them to 5865 for administrative services. Is that reasonable? I'm just posing the question. I don't know.

SPARKS: Yeah, but we probably only need about \$100,000 instead of \$350,000.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

SPARKS: But then the question is, do we still want to keep that same line because the litigation is not quite over.

HENDRICK: Well, what I'm asking you for is to give me an update for the litigation numbers, which would also include you have had other legal services this year. Will those be continuing into next year, and what does that look like?

WILLIAMS: Well, I would be willing to settle with Dr. Mijares right now.

HENDRICK: But you have three other suits pending besides that, not including him, right?

WILLIAMS: Yeah. I'm open to whatever suggestions and thoughts that this board has on this particular issue. Let me ask you this. When do you have to know all of this information?

HENDRICK: It would be really, hopefully—

WILLIAMS: Like yesterday?

HENDRICK: Yeah, by next week. It would be awesome if I could know it by next week. We will actually be having to post everything by the third week of this month.

WILLIAMS: Oh really?

HENDRICK: It has to be posted and available to the public.

WILLIAMS: How much of the budget is already done?

HENDRICK: A lot of the detail is in, and we are analyzing it right now.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

HENDRICK: I'm waiting for the Governor to announce his changes.

WILLIAMS: And what you said, there are going to be more funds in the budget, is that correct?

HENDRICK: Yeah. I think the anticipation we have is there will be more funds. I mean, the question I have is, how does that affect us as county office? A lot of the funding we are hearing is a large increase to the base funding for school districts. But remember we only get the base funding for a very small number of our students. We may not see that same huge increase. And then, he also has a lot of—they don't call them categorical programs anymore. That is the term I'm used to. They are called restrictive programs. He is proposing a lot of restrictive programs. Those dollars will be spent specifically for what those items are, so it is hard to say. My understanding is the Senate came out with a slightly different proposal, and the Assembly hasn't released theirs yet. I have a feeling we are going to be up until July, understanding what their agreement is. But it does look like more money than what we thought. Yes.

WILLIAMS: Okay. What we actually—our anticipated projected was \$345 million, around there.

HENDRICK: I think it will actually be less, because that included the MTSS funds this year that will drop out. Remember, I think I showed you the list of the funds that drop out.

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

HENDRICK: It will probably be about \$300 million. That would be my guess.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay. So, it is going to be down \$45 million.

HENDRICK: Only because, remember we had one-time money that sat in there, and that is going to come out.

WILLIAMS: I see. And what is the ending reserves that we will have? What do you project?

HENDRICK: Yeah, I cannot remember that number. I'm sorry. You probably have it right there.

WILLIAMS: I think it is on B-35. Is it \$102 million?

HENDRICK: No.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

HENDRICK: Can I see that real quick?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

GOMEZ: I just want to ask a process question while we are doing this. This is not an action item. This is just a board recommendation.

HENDRICK: Yes.

GOMEZ: Can we even take any action on this?

HENDRICK: I think you would be taking action during the budget itself. This is for—

GOMEZ: In June?

HENDRICK: In June, yes.

GOMEZ: Okay.

WILLIAMS: As I understood, this was just to help the staff get directions from us.

GOMEZ: I just want to be sure we are all clear on that.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Right. Okay.

HENDRICK: So, you are correct, Dr.--

WILLIAMS: I want to hear you say that, you are correct Dr.

HENDRICK: Actually, no, our projected is to be \$22.6 million is our increase to the budget, so our ending fund balance will be about \$120 million.

WILLIAMS: \$120 million. Okay. I was a little low. Okay. Again, the concept is distilling in my mind about this. I can't give any details. I really don't have any details. I just want to make sure that we have the funds there. Hopefully, I'm looking for a board consensus to go forward with this, and there is nothing to propose because nothing has been created. It sounds like there may be some issues that Mr. Rolen, perhaps, you and Jeff can work out regarding this. I'm not sure. I've had a lot of discussions with our counsel that we are an independent entity, so we don't fall under some of these rules. But I'm certainly flexible in allowing our counsel to help us out, answer that. But again, if you have to know the answer next week—

HENDRICK: I think it is fair to say since you are not taking action on the item, you are giving input to the budget. I would incorporate the consensus into the budget. You will take action at that for the June Budget.

WILLIAMS: For the June 15, which is the decision date for that second round.

HENDRICK: Right.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

GOMEZ: But we also have a first meeting in June.

HENDRICK: Yeah. You have a first meeting in June for it to be presented. Yes. You could give direction at that point also, but just remember you have to do the public hearing and everything.

WILLIAMS: Right. So just to help me out here, and this is good to talk about this.

HENDRICK: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: The June 1st is going to be the first public hearing.

HENDRICK: First public hearing and then the LCAP.

WILLIAMS: LCAP will be that.

HENDRICK: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: When the budget is actually created, it will be about a week before you say?

HENDRICK: Oh no, it will be finalized. The budget is required to be open for public review 10 days prior to the hearing.

WILLIAMS: Oh really?

HENDRICK: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: Ten days.

HENDRICK: For the July budget, yes.

WILLIAMS: So that is coming real quick then.

HENDRICK: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: That is a lot of stress for you.

HENDRICK: Mostly my budget person, but yes. It is not a fun time for us, no.

WILLIAMS: Okay. This has to be made real, real quick here then. Did we give you enough input to create that budget item?

HENDRICK: The only thing is like the cost, because I heard two different things. I heard you are going to do away the \$350. I heard \$100,000. I guess I'm just asking for more clarification.

SPARKS: Well, here is what I'm kind of leaning toward. We keep the \$350 where it is, because that is not ending just yet. Okay. But you create a new line item for administrative services under the 5865, and allocate \$100,000 of discretionary fund for the Board.

HENDRICK: Right. My only comment to that would be, the budget I'm going to ask you for the legal services, it is going to be much more than \$350,000.

SPARKS: Right. I know.

HENDRICK: All the legal stuff should be incorporated in that.

SPARKS: Well, as soon as we get more information.

HENDRICK: Instead of having a separate piece, right.

SPARKS: Oh, okay.

WILLIAMS: I mean, you are asking a great question. I mean, how do we anticipate legal fees?

SPARKS: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: I mean, we are getting sued by Mr. Wright and the whole—who knows what is next.

HENDRICK: I'm sure your attorneys can help you with some type of—

WILLIAMS: I have no idea where this is going to end.

HENDRICK: Right. Yes. They can guess best estimate. As we know in last year, each budget cycle, we had to increase that. I think their best guess at this time, also incorporating in your standard attorney's fees that you have been paying for general counsel and extra items also.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Rolen, do you mind giving us counsel on this, or should we be receiving counsel from you on this?

ROLEN: You should, just not right now.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SPARKS: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Renee.

BARKE: All right. Moving right along to announcements, Dr. Mijares, please.

MIJARES: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Board. It is great to be with you this evening. First of all, I do want to thank you for the memorial essays that we had here. The Eighth

Annual Jack Hammett Memorial Day Essay Contest, and the students did an amazing job. I want to thank our Cabinet, the leadership of our schools for your earnest effort here to make this work. Christine, you and Analee, and Vern, thank you for what you did to get the students ready and to help them. I'm sure the teachers probably had a role in helping them, you know, because this is what we do, right. Teachers helping them to produce a document that is saluted and praised by all of us.

I don't think you can do it for anything more special than Memorial Day and celebrating those men and women, as we have said all night, who have given us the freedoms we know today in the great country we have. Just during the break, we were talking about this, and I forget the gentleman's name, but he is the one that had all the medals, hat and very stout man. We were talking about how he has been all over the world. Many of us have been in other countries, right? But when you come back to the United States, aren't you glad you are here? That whole concept of kissing the ground, you are walking on, that is how I feel. Much of that should be placed at the feet of these folks that have given, particularly those that have given their lives.

Also want you to know that on your Resolution 12-22, on charter schools, the 30th anniversary of California charter schools, I too will do a resolution. Mr. Ortuño contacted me, he is the CCSA person that spoke today and asked me to do the same thing, which we are glad to do. Once again, once the Board approves these charters, they are our charters. The students that enter into these doorways of a charter school, they live in this great community for the most part. We do interdistrict transfers. People are coming from outside of, you know, the county to come to some of our schools that are that good. We do everything we can to make them successful. Again, they are our students. They belong in this community, and we don't want them to fail. When we see one of them flagging, just as we do with our own programs and ACCESS, or when we are asked to help out in one of the districts, we mobilize our resources to make those schools successful. The research is clear. If a student has a bad experience with the teacher, either because of underperformance by the teacher or the student disengages for whatever reason for two straight years, the odds of that student dropping out just shoots to the top. That is why we have to make sure that there is quality education going on in all of our classrooms.

I'm glad that our districts, and our district boards and the 28 districts, they do a great job with that as well. Testimonial of that is the OC schools rank among the nation's best in latest U.S. News and World Report. I don't know if you saw that recently, but there is a breakdown of the best high schools in America. I will just call out one, Oxford Academy in the Anaheim Union School District was the highest on the list locally, ranking No. 3 in California and No. 16 nationally. But I think if you look at our high schools, you will see in each of our districts, they all have a stellar high school, either one or more. Those schools can compete with any private or any school in America, and they are doing it right now. So, I wanted to salute the Anaheim Union High School District, for that great Oxford Academy. Then, another one that I wanted to call out is Troy High School in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. They were No. 26 in California. University of Northwood High School in the Irvine Unified School District, No. 47 and 55 respectively, so that is one thing.

The other thing I wanted to share with you is that we celebrated our Teacher of the Year Dinner on Monday at the Disneyland Hotel. Once again it was spectacular, so I want to commend our staff for the job that you did and the Media folks. Media really drives that. Nothing is more exasperating than to go up before a microphone and it is not working, or a glitch in a video that you spent, you know, hours developing. Media, you did a great job there. Let me just say, we ended up doing this. We ended up doing two years because of the pandemic. We were absent as you know, so we had the 2021 and the 2022 Teachers of the Year. It seemed like we were there forever. I know I got there at 5 o'clock, and I didn't get out of there until, I think, almost pushing 11. That was a lot of work for you guys. Not me. You guys did the work. We had five teachers and one community college teacher both years. I want to point out that Alondra Diaz in the Gates Elementary School, Saddleback Valley Unified School District, she was top in the state. Top in the state of California, went to Washington DC to compete for the National Award. Did not get it, but was in that bubble of, you know, could have gotten that award. I don't think we have ever had a national winner, so we are hoping that can someday come our way.

Then, let's see here. I also wanted to let you know that we had a couple of our high schools that received recognition for the OC Green Ribbon Schools, and it was their work on environmentalism. It is very particular work to being cognizant of the environment. I know for some that is hot button, but for us it is simply being good stewards of this great earth. The schools let's see Anaheim Union High School District has been modeling and educating students about the importance of being stewards of their environment. Katella, let's see, Katella High School was awarded this and the Centralia Elementary School District. Also, Raymond Temple Elementary School was given the award.

Then I also wanted to call out that Beckie Gomez was presented the Marian Bergeson Award along with the Huntington Beach Union High School District Trustee, Dr. Michael Simons. This is given by the Orange County School Boards Association. Beckie, you weren't going to say anything, so I'm saying it for you. Congratulations. Marian Bergeson, for those of you who don't know, has been a friend of mine, she is deceased, but has been a friend of mine since when I was a superintendent of the Bakersfield City School District. In fact, around the year 2000, early 2000, or maybe the late 1900s, she worked as the Secretary of Education in child development for Pete Wilson. Senator Gary Hart was probably the one senator pushing so much of the legislation that we now know today in the General Assembly, and together they started the charter school movement, the two of those. You had a Republican and a Democrat coming together. How wonderful was that? When we look at the issues that we face today, but coming together to create this charter school program for innovation. Believe it or not, they were freed of the Education Code. All the codes that we follow, whether it be Education, Government Code, Civil Code, you know, the many, many codes that we have to follow to do our jobs. They were freed of all of that to inspire and create innovation. Over the years, some of those, you know, codes were put back in for accountability purposes. There is a charter school we have right now in this county. I won't name them or call them out, but to me they are an exemplar. They are teaching us, that school is teaching us how we can better serve a certain population of our students. They are doing a fantastic job, so they can be a model for us to follow across the county. That is all I want to say, Madam President. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: I have a question for you, Dr. Mijares.

MIJARES: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Last meeting, we talked about the political end. We talked about SB 286 and you were going to get our people in Sacramento to lobby against it. Could you give an update to the Board on that?

MIJARES: I can. As I understand it, the Bill is stalled right now so that is the latest that I know. But they have registered the Board's opposition to that, Senator Min's bill. That is the latest that I know. It has not gone through the Senate or the Assembly. What I can do, I'll send you a statement Dr. Williams and through Nina. Maybe we can do that tomorrow so that we can know exactly. Because I have not talked to the Senator to ask him, you know, where is this? What I know is coming through the lobbyist that we have.

WILLIAMS: Right. Ball and Frost is the lobbyist, right?

MIJARES: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Are they actively going to each assembly member and Senate?

MIJARES: What they are doing is they, I think Senator Min knows that you are against this. What they are going to do is once it gets into the committee process, then they will make their statements at that time.

WILLIAMS: It is already gone through a lot of committees.

MIJARES: It went through the Assembly.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. It has gone through everything.

MIJARES: It went through—

WILLIAMS: The concern is that it doesn't go any further.

MIJARES: Yeah. Right. It went through the Assembly side of the House, and it usually goes through the Education Committee there, the Budget Committee. It goes through appropriations. They, then take it to the floor, and they all vote for it. So, it passed the Assembly. Now it is going to go through the Senate, but let me be more specific in sending you something in writing.

WILLIAMS: Thank you.

SPARKS: I have something to add to some of the U.S. News and World Report rankings that you didn't mention. The Orange County School of the Arts also was ranked very high. In that same report, it was No. 15 in Los Angeles County Metro Area high schools, and it ranked No. 38 in California high schools and No. 75 in charter high schools across the nation.

MIJARES: Yeah.

SPARKS: So, I really wanted to add that to the mix there.

BARKE: Excellent.

WILLIAMS: That is for the performing school of arts?

SPARKS: Mm-hmm.

SPARKS, MIJARES: OCSA.

WILLIAMS: Ralph's program?

SPARKS: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

BARKE: Nina.

BOYD: Yes. You have already stated your next meeting is June 1st at 5 o'clock. Unless we notice you because of interdistrict appeals, so just be on the alert. Submission deadline is May 18th and your board packet delivery is scheduled for Friday, May 27th. We will be closed May 30th in observance of Memorial Day. Just as a reminder, the graduation schedules that have been identified are in your red folder. If any of you are interested in attending any of the graduations, please contact Darou. We want to make sure that you are recognized if you are there. There is also a charter school's update in your red folder. If you have any questions, please reach out to us. If there is something that we need to dialogue, then we will have staff available to answer questions at the next board meeting.

WILLIAMS: Nina, just real quick here. On page 4 of our Agenda, the alternative location, that was not used or being attended by anyone.

BOYD: Correct. Yes.

WILLIAMS: For the record, I just want to put that out right now.

BOYD: We noticed Mr. Shaw. We had canceled the remote location.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Very good.

BOYD: We did do that ahead of time so that, one, he was aware and also we have a record that we did do that cancellation.

WILLIAMS: Right. I just want to make it for the record.

BOYD: Yes.

WILLIAMS: In case anyone looks at this, this was not an active, ongoing, alternative location.

BOYD: Correct.

WILLIAMS: So that is the whole purpose of me bringing this out for discussion. We do have one public comment left.

BOYD: Yes.

GOMEZ: Do you want that in the Minutes about Shaw?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

BOYD: Yes. Yes.

WILLIAMS: I just actually, by speaking, it is in the transcripts.

BOYD: We will make sure we make a note in the actual Minutes so that you have that for moving forward.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Okay.

GOMEZ: Yeah. That way there is no confusion later on.

WILLIAMS: Very good.

BARKE: Linda Cone, would you like to come up please?

CONE: Yeah. I have received a couple reports in the last days. Apparently, the staff people here have a union. There are multiple reports of union personnel telling staff people that if Dr. Stefan

Bean is elected superintendent, he is going to close down certain programs. One of these programs, the allegation states, is the ACCESS program, alternative education. I have heard Dr. Bean speak on a few occasions. Actually, the alternative education is one of his main areas of support. As most of you know, Dr. Bean is physically disabled. He is wheelchair bound. This has been the case since he was 2 years old, crippled with polio. His support for alternative ed. and ACCESS related kinds of things is very strong in his mind. In fact, when he was 14 years old, he spoke to 15,000 people in Washington, D.C. on this very issue of support for special needs, alternative ed.-type of students. When he was first brought into the United States, that was one of the problems that he faced.

I urge anyone who has any authority on this panel to speak to the union members that are making these allegations. Tell them simply to stop, because they are not true. This is not just one report. These are two reports that if Dr. Bean is elected, he is going to shut down this, that and the other. These are absolutely false allegations. I really implore you to stop this kind of information.

I guess I still have a minute left maybe. I would recommend that those of you who are running for election to view the forum that took place on Monday. It is on the website of the Fourth District PTA. It is a little more than one hour long. I watched it when it was on. I was rather amazed at some of the comments that were made by some of the candidates. I have four pages of notes that I have no time to talk about at this point. My point is simply this. Please watch that, our forum, and hear what the candidates said, because some of the statements made are quite astounding in terms of their perception of what this board does. I have only attended these board meetings a few times in the last, what, eight or nine years. This is not the same board that they are talking about. We are talking about two different situations. Anyway, my time is up. Thank you.

BARKE: Thank you. Any other comments Nina before we move to board member comments?

BOYD: None from me.

BARKE: Beckie?

GOMEZ: Yes. I don't have any updates from the Orange County School Board Association. We do have a meeting later this week. I do want to share with you that on April 20th, there was a joint dinner meeting between the Orange County School Board Association and the Association of California School Administrators. We were finally in person, which was really nice. Dr. Mijares and Dr. Chau received the Maureen DiMarco Award for all of their work during the pandemic and ongoing. Also, the speaker that they had that evening was Michele Borba and her topic was, "Helping Children Thrive in Uncertain Times." She has authored 24 books. Some of her recent books include, "*UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World.*" and "*Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine*". I would really encourage my fellow board members to look at some of these educational offerings that we have. I know some of you were not able to attend, but she was outstanding. She was really, really good. I'm probably going to get a couple of her books and read those so that was great.

I also wanted to commend about the Teacher of the Year dinner, outstanding. It was weird. It was a long evening, but it didn't seem that long.

MIJARES: Right.

GOMEZ: It really moved along. Our Media department did a wonderful job. How they were able to do two years was amazing. I was sitting there going we are going to be here for a while, and we were, but it was very pleasant. To honor our teachers and the great work that is happening in our public schools, all the kudos to those teachers. It was outstanding. Lastly, I just want to comment on the Memorial Day essays, I had the pleasure of reading those. I know that Trustee Williams did as well. We were both commenting how emotional we both got when we were reading them. These kids did an outstanding job, so please share that with the folks there that it was really a pleasure. I got so engrossed in reading, I forgot to rate them. I had to go back and read them again, but that was wonderful. Great job to the teachers that helped out with that, and that concludes my report.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. I read all those essays, and it is like, this deserves first place. This one deserves first place. They were all incredible, all moving.

GOMEZ: They were very good.

WILLIAMS: I actually told Nina, I don't even want rank these. I would give them all the first place, so they were all very moving.

GOMEZ: You are such a softie, right?

WILLIAMS: Oh yeah. I have nothing.

BARKE: Anything?

SPARKS: Nope.

BARKE: I have one thing I'll comment. I spent last Friday morning at NOVA Academy. I got to do exit interviews. I actually spoke with six of their seniors, and it is just really great to see how children are thriving at charters. Despite the pandemic, what a great experience they had. It was a very wonderful morning.

GOMEZ: Thank you for reminding me. I also did Hillview High School's exit interviews with their seniors. It is great. Isn't it, to do that.

BARKE: Mm-hmm

GOMEZ: To see where the kids are and where they are headed. I do that every year, and it is just so much fun.

BARKE: Mm-hmm. It was.

GOMEZ: Yeah.

BARKE: All right. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

WILLIAMS: I make the motion

SPARKS: Second.

BARKE: All right. So, adjourned.