

**Transcript of the July 6, 2022, Orange County Board of Education Meeting**

**BARKE:** Darou, can you do a roll call for us?

**BOYD:** We can't hear you.

**BARKE:** A roll call, please.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Here.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President I make the motion to adopt the Agenda for today.

**SHAW:** I will second.

**BARKE:** All those in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**BARKE:** All right, passes 4-0.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, I make a motion to adopt and accept the Minutes for June 1st and June 15th.

**SPARKS:** Second, second, second.

**BARKE:** All those in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**BARKE:** 4-0, thank you.

**BOYD:** Ken, could you push your mic up?

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

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**BOYD:** Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Uh-oh.

**BOYD:** We are good now.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** Okay, do you want us to get started?

**BOYD:** There are no public comments related to closed session.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Recess into closed—

**BARKE:** Yes, we are going to recess into closed session now.

**[OCBE goes into closed session then returns to open session.]**

**BARKE:** Welcome everyone. We are officially coming out of recess. I want to thank everyone for joining us today. We are real excited to have so many of you in the room, and we have so many dignitaries in the room that I'm not sure I can even remember them. We will start with Congresswoman Michelle Steel, Assemblyman Steven Choi, I know I saw you somewhere here, there we go. We have former Trustee and City Councilwoman Ceci Iglesias; former Tustin Mayor John Nielsen; former trustee, mentor, mayor and City Councilwoman Linda Lindholm; we have the Lowell Board President Melissa Salinas; the Lowell Board Vice President Karen Shaw and yes, mother to my colleague, Tim Shaw, of course. Do we have Phil Hawkins somewhere? Phil Hawkins, Yorba Linda Water Board, thank you for attending. All right, if I didn't see anybody or left anybody out, just stand up right now. All right.

Well, welcome everyone. Thank you. It is really special that you are all here with us today and lots of family and friends. My parents are here in the front row sitting next to my wonderful husband. I'm grateful that they are here. My brother, Michael and his better half, Jenny are also here next to them. Thank you for being here. I know, Tim Shaw only brought four of his six boys. I'm not sure what happened. But he has got four of his six boys and his lovely wife Shannon back there as well. All right.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President.

**BARKE:** Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** If I could take the privilege to take us out of order and go to our organizational meeting? I make that motion at this time.

**BARKE:** Okay.

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**SPARKS:** I will second that.

**WILLIAMS:** Very good.

**BARKE:** All those in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**BARKE:** All right, looks like it passes 4-0.

**WILLIAMS:** That would be, actually you, dear President. You will be the first to take the oath of office.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Please step forward.

**BARKE:** Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Michelle Steel, Congresswoman Steel, you are going to be giving the oath of office. Thank you.

**STEEL:** Can I just say a little bit?

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**STEEL:** You know, I think Mari is one of the new generation board members. Hey Scott, nice seeing you. Generation who is going to get all schools back to parents and children, because she knows that all the parents know their children much more and better than anybody else out there. I am so proud of Mari. Then, you know, I have been seeing how much she was doing, all this work and walking during the campaign. I am so proud of her. Having said that, okay, I have to wear my glasses, because I'm getting old here, too. I, state your name. Raise your hand.

**BARKE:** I, Mari Barke

**STEEL:** Do solemnly swear

**BARKE:** Do solemnly swear

**STEEL:** That I will support and defend

**BARKE:** That I will support and defend

**STEEL:** The Constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of California

**BARKE:** The Constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of California

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**STEEL:** Against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

**BARKE:** Against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

**STEEL:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States.

**BARKE:** That I will bear true faith—

**STEEL:** Faith.

**BARKE:** And—

**STEEL:** Allegiance.

**BARKE:** Allegiance to the Constitution of the United States

**STEEL:** And the constitution of the state of California

**BARKE:** And the constitution of the state of California

**STEEL:** That I take this obligation freely

**BARKE:** That I take this obligation freely

**STEEL:** Without any mental reservation

**BARKE:** Without any mental reservation

**STEEL:** Or purpose of evasion

**BARKE:** Or purpose of evasion

**STEEL:** And that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties

**BARKE:** That I will faithfully discharge the duties

**STEEL:** Of the office on which I am about to enter.

**BARKE:** About which I am about to enter.

**STEEL:** Congratulations.

**BARKE:** Thank you. Thank you, I appreciate that. I appreciate my dear friend, Michelle taking time out of her busy day to come and swear me in. It is very special.

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**WILLIAMS:** Very good. Mr. Shaw, it is your turn to take the oath. We are going to have Mr. Phil Hawkins, if you will join us up here sir?

**SHAW:** I'm going to bring some bodyguards for this.

**HAWKINS:** Before I begin, you gave me a mic, Tim. I just got a second. It is great to be here. Over the last year, Tim has been through a lot. If you remember, he was on the City Council. He was on the Board of Education, he was off the City Council, he was off the Board of Education, he was back on the Board of Education. And every time, the voters elected him overwhelmingly to be here. It is great to finally be here. Hopefully all this goes away, which I imagine it is going to. But you know, it is well deserved. When I think of Tim, I have worked with Tim for the last seven or eight years. What a caring, concerned, always thinking—when I think of Tim, I think of like the Energizer bunny. I'm not sure he ever just stops and relaxes. He has always thinking. He is always trying to make things better, whether it was at the office, at work, whether it was when he was on City Council, whether it is on the board here.

We are fortunate to have Tim on the Board of Education. I don't live in your district, but I'm glad you are here voting the correct way. Ken, I live in yours. But with that, I'm going to read the oath of office to Tim. I'm going to read it all and then see if you can memorize it.

**HAWKINS:** I, state your name.

**SHAW:** I, Tim Shaw.

**HAWKINS:** Do solemnly swear.

**SHAW:** Do solemnly swear.

**HAWKINS:** That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States

**SHAW:** That I will support and defend the constitution of the United States

**HAWKINS:** And the constitution of the state of California

**SHAW:** And the constitution of the state of California

**HAWKINS:** Against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

**SHAW:** Against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

**HAWKINS:** That I will bear true faith

**SHAW:** That I will bear true faith

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**HAWKINS:** And allegiance to the Constitution of the United States

**SHAW:** And allegiance to the Constitution of the United States

**HAWKINS:** And the constitution of the state of California

**SHAW:** And the constitution of the state of California

**HAWKINS:** That I will take this obligation freely,

**SHAW:** That I will take this obligation freely,

**HAWKINS:** Without any mental reservation

**SHAW:** Without any mental reservation

**HAWKINS:** Or purpose of evasion

**SHAW:** Or purpose of evasion

**HAWKINS:** And that I will well and faithfully discharge

**SHAW:** And that I will well and faithfully discharge

**HAWKINS:** The duties upon which I'm about to enter.

**SHAW:** The duties upon which I'm about to enter.

**HAWKINS:** Congratulations.

**SHAW:** Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Look how handsome those kids are.

**SHAW:** When you look at Phil Hawkins, you see a guy who is fairly imposing. When you get to know him, you realize he has the gentlest soul you could ever come across. And I—okay, so sorry. He is right. I have been through a lot. One of the great blessings in my life is being able to go into work and have him as a boss, and I just love him. They have departed from me already, but I had my mother, Karen here. That is not my sister. That is my mother. She was, you know—these Mormons back in the '70s started the child production very early on. It turned out that we are very close in age actually. My lovely wife, Shannon who has been through thick and thin with me here. She knew I had this passing interest in politics when we got married. But, I have obviously really put her through a lot, but always been there with me. Our older two are already off at summer camp, so they couldn't be with us. We had four of the Shaw boys here this evening. I have just been—I guess they say that when you have to really work hard for something, it really means more to you, right? You kind of really appreciate it more once you get

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it. I have been telling my colleagues through all the travails how much I really wanted to stay on the Board and how much I love serving on the Board with them. What a great group I get to serve with. I'm just thrilled and honored to get to start another term, so thank you.

**BARKE:** We couldn't be more thrilled to have Tim back on the Board with us. We appreciate all the support of his family. Next, I will call Lisa to the microphone and Linda Lindholm who will be swearing her in.

**LINDHOLM:** Looks familiar here. For those of you who don't know Lisa, she is an incredible person, a great professor. She is Dr. Lisa Sparks, a wonderful teacher. She cares tremendously for all the children that she serves. She respects and cares greatly for all the teachers and the staff here. It is just a great joy to have somebody who puts kids first, who cares deeply about what parents think about what their kids should learn. It is my privilege today to come back after, I don't know how long I was here, to come back and be able to swear in Dr. Lisa Sparks. If you will follow me?

**LINDHOLM:** Raise your right hand. I, state your name.

**SPARKS:** I, Lisa Sparks.

**LINDHOLM:** Do solemnly swear.

**SPARKS:** Do solemnly swear.

**LINDHOLM:** That I will support and defend the Constitution

**SPARKS:** That I will support and defend the Constitution

**LINDHOLM:** Of the United States and the constitution of the state of California

**SPARKS:** Of the United States and the constitution of the state of California

**LINDHOLM:** Against all enemies

**SPARKS:** Against all enemies

**LINDHOLM:** Foreign and domestic

**SPARKS:** Foreign and domestic

**LINDHOLM:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States

**SPARKS:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States

**LINDHOLM:** And the constitution of the state of California

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**SPARKS:** And the constitution of the state of California

**LINDHOLM:** That I take this obligation freely,

**SPARKS:** That I take this obligation freely,

**LINDHOLM:** Without any mental reservation

**SPARKS:** Without any mental reservation

**LINDHOLM:** Or purpose of evasion

**SPARKS:** Or purpose of evasion

**LINDHOLM:** And that I will well and faithfully

**SPARKS:** And that I will well and faithfully

**LINDHOLM:** Discharge the duties

**SPARKS:** Discharge the duties

**LINDHOLM:** Upon which I'm about to enter.

**SPARKS:** Upon which I'm about to enter.

**LINDHOLM:** Congratulations.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. I want to say a few words about Linda. My family sends all their condolences from the Italian Riviera. They are still there, actually they are south of there. But it is very hot there. I must say, very hot. But, I want to just thank Linda. Linda is in large part the reason I'm standing here. She encouraged me to run when she decided to not continue in her fantastic role in the years that she served as Trustee Area 5. I got to know Linda and Wayne, and they thought that I would be a really good fit for the position. We have accomplished a lot in the last four years. It is largely due to Linda finding, you know, myself and other amazing candidates. We have fought the fight for parents and families of Orange County.

You guys are my family, always. You are especially my family today because my family couldn't be here, so I appreciate all the efforts. It really has taken a lot of effort from a lot of people and a lot of you all in the audience to help get all of us across the finish line. The parents, and the teachers, and the community members have voted and spoken. We are really happy to continue to serve, continue to fight for the rights of parents and families of Orange County. Thank you for the honor and privilege, and I will continue to do my best work. Thank you.

**BARKE:** Next, I would like to call up Bishop Oliver for our invocation, please.

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**OLIVER:** Amen, all right, what a blessing to be here. Let me put my extra eyes on. I want to thank God as we get ready to pray. Thank God for Dr. Mijares, sister Lisa Sparks, Dr. Ken Williams and sister Mari Barke, brother Tim Shaw and everyone here. Amen. Eternal God, I pray that you will bless us today with your presence. We thank you, Lord God for this day that you have given us father. We thank you for placing everyone in position, Lord God. It is my prayer that everyone will be focused tonight on you and your plans for this board, for the school system, for the parents, for the children, Lord God. We pray that you will help us Lord God to be about your business. We thank you, Lord God for the celebration tonight. We thank you for your love, your mercy, and your grace. We thank you for the blessing on this board. Thank you for allowing the Board of Education to be number one in the nation.

Father we do pray for a revival greater than the Azusa Street Revival. Be ever present in our lives, Lord God. We thank you for our leaders here, spouses, children, family, and friends. We thank you for good health, sound mind, your presence, your power, and your love. And Lord, we will be careful to give you all honor, glory, and the praise. Remind your children, because we belong to you, that we are truly too blessed to be stressed; too ordained, to remain the same; and too anointed, to be disappointed. In the mighty name of my Lord and savior, may all of God's children say amen, amen and amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**BARKE:** Thank you so much, Bishop Oliver. We appreciate that. Next up, I'm going to call my friend Scott Baugh. I continue to be impressed by Scott's community service. He was instrumental in founding a high school. He is a huge school choice supporter of charter schools, homeschooling, private schools, public district schools. We appreciate everything you do. He is also chairman of GRIP where he works with teachers, law enforcement, parents, to keep kids out of gangs. We really appreciate that. I couldn't let it go without saying that he is also my favorite candidate for Congressional District 47. It is because I know that he is going to put the children, the students, the families, and education, he is going to make all of that a real top priority. If any of you are in District 47, please do vote for Scott.

**BAUGH:** Wow, oh wow. I am going to have to get legal counsel on that one. Thank you honorable Superintendent and Trustees for this honor. Would you join me in saying a pledge to the greatest country this world has ever known? A country that people are still trying to get into because of the words in this pledge. 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. Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, we have one more special guest who would like to come up, Assemblyman Steven Choi. He has a few words to say.

**CHOI:** Thank you. I'm Steven Choi, representing the state of California at the Assembly 68th District. This year, this city of Costa Mesa will become my district. Costa Mesa is a brand new city, and I will be happy to serve the citizens of this city. I'm here to congratulate all the people today installed as a trustee of Orange County Board of Education. I once served at the Irvine

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Unified School District as a trustee for six years. That was my beginning of a political career, long time ago. Some of you were not even born, 1998. Anyway, I'm so happy. I know this role as a board member is so important. Educating our future generations, and rightly, what to teach. There are so many crazy issues out there right now going on, such as Critical Race Theory, even kindergarten students will have to learn LGBTQ or sex education, all kinds of—there are right times to learn and properly. I think that the policy will be set by these board members for our parents who desire the right kind of education in the County of Orange. Therefore, I trust your hard work and trust in you that you will lead Orange County in the right direction in education. I brought a certificate of recognition. You can sit right there. I will just hand it over, and I can stand together and have a photo. Thank you so much.

**BARKE:** Thank you.

**SHAW:** Thank you, Steven.

**WILLIAMS:** Tim, why don't you just go up in front?

**BARKE:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah. We will come down there.

**SHAW:** Thank you, Assemblyman.

**CHOI:** Congratulations.

**BARKE, SPARKS, SHAW:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Okay. Next we are going to have election of the officers for the new term.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, I would like to nominate Trustee Lisa Sparks for the position of president of the Orange County Board of Education.

**BARKE:** I will second that.

**WILLIAMS:** I don't believe there is any other nominations on the floor.

**SHAW:** All right, I will go with Lisa.

**BARKE:** Okay. I think I get to turn the gavel over.

**WILLIAMS:** No, no.

**SHAW:** We need a vote.

**BARKE:** Do we formally need to vote? Okay, all those in favor?

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**WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW, SPARKS:** Aye.

**WILLIAMS:** Now you turn it over.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Congratulations.

**SHAW:** All right, Lisa.

**WILLIAMS:** No, no, you can sit there, just hand the gavel.

**BARKE:** Congratulations.

**SPARKS:** Do I do the gavel?

**WILLIAMS:** It is done.

**SPARKS:** It is done. Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** You are the president.

**SPARKS:** All right. Now I would like to open the nominations for vice president.

**BARKE:** I would like to nominate my colleague, Tim Shaw for vice president.

**WILLIAMS:** I will second that.

**WILLIAMS:** No other nominations?

**SPARKS:** No other nominations? Do you accept?

**SHAW:** Sure.

**SPARKS:** All right, all those in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**SHAW:** Well, thank you.

**SPARKS:** The vote is 4-0.

**WILLIAMS:** Congratulations.

**SPARKS:** Congratulations, Tim.

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**SHAW:** Yay.

**BARKE:** So now, Tim and Lisa will have all those late night phone calls with the attorneys and all those extra fun meetings. My husband will be glad that I will have my nights back.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, if I can take the pleasure of getting back to our Agenda? We do have time certain and closed sessions that we have not done.

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** Upon the advice of our counsel, they recommended that we go into closed session before we come out. Can we take a five-minute break and start closed session?

**BARKE:** No. Actually, we are going to skip closed session until the end, because (inaudible). We are going to postpone closed session.

**WILLIAMS:** Oh, okay so that has been changed.

**BARKE:** Yes, sorry.

**SPARKS:** Oh, so we will postpone closed session?

**BARKE:** Yes. Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Okay. So that takes us to—we are going to move on to the consent calendar.

**BOYD:** You skipped over introductions, after the pledge.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, we didn't do introductions and public comments.

**BOYD:** Introductions and public comments.

**BARKE:** Didn't I do all the introductions?

**SPARKS:** Yeah, Mari did the introductions.

**BARKE:** Although, I missed—

**BOYD:** We have one introduction that is on the Agenda. You might want to give her the red line since she is now the president. She doesn't have that.

**SHAW:** Mr. Coombs.

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**BOYD:** It is on page 2. We have Jim Coombs who is the superintendent from Lowell School District Joint.

**SPARKS:** I call on you to introduce Jim Coombs.

**BOYD:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Okay. Jim Coombs, if you would please come to the microphone? Jim is the superintendent of Lowell Joint School District, which is now the 28th school district within Orange County. He would like to address the Board related to the transfer from LA County.

**COOMBS:** It is my privilege to have our Board President Melissa Salinas and our vice president as announced earlier, Karen Shaw. She is the better Shaw to be clear about that, because she is my boss so let's be clear about that. We just wanted to come and say thank you. You have a cup in front of you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**COOMBS:** We have one for all of the staff, the entire County Department of Education staff. Lowell Joint is blessed to be the first, and at this point, only district in the history of the state of California to switch from one county to another. It was a great idea when we took it to the citizens. Then we found out the work. It has been a challenge in that process, because no one has ever done that. We want to thank the Board for accepting us. We have always been accepted, but it is nice to now be part of the family. We certainly were blazing the trail. It was the staff of Orange County Department of Ed who helped us, because no one even knew the questions to ask, Dean West, Renee, Christine Olmsted, Jeff Riel, even Ian. I mean things that we wouldn't even know to ask. Even like, how do you get a new county code? The state said, "We don't know. How do you want to do it?" And we said, "Well, we don't know. Let's ask Orange County Department of Ed." We wanted to just come and say thank you. It is a huge honor and privilege to be a full part of the family. We have always felt like a part of the family, but now it is nice to be a part of that.

We will work hard to make sure that our district—most people don't even know where we are at. I was talking to Dr. Williams and he goes, "Yeah, I know where Lowell is, but no one really knew where it was, this little spot—to be honored and worthy of being a part of Orange County Department of Ed completely. I will say on behalf of the staff and the students of Lowell Joint, they have a history since 1906 of being pretty successful. They are concerned about the superintendent. He is a little odd farm boy from Texas, but it all goes with the flow. But we are blessed and we want to say thank you. We are sincerely, solely just here to say thank you. To the staff, Dr. Mijares, actually, we weren't even a member of Orange County. He said, "Well, let's have lunch and I get to meet one of our superintendents. I said, "Well, you know, I'm not really a superintendent in Orange County." He said, "That is all right. We will still do it." I appreciate that kindness, because that makes us feel a part of it. No disrespect to LA, we were just 1 of 80. Now they have 79, and we are 28. We appreciate being 28. We went up on the scale.

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**SPARKS:** We are so happy to have you join us. You know, blazing trails is what Orange County does, so I think you found the right fit.

**COOMBS:** We appreciate it, so thank you so much.

**BARKE:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Do we have any public comments?

**BOYD:** There are no public comments.

**SPARKS:** Okay. So at this point, are we going to move on to closed or go on to the consent calendar?

**WILLIAMS:** We can do consent calendar. We still have to nominate/approve board member assignments.

**SPARKS:** Okay. We will move to item number six, nominating and approving board member assignments for the 22-23 fiscal year.

**WILLIAMS:** Nina, typically we talk about that at this meeting and then we actually make the assignments in August. Is that correct?

**BOYD:** Yes. In the last several years, the Board has had the discussion at the July meeting and deferred appointments until the August so that board members could look at the assignments and familiarize themselves. Also since now you have a vacancy that you are going to be doing a reappointment, you may want to take that into consideration also in terms of when you look at assignments. But it can certainly be carried over until either August or September. It is at the Board's pleasure.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Do we need to make a motion about tabling it?

**BOYD:** No, you would just let us know that you are going to table it. Identify when you want to carry it over to the August meeting at this point. Then we can carry it over again if you are not ready. I believe last year you made some assignments in August. There was still some assignments that were made in September because there were still some questions we needed to research for you.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. So let's carry it over until August, and then we will see what we have going on at that point. Maybe we will make some appointments, and maybe we will table a few more until September. We will see kind of how it goes.

**SHAW:** One of them, you had to be on the Board at least a year as I recall.

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**SPARKS:** Yeah, right.

**SHAW:** Which one was that?

**BOYD:** That is the CSBA Delegate and the CCBE Board of Directors. All of you—

**SPARKS:** We have all been on the board of directors.

**SHAW:** Right, I was just thinking about whoever gets appointed.

**SPARKS:** Oh, right.

**SHAW:** You wouldn't be eligible, right?

**SPARKS:** Right.

**BOYD:** Correct.

**SHAW:** Okay.

**BOYD:** And they wouldn't be eligible for the OCSBA position either. Typically the newest person, just historically, they have taken the PTA Liaison assignment because that gives them a chance to get familiar with the workings of the Board and also in terms of the responsibilities. It also gives them their one year before they move to the other positions. Executive Committee is already determined because that is the president and the vice president.

**SHAW:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Okay. At this point, I would suggest that we take a five-minute break. Some of you who joined us for the beginning may want to go on to other wonderful things in your life besides sitting in an Orange County Board of Education meeting. I would like to take a five-minute break and then we will come back and start through the consent calendar. Thank you. My first time with the gavel.

**[OCBE takes a recess.]**

**SPARKS:** Okay. I would like to call the meeting back to order.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, I would like to make a motion for the consent calendar, including item seven, eight, and nine.

**SPARKS:** Do I have a second?

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam president, I would like at this time to lay on the table items 13, 14, 15, and 16 for the August meeting.

**SPARKS:** Do I have a second?

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

**WILLIAMS, BARKE:** Aye.

**SPARKS:** Motion passes.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, because of being out of order, I would make a motion to go into closed session.

**SPARKS:** I think that is a great idea. Any second?

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. Yes.

**BARKE:** Aye.

**SPARKS:** Okay, we are going to go into closed session.

**[OCBE goes into closed session then returns to open session.]**

**SPARKS:** I would like to reconvene the meeting out of closed session, and I would like to have a report out on the closed session from our wonderful, Jonathan Brenner.

**BRENNER:** Thank you. Good evening, members of the Board, President Sparks, Vice President Shaw. Good to be with you. This is the report out for closed sessions one through four. The Board held a discussion with counsel. The only two actions taken were as follows with respect to closed sessions two through four. The bills of Epstein Becker Green were approved. Those bill numbers are 1088756, 1088757, and 1088758, all dated June 30th, 2022; the vote was 4-0 to approve, Trustee Shaw, Barke, Williams sparks voting in favor, none opposed.

With respect to closed session item number one, the Board approved a press release to be issued and to be posted on the website. The vote to approve that was 4-0: Trustees Shaw, Williams, Sparks, and Barke voting in favor, none opposed. The Board also requests that the press release be read on the record, which I will ask Greg Rolen to come up and do for us now.

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**ROLEN:** Allow me to be the second to recognize President Sparks and Vice President Shaw. The press release is from the Law Offices of Tyler and Bursch and goes as follows:

Orange County Board of Education and the Children's Health Defense seek to end Governor Newsom's COVID-19 state of emergency. Today, the Orange County Board of Education, and the Children's Health Defense, and the Children's Health Defense California Chapter filed a new motion seeking an order to end the COVID-19 state of emergency that Governor Newsom declared more than two years ago. The motion will be heard by Orange County Superior Court Judge Theodore Howard on August 11th, 2022.

Open quote, "This motion makes an even more compelling case that Governor Newsom has acted unlawfully by extending the statewide COVID emergency indefinitely and well beyond the point that is legally justifiable, said Scott J. Street, of JW Howard Attorneys, an attorney for the Orange County Board of Education and Children's Health Defense who successfully litigated a case against the state last year after the state health officials arbitrarily closed gyms. The governor's own expert witness said the COVID-19 pandemic could last another five years and would be extremely difficult to determine in real time when it ends. California law does not authorize an indefinite state of emergency government." Closed quote.

The California Emergency Services Act says that a statewide emergency can be declared during conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state that exceeds local government's capacity to deal with. The Governor must terminate the state of emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. The Orange County Board of Education and Children's Health Defense asked the California Supreme Court to review this important legal issue last summer. It declined.

That led the Board and CHD to file this lawsuit in Orange County Superior Court where the current motion is pending. "While Governor Newsom airs ads in Florida, Californians are hurting especially our children," said Mari Barke past president of the Board. An emergency rule has been used to deprive people of many things during the COVID-19 pandemic from jobs to in person instruction, but the biggest loss has been the loss of local control and the public's access to the political process. We filed our lawsuit to restore these rights and this motion represents a critical step towards restoring normal representative government across California.

That is the end of the press release.

**SPARKS:** Thank you, Mr. Rolen and Mr. Brenner for the report out of the closed session. Do you still have—

**BRENNER:** I'm just going to say that concludes the report out for closed sessions one through four. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Okay.

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**BOYD:** Is there a copy available for us for posting, or are you going to send it?

**ROLEN:** I can send it, or I can give you this hard copy.

**BOYD:** Okay. Either is fine. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Okay. We will move on to item number 10. I want to check with Nina. Are there any charter school submissions?

**BOYD:** There are no submissions at this meeting.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Aracely, would you come forward for item 11 to facilitate the hearing for the charter school public hearing? Thank you.

**CHASTAIN:** We did have one submission, Nina. I apologize.

**BOYD:** Okay. I'm not aware. Go ahead.

**CHASTAIN:** Oxford Preparatory Academy Middle School has submitted their appeal.

**BOYD:** Oh, okay.

**CHASTAIN:** After denial by Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

**BOYD:** Thank you. Darou just said some binders were provided. I guess staff brought some over.

**CHASTAIN:** Okay.

**SISAVATH:** There is one for Greg, too.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** For the record, you have been sick Nina and this happened. That is why it ended being a mystery and why it is being revealed now.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Very good. Thank you, Aracely.

**CHASTAIN:** Sure. Are you ready? Good evening, President Sparks, Trustees and Superintendent Mijares, who is sitting here. Today, the Board will hold a hearing to grant or deny the material revision to the Explore Academy Charter School petition. The school is slated to begin operations in fall of '23 and is requesting to add Garden Grove Unified and Orange Unified as potential locations for charter school facilities. A public hearing was held on June 1st to consider the level of support for the material revision. The Orange County Department of

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Education Staff Report was published on June 21st. Staff reviewed the revised charter petition and determined that it meets the standards outlined in Education Code and recommended the Board approve Explore Academy's requested material revision. Prior to public comments, representatives from Explore Academy are allotted 10 minutes to provide evidence and testimony in response to the staff recommendation. I now invite representatives from Explore Academy to the podium.

**ROMERO:** Good evening, and congratulations on reelected board members. So good to see you here. Congratulations.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**ROMERO:** I'm former Senator Gloria Romero, co-founder of Explore academy. It is great to be here this evening along with our board members, fabulous board members, three of the five board members. The staff has recommended an "aye." It is basically a material revision to add two districts, Orange and Garden Grove. As you well know, one of the biggest challenges is of course just finding a facility. We are having some final negotiations tomorrow with a wonderful, wonderful landlord in Orange. We feel very optimistic to be able to hopefully take back a hopefully unanimous aye vote tonight. So we respectfully ask for an aye vote. I know it has been a long day, a festive day. You have still got an agenda ahead of you. There is a recommendation of an aye vote, and we thank staff for that recommendation, and ask respectfully for you to affirm that aye vote?

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Anybody else?

**IGLESIAS:** I just want to say congratulations on your reelection, and thank you for sending up for kids and for parents.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Thank you so much.

**CHU:** Ms. President, members of the Board, we are so excited about your reelection and election for Board Member Shaw. We hope to be able to work with you in a manner that will make you proud that you will have done something remarkable for this school district. Thank you for the opportunity and we will not forget that.

**SPARKS:** Thank you for all your hard work.

**TARDIFF:** Thank you, Board Members and Madam President. I appreciate all the work you do and congratulations on your elections.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Thank you for all the wonderful things you are supporting, the Orange County kids. I know it is a lot of hard work finding a place, and a venue, and all the work that goes into it. We really are so grateful for all the work you are doing so that we can support you. Okay, do we have any public comments related to this?

**BOYD:** Aracely.

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**CHASTAIN:** The hearing is now open for public comments, Deputy Superintendent Boyd, are there any public comments for this agenda item?

**BOYD:** There are none.

**CHASTAIN:** This concludes the public hearing. The Board has three options for action regarding the material revision: option one, approve the material revision; option two, approve the material revision with conditions; option three, deny the material revision. President Sparks, I now close the public hearing and turn the meeting back over to you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you very much.

**BARKE:** I would like to make a motion to approve.

**SPARKS:** Is there any discussion before we approve?

**WILLIAMS:** I don't have any questions.

**BARKE:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Do I have a second?

**WILLIAMS:** Second.

**SPARKS:** Okay. We will call the vote. All in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**SPARKS:** Okay. The vote passes 4-0. Congratulations.

**ROMERO:** Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** And just for clarification, that was option one.

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** Is that correct.

**SPARKS:** Yes, option one.

**WILLIAMS:** That is what I assumed.

**BARKE:** Yes.

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**WILLIAMS:** Okay. But it just needs to be put into the record.

**BARKE:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Okay. So that was 12, was the actual vote, right?

**WILLIAMS:** Correct. That was a board action.

**SPARKS:** We are done with item 12. Okay, so we will move on to, items 13-16 we tabled until August, so that moves us to item 17, which is a board action on changing the August board date from August 3rd to another date, either August 10th or 16th.

**BARKE:** I would make a motion to change it to August 10th.

**WILLIAMS:** I'm okay with August 10th. Tim?

**SHAW:** I am checking my calendar. Sorry, I should have done this earlier.

**SPARKS:** I would like to check in with our good Counsel Greg Rolan because he may have a conflict on that date.

**BARKE:** Oh.

**ROLEN:** Not your new counsel, I have been counsel for several years.

**SPARKS:** I said good counsel.

**ROLEN:** Good counsel, oh, that is different.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, not new counsel.

**SHAW:** That also would be new.

**ROLEN:** Yeah, that would be new.

**SPARKS:** It is a new novelty.

**BARKE:** I would take back my motion if the 17th is better for you.

**ROLEN:** It is it is better for my marriage.

**BARKE:** Okay, yes. Then, I will make, I'm sorry—

**ROLEN:** My marriage is part of the public good you understand.

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**BARKE:** Yes. Yes. Please. Scratch my original motion. I will make a motion for August 17th.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Before I—

**ROLEN:** Do you need my support for that?

**SPARKS:** Okay. Let me just—

**WILLIAMS:** I'm okay with August 17th.

**SPARKS:** I'm pretty sure I'm okay with it. I just wanted—

**SHAW:** August 17th works for me. August 10th is a birthday in the Shaw household. That would be better for me.

**SPARKS:** Yes, August 17th works for me too. You made a motion for August 17th?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** And we have a second?

**WILLIAMS:** I seconded.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**SPARKS:** Okay. The date change passes 4-0. We will have our August meeting the 17th, which is actually a nice date in August that we may want to adopt for the future because of the summer break. There are all these meetings. We can discuss that in the future.

**BARKE:** Yeah. Yeah.

**SPARKS:** But it is kind of a nice idea actually.

**BARKE:** Yeah. Plan it for the third Wednesday?

**SPARKS:** Right.

**BARKE:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Just in August.

**BARKE:** That is fine.

**SPARKS:** So people get a little break.

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**BOYD:** I indicated to the Board that because there are multiple interdistrict appeals, we need to schedule a special board meeting before the next board meeting. The options for that date would be July 25th, 26th, or 27th in order to meet statutory timelines for—

**SPARKS:** Or before that, correct?

**BOYD:** Excuse me?

**SPARKS:** Or before that?

**BOYD:** No.

**SPARKS:** No. Only those dates?

**SPARKS:** Only those dates for the first six that need to be heard.

**SPARKS:** Oh.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Do we all—I'm not available.

**BOYD:** Then you have some that—we were told that there is 17 that are after that date.

**WILLIAMS:** Wow.

**BOYD:** Whether or not you want to start earlier on the 17th, like midday, to complete those. We will see as we get further along, some of those may be—

**BARKE:** Worked out.

**BOYD:** Worked out with staff, working with the districts and so forth. I will have more information. But if you all have your calendars now, we can look at the special board meeting that needs to occur at the end of the month, or we can poll the Board.

**SPARKS:** The end of July.

**BOYD:** Excuse me, the end of July. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Okay. That works then.

**BOYD:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** That would work for me if you guys wanted to have a special meeting.

**BARKE:** It sounds like we have to.

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**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** Right. There is six hearings moving forward that have to occur before the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** But it would be the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, or 27<sup>th</sup> would be the three dates.

**SPARKS:** How about Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup>?

**BARKE:** That is the one day I cannot do it. I can do it the 25<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup> if that works for everyone else.

**SPARKS:** I can do the 25<sup>th</sup>, but not the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**BARKE:** Can you do the 25<sup>th</sup>? Can you do the 25<sup>th</sup>?

**SHAW:** Yeah, I can do the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**WILLIAMS:** I'm flexible.

**SPARKS:** Okay. I can do 25 or 28.

**SHAW:** Guys, I have Central Committee (inaudible).

**BARKE:** Oh.

**SPARKS:** Can we do the 28<sup>th</sup>?

**BOYD:** The 28<sup>th</sup> is not an option. You will be beyond, the 27<sup>th</sup> is the—

**SPARKS:** Oh, the deadline.

**BOYD:** The drop dead date.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**SHAW:** Someone didn't work for the 26<sup>th</sup> or the 27<sup>th</sup>?

**BARKE:** I just can't do the 27<sup>th</sup>, but I think Lisa can't do the 26<sup>th</sup>?

**SPARKS:** I can do the 26<sup>th</sup> up until 6 o'clock.

**BARKE:** So we can do it earlier.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

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**BARKE:** Can we do the 26 earlier, like 3 maybe?

**SHAW:** The 25th, I can.

**BARKE:** Are you sure?

**SHAW:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** I could do the 26th, just earlier. I can't do it after 6 o'clock.

**BOYD:** You could come at 2 or 2:30?

**SPARKS:** Yeah. Yeah. Sure.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Then you don't have to forego your meeting.

**SHAW:** Okay. Sure.

**BARKE:** So the 26th, you want to plan it for 2 and then we will adjust it if we lose that?

**SPARKS:** Does 2 sound reasonable?

**BOYD:** The 26th?

**SPARKS:** We can adjust the time, but we just need the date, correct?

**SHAW:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** Correct.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** We will confirm the time so that we can get it posted correctly and contact the parents and the families.

**SPARKS:** Do we need a motion or anything like that?

**BOYD:** No, because it is a special board meeting. It would just be, the interdistrict appeals would be the only thing that you would be doing.

**BARKE:** We are looking at the 26th and tentatively for 2 o'clock. Is that what I heard?

**SPARKS:** Correct.

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**BARKE:** Okay. I just want to make sure I throw it in there.

**SPARKS:** We think that will take until about 6 o'clock—it could.

**BARKE:** Well, not if some get worked.

**SPARKS:** If some get worked out, okay. But I want to block off the afternoon.

**BOYD:** Yeah. I can give you a better time frame once I have reviewed the actual cases.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Does that sound okay with everyone?

**BARKE:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** July 26th, 2 o'clock, save the date.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** For interdistrict transfer appeals.

**BARKE:** Yep.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Then we will move on to item number 18, the appointment process for Trustee Area 1.

**WILLIAMS:** I will make the motion that the Board takes the position that we fill the First District vacancy. I will make the motion, but not make the date. That could be a subsidiary motion we need to decide. It has to be before the end of August or it goes to a forced election. My primary motion here is to begin the process. That is a process that Nina knows very well and we will work with the Executive Committee. The next decision is when do we actually—

**SPARKS:** We need a second.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, we need on second.

**BARKE:** I will second.

**SPARKS:** Do we need to approve that or do we need to discuss it?

**BARKE:** Discussion, right?

**WILLIAMS:** Well, no. This is an action item. We just need to select a date.

**BARKE:** Okay.

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**BOYD:** You need to select a date. If you go to page 47 in your Agenda, there is, excuse me, in the red folder.

**WILLIAMS:** Are you saying we selected a date?

**BOYD:** No, you did not select a date.

**WILLIAMS:** Right.

**BOYD:** But we need to fill in so that we can post it.

**WILLIAMS:** Exactly.

**SPARKS:** This is the procedure. Yeah.

**BOYD:** We took the previous reappointment process.

**WILLIAMS:** Sure.

**BOYD:** We have just inserted the information left blank because we don't know the dates at this point in time. But that is what we need you all to discuss right now so that we can do the posting and get it in the newspaper.

**SPARKS:** So we need to do it by the end of August. Would we be able to do it the August 17th date? No?

**WILLIAMS:** I think there is—help me out here. There is a time period that we have to do it so many days ahead of time in a local newspaper. Is that correct?

**BOYD:** That is correct. But we will need that timeframe with posting that this weekend.

**WILLIAMS:** Right. We need to make a date. We need to make a date right now.

**BOYD:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. That is what I thought.

**SPARKS:** A date right now, what do you mean?

**WILLIAMS:** For the actual time that we will be appointing.

**SPARKS:** Right.

**BOYD:** The final filing date—

**SPARKS:** Oh, I see.

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**BOYD:** As well as, we would then back date to when we would need applicants to submit their inquiry or the fact that they are interested in coming before the Board for you all to interview them.

**SPARKS:** We need a deadline for submission, basically.

**BOYD:** Correct.

**WILLIAMS:** We need two dates. A date that we actually make the decision and a submission date for filing.

**BARKE:** What are our parameters now to be within the legal requirements?

**SPARKS:** By the end of August. Okay.

**BARKE:** By the end of August, okay. So anytime that has—

**BOYD:** That is your first date.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Then we would advertise for 30 days. Right now, we are within that timeframe because of the fact that today is the seventh.

**BARKE:** Sixth.

**BOYD:** The sixth, excuse me. Your next board meeting is not until the 17th. From that standpoint, you could do something any time between the 7th of August and the 30th of August because you are trying to meet that timeframe.

**WILLIAMS:** Could we also do, this is a thought, could we also do the appointment at that meeting on the 17th?

**SPARKS:** That is what I was asking.

**BOYD:** That is what she just asked. Yes, you could, but you have a pretty full agenda.

**WILLIAMS:** We do.

**BOYD:** Because of the fact that you have carried over—

**SPARKS:** Oh.

**BOYD:** All of the items that you have carried over from this meeting.

**BARKE:** But I don't anticipate them taking a long time.

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**SPARKS:** Right.

**BARKE:** I think, you know, we can all (inaudible) what we want to do.

**SPARKS:** Right.

**BOYD:** It just depends on how many people submit.

**SPARKS:** Right.

**BOYD:** Last time you had quite a number of folks to interview. It was a couple of hours, you know, in terms of your interview process. I don't know how many people are going to—

**SPARKS:** It is also the way we interview. I mean, we made it kind of a long process and we don't necessarily have to make it that long.

**BARKE:** I'm just not convinced that our 17th meeting will be that long of a meeting. I don't think it will take us that long to get through what we laid on the table.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. I kind of prefer the 17<sup>th</sup> because we already have it committed.

**BARKE:** Yeah. I think as long as we are going to be here, we might as well just go for it.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. If it is a longer day, it is a longer day.

**BOYD:** You can always start your meeting earlier.

**BARKE:** Yeah. Yup.

**SPARKS:** Let's do it the 17th. This is my suggestion. Let's do it the 17th and then as we see how many people are applying, we can adjust the time.

**BARKE:** Right.

**SPARKS:** Accordingly.

**BARKE:** Do we want to just say right now, 3 o'clock knowing that at least there will be some people.

**SPARKS:** Sure.

**BARKE:** Then we can always move it down.

**SPARKS:** Sure.

**BARKE:** At least that way we will have a placeholder for starting by 3.

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**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Is that okay with Tim and Ken?

**WILLIAMS:** I'm fine.

**BOYD:** Do we want people to by the week prior to the 17th or?

**BARKE:** For the submissions?

**BOYD:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** The deadline for the submission.

**BOYD:** We will backdate that in.

**BARKE:** Yeah, August 10 so that we have a week to look at them.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** I will look at the dates to make sure we are within the timeframes. You don't have to decide that. We will meet that parameter based on--in terms of they are submitting their submission for the position.

**WILLIAMS:** Right. Just for the record, clarify if I'm wrong, the Executive Committee will be doing the screening? Initially it will come in to the contact@ocbe.us. That will come to Darou. Then that goes to the Executive Committee.

**BOYD:** We sent them to all the Board members last time.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. We did send them to all the Board members?

**BOYD:** Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Naturally, the Executive Committee conferred with staff with regards to process and so forth. But all Board members had the information because all of you would be doing the interview.

**SPARKS:** Sure.

**BARKE:** Okay.

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**SPARKS:** Then we will just need to figure out, do we want to do—last time we had each of us ask some questions of the candidates. I think we had two questions each, or we had—

**BARKE:** A couple rounds maybe.

**SPARKS:** A couple rounds.

**BARKE:** I remember, like, us going through rounds.

**SPARKS:** I don't know if we want to do that same exact process or we just each ask kind of one main question?

**BOYD:** I can send you the process that was utilized years ago, because that was a more simplified process

**SPARKS:** Right.

**BOYD:** Than what you all used this time.

**SPARKS:** I would prefer a simplified process.

**BOYD:** Okay. I will send that to you for consideration. Have some conversation with—

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** You and Tim would relay—

**SPARKS:** I would do the will of the Board but if we could—

**BARKE:** What about if we had it very simplified and then we each had the flexibility to ask one additional question.

**SPARKS:** Sure.

**BARKE:** Like if there was some burning thing we want to know.

**SPARKS:** Right. Of course, of course.

**BARKE:** Something like that.

**SPARKS:** Mm-hmm, that sounds good to me.

**SHAW:** I'm just thinking. Are we going to have the ability, I can imagine someone wanting to know, am I a resident of the First District?

**SPARKS:** Right.

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**SHAW:** We have been talking all about redistricting. Will we have somehow the ability online or wherever we are posting this information, you know, confirm you are—

**BARKE:** Yeah. Plug in your address.

**SHAW:** Plug you address here and confirm you are—

**SPARKS:** Go into the OCVote. You can—

**SHAW:** Right.

**SPARKS:** You can look at—they can punch in their address or—

**BOYD:** We did confirm all of the addresses prior to them—

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**SHAW:** Oh, that is good.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Coming to the board meeting and being interviewed. Because this is filling the existing seat, it would be the same. It wouldn't be the new map. It would be—

**SHAW:** The quote unquote old First District, right?

**BOYD:** Correct.

**SHAW:** Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Tustin.

**BARKE:** But, parts of it only.

**SHAW:** Only parts.

**BARKE:** Because the old district, Beckie and I shared a lot of it. Yeah.

**BOYD:** I will just say it would be the old map.

**BARKE:** Okay. All right.

**BOYD:** I am not identifying what is in there.

**BARKE:** Clarifying.

**BOYD:** Right. That is the map that the individual would be responding to, so that information would be part of the process.

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**BARKE:** Okay.

**BOYD:** It identifies for them all that they need to do and so forth. That is outlined

**SPARKS:** Now that we have both of our websites, should that be posted to both websites?

**BOYD:** It would be, yes.

**SPARKS:** It would be, okay. Sorry. I found my name tag. I am very excited about that. Thank you. Okay, good. Any other discussion?

**BARKE:** No.

**SPARKS:** Okay, so—

**BOYD:** We will forward some information to the Executive Committee to finalize this, and we will give you a draft of what it looks like, make sure we are on the same page.

**SPARKS:** Perfect.

**BOYD:** And then we will proceed after that.

**SPARKS:** Okay, perfect.

**WILLIAMS:** Do you need a formal vote, or is this more of a consensus for this issue, Nina?

**BOYD:** You already took—yes, you do need to vote because you made a first and second and you haven't.

**SPARKS:** We will take the vote. All in favor?

**SPARKS, WILLIAMS, BARKE, SHAW:** Aye.

**SPARKS:** Passes 4-0. All right. Thank you all. We will move on to any staff recommendations or information items?

**BOYD:** Are you going to discuss the community forum or is that a carry over?

**SPARKS:** We will start with the community forum. Are we going to discuss that?

**WILLIAMS:** Sure. Yeah, I can. Mari and I, as you are well aware, started this last meeting I believe. The community forum was approved. But the date in August was not good because there is a lot of parking reconstruction that would not allow that to be an ideal date. So it is going to be in September. We have not established that date, so maybe that is something that we do today to establish that date?

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**BOYD:** I have some dates for consideration. Originally, the date you had was a Tuesday. I didn't know if you wanted to stay with the Tuesday or if you want to go to Wednesday. But, first off, I would say that we are looking at dates after September 16th just because of the work that is being done around the site so September 20th or 27th, 21st or 28th.

**BARKE:** I would make a motion for Tuesday, September 20th.

**WILLIAMS:** I will second it just for discussion. I'm good with that date. I would defer to Lisa and Tim if they are open.

**SHAW:** September 20?

**SPARKS:** Yeah. I'm good with that date.

**SHAW:** Yeah, me too.

**BARKE:** Okay. Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** So September 20th, okay. What we will do as the subcommittee for this, we will bring more details at our next meeting. As we briefly discussed when we adopted and improved this, it would be very similar to the format that we had for the earlier community forums. I will be working with Nina and asking her opinion and Dr. Mijares opinion on the composition of our expert panel. We will bring more to you at the next meeting.

**BOYD:** Do you want to look at any of those other dates or was the 20th the only?

**BARKE:** I think we all agreed.

**BOYD:** I thought Lisa had a conflict.

**SPARKS:** No, I'm good.

**BOYD:** Oh, you are good?

**BARKE:** Yeah. Yeah.

**BOYD:** Okay. So, the 20th.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Also in terms of timeframe if you are looking at the evening or starting earlier let me know as you work out.

**WILLIAMS:** Right. It would probably be very similar to before. I think 5 or 6 o'clock was the time that we started before.

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**BARKE:** Yeah. I thought we started the press conference around 4:30 and the event at 6, something in that nature. I think it went until about 10.

**WILLIAMS:** 9:30.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, 10 was a little bit late.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. So it will be a very similar format and methodology that we used before. The actual invited guests as we talked about last meeting if you have anybody that you would like to be on an expert panel, please let Mari and I know.

**SPARKS:** Wonderful. I think this will be really exciting.

**SHAW:** Has some invited Senator Romero yet?

**WILLIAMS:** Senator Romero will be on that panel. I have already asked her to be. That will be my personal expert that I will select for that.

**SPARKS:** Wonderful. I think that will be a really exciting panel, really informative for the public. Okay. Any other discussion related to the new panel? No? Okay. We will move on to announcements then. Superintendent Mijares, do you have any announcements?

**MIJARES:** Yes, I have a few Madam President. Congratulations to you for being selected president and Tim as vice president. It is a very festive evening, and it is nice to see you have your colleagues who are admired and respected people in this county swearing you in, congratulations. Just a couple of quick things I would like to announce. This month on the 13th, we are sponsoring our annual Safe Schools Conference. This is something that we do with the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Barnes is part of this. We also have used the leadership of our former California Secretary of Education Dave Long who served under Arnold Schwarzenegger. It is going to be a pretty wonderful day where we come together. There will probably be at least 500 people that will join in. These are teachers, social workers, counselors, administrators and other members of the helping professions. We do have people that come from outside of education as well. Our ACCESS people are very involved too in these workshops, so Vern, thank you for your leadership.

It will be on the 13th at noon. Actually, no, it is in the morning, excuse me. We will do this first thing in the morning. We will be recognizing two individuals, so continuing an annual tradition. The 2022 conference will present two distinguished Safe School Awards. This year's honorees are the School Mobile Assessment and Resource Team known as SMART, administered by the Orange County Sheriff's Department; Monique Yessian, who is the director of Student Services for the Tustin Unified School District, both of those people will be recognized. We give recognition to an educator who has made a contribution, they have been proactive in this area of

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keeping our school safe, and then we recognize somebody that the Sheriff brings forward as a nominee. It is usually one of his members of his staff, but in this case they are going to recognize the entire team.

Just want to give a shout out to all of our people who are in law enforcement, of course those who are in education and those who are involved at the county level, and Social Services for all the work that we do collaboratively to keep our county safe. It is interesting to note that from 2018 to the present time, there have been over 119 shootings, 83 people killed. Of course you witnessed the Uvalde, Texas, matter of 19 children, two adults, 26 injured, and beginning as damnable at age 6 that were shot at. It is so important that we keep our schools safe and this is another effort. It is widely attended, it is not just Orange County. People come in from other counties.

Also wanted to let you know that last Wednesday I participated in the Simon Scholars Annual Banquet. I don't know if you know this or not, but the Simon Foundation has provided over \$60 million in scholarships since 2003. They have supported over 1400 students, most of whom do not have the means. They are high potential kids, but they don't have the means to pay their way through college. It is a phenomenal program. I think many of you do know Ron Simon. He has been doing this work, he and his daughter Kathy Abel (Dr. Abel) as well as his son grandson Ben Druckman. We have been helping them also to identify these students, so it is just a fantastic program. Shout out to them.

I wanted to let you know that we hired a new North OCROP executive director. She is going to be the Orange County Regional Occupational Program superintendent and that is Dana Lynch. That is a position that involves over 16,000 students, so it is a very important job that this person does and we just finished the selection of that. Then just really quickly here, Orange County students win top honors at the National History Day Contest. This is a national conference where we have over 600,000 students participate every year from across the United States and our districts have done tremendously well. In this case, I just want to call out to the Irvine Unified School District, they had several finalists. Also, Samueli Academy charter school in Santa Ana had two top finalists. Let me just mention those names to you real quickly here: Northwood High School Student Riya Gupta, first place under the senior individual exhibit prize for her project entitled "A World Without War: Women Empowered Debate and Diplomacy at the Hague." Then we also had Nataly Lopez as well as Sofia Sevilla from the Samueli Academy, and the topic and title for their project, "We are not Experiments: Shaping Medical Ethics Through the Nuremberg Code."

An interesting factor here is that there were seven projects that had been submitted at the national level. Of these seven, so these projects have individual teams of students, of these seven that made it to the nationals, three were from Orange County; three out of the seven, which goes along with what we have been doing here. For example, this past year, we did the Blue Ribbon Award. There were 28 given in California. All the big, mighty 6.2 million students in California; many, many, 10,000 schools; there were 28 given. Seven were from Orange County. Two of the five top state teachers, two of the five, were from Orange County and four out of the nine top classified workers at the state level were from Orange County. The previous year, we had three

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of nine, so we moved up one. It is just testimonial of the wonderful schools that we have here and the fantastic leadership.

I also wanted to comment that many of you may not know, many of you do know. In Westminster School District, they started the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program in the state. They just finished graduating students. They have started in kindergarten all the way through, so it is a dual immersion: English, Vietnamese. Students come out proficient in both languages and it is amazing. I don't know if you have seen these students. You go into the kindergarten classroom and the teachers are actually giving commands in the second language. In this case, it is Vietnamese, and none of us can understand what they are doing. But the kids are talking with the teacher. It is amazing how their minds are tremendously gifted and sponges, and they take it all in. It is quite a program. I'm very excited to commend Dr. Paik the superintendent, as well as the board.

One more thing, you know how we have vending machines where they sell food? Well, Buena Park School District is doing something different. They are providing books in these vending machines, such as "Goosebumps," "Clifford the Big Red Dog," and it is working great to promote literacy. As you know, that is one of the suggested tenets of the International Baccalaureate Schools. International Baccalaureate is one of the most rigorous curriculums along with Advanced Placement and Cambridge.

Then lastly, let's see, I want to commend Vern, Christine Olmsted, and the entire ACCESS team, because more than 800 students from OCDE's Alternative, Community, and Correctional Educational Schools and Services division pursued through life's obstacles and graduated with one of our diplomas. You are going to be signing diplomas. Mari, you have signed a lot. Ken, you have. You haven't signed any yet, Tim, but you will soon. What we do is we attest to the fact that they met all of the conditions that are stipulated by the state of California to receive the high school diploma, so that is a great thing. That is all I have under my reports.

**SPARKS:** That is exciting. Thank you. Thank you. Just a reminder, if you could send us the information for that conference.

**MIJARES:** Sure.

**SPARKS:** On the 13-15, in case any board members are able to attend some of those sessions.

**MIJARES:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Or some of that conference.

**MIJARES:** It is on the 13th, but I will definitely send them to you. Yeah, absolutely.

**SPARKS:** Then if we could just kind of be informed about, like the Simon's are friends of mine.

**MIJARES:** I know your husband is on the same advisory board that I'm on.

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**SPARKS:** Yes. Those kinds of events too. It would be nice if we could know about them in case we are able to attend some of those.

**MIJARES:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Those events so that we could also be involved in those community events. Okay. Moving on to, Nina. Deputy Superintendent, do you have any announcements?

**BOYD:** The Board has already discussed the next meeting date. Just as a reminder, we have confirmed a special board meeting for July 26, tentatively at 2:00 PM. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be August 17th. The other reminders that I had for you, you have actually carried over the items to next month. We can discuss your participation in conferences, and registrations, and so forth at that time.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Wonderful. Now we have legislative updates. Do we have any CSBA updates? I think our former trustee was on that committee.

**BOYD:** Right.

**SPARKS:** So we are probably on pause with that.

**BOYD:** Right, and we are just forwarding—

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** The newsletters and things that are coming from CSBA.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** We will continue to forward those to the Board members.

**SPARKS:** Any other updates from our board members on any of the other legislative committees: CCBE, NSBA, Capital News Updates, School Services? No?

**WILLIAMS:** I do have a board member comment. I have something to say.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, I'm getting to the board member comments.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** I can just move on to that part.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. Very good. Thank you, Dean Sparks our Madam President. As a point of privilege, I would like to take an opportunity to clarify some rather troubling misinformation coming from the State Senator Min's Office. On July 1 of this year, the Assembly Education Committee had a hearing on SB 286. For those who are unfamiliar with SB 286, it is legislation

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specifically targeting this board. Seeking to move our elections from the primary of that year, that is rather longstanding, it has been like that for many, many decades, moving it to the fall general election. Although this board has traditionally selected its leadership in June, and although the County Board of Supervisors through its charter has the authority to designate when the Orange County Board of Educational elections occur, and although the Board of Supervisors did not see fit to move the County Board of Education elections, likely because the citizens of Orange County like the elections the way they are currently. And although it was neglected moving the elections from June to November might cost some money, as the State Appropriations Committee stated in the legislation, it would be a perpetual drain on the state's general fund. This bill was heard in the Education Committee. Essentially, Senator Min seeks to eliminate local control of education, which has generally been accepted by all in Sacramento. But, sometimes the walk and the talk does not match. This is a statewide law that would tell Orange County folks what to do.

A few days ago, this was heard in committee, as I stated. This Board rose in opposition through our appointed Lobbyist Mr. Tom Sheehy. We pointed out in the Education Committee, on July 1, that this bill was unnecessary. That, as I have already stated, the Senate Appropriations Committee determined that it would be a recurring cost. Instead of addressing—and what is so concerning about what Senator Min said in public in the Sacramento Education Committee, is that, he said that it would probably cost less than the \$120,000 the Board approved to lobby against this bill. Well, that is a misstatement. The Board did not approve \$120,000 to lobby against this bill. These misstatements speak volume. First, it says that Senator Min was not prepared for our opposition. He didn't have the right to say this information without it being correct, so this is what I'm doing at this moment. Specifically, this board approved the contract with our government relations expert, Tom Sheehy for \$12,500. Very much lower than the \$120,000 State Senator Min stated. Again, for the record, I state it as a point of privilege to correct what was said up in Sacramento. As we know, rumors get spread very quickly when misinformation is said by elected individuals. That is it, Madam President, to correct the record on file.

**SPARKS:** Well, I appreciate your due diligence in making that correction, thank you. Any other board member comments?

**BARKE:** You know, I just want to emphasize what Ken just said, because I listened to the hearing and he clearly said \$120,000. That was very disappointing. The way he said as though it would cost a lot less than our \$120 when that was not factual at all. I think that in discussing with the lobbyists, that it would probably cost the state significantly more than that to run our election. It would come out of their general fund so that is a total misstatement of how much the election would actually cost the state if they move it and what we are actually paying a lobbyist. I appreciate Ken bringing that to light.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, the Senate Appropriations Committee said that this bill alone, very partisan in nature, would be a perpetual cost to Orange County. What that cost is, they mentioned a figure of six figures, around there. Not only does this bill remove the concept of local control, it is going to cost money for the taxpayers, and it is going to confuse our constituents, who have for

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as long as I can remember, always chosen the OCDE leadership in the primary. Again, I think this is very partisan. It is very unfortunate that this misinformation was stated by Senator Min.

**SPARKS:** Well that sounds like—

**WILLIAMS:** I will keep you up-to-date when we know where this bill goes next.

**SPARKS:** It sounds like an interesting story that maybe needs to be told.

**BARKE:** I agree. Now it is in the record. But yes, it would be fun to tell it again.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Roxanna, if you are listening—

**SPARKS:** Trustee Shaw, do you have anything to add?

**SHAW:** Yes, thank you. I wanted to acknowledge the superintendent and leadership from the Lowell School District being here at the beginning of our meeting. Of course, I'm wildly biased. That district is the district where my mom is a trustee, where my kids are attending school, where I attended school, and actually where my dad attended school. We go way back, and I'm just so thrilled to hear that it is working out well having them come to Orange County. I actually wrote the argument in the "Ballot Guide," urging the voters to come to Orange County. With that kind of momentum, obviously, it was a smashing success at the ballot box. No, just kidding, but, thank you to everyone who is working so well with Lowell.

I wanted to throw out, too, an idea. It might be appropriate when we discuss our membership in different organizations, but I have really been thinking now that we kind of have the election over and we are back to back to normal a little bit, I am thinking a lot about continuing education. One thing that we had in our City council when I served on the City Council in La Habra. We kind of had a fund for our council to take continuing education courses. The way we did it there, we kind of just had a fund available for the council members. You know, the staff just kind of, every council member had one fifth of that budget if you wanted to take a class or something. If one council member didn't use anything, they could kind of give their budget to their colleague if they wanted. I thought, you know, we are the Board of Education.

What I did when I was on the council, I took some classes from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government online. I just really enjoyed doing that. That was a lot of fun. We did it online for a week, kind of thing, and they have a whole slew of courses. I'm aware Stanford offers some and there is other courses. I don't think that we have such a thing in place right now. I'm just putting this out there as an idea. But it would be fun for me. I would be thrilled to, you know, take some more of those classes if that is something we want to explore how the funding could work. If the Board was paying the fee for any kind of continuing education for our board members, I think that would be appropriate. I think a lot of agencies do that. I don't know what that would look like or what that budget would look like. But maybe we could look at doing that in the future.

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**SPARKS:** Yeah. In fact, I have taken a few of those certification courses through the Harvard Graduate School of Education in some of their leadership programs. They are helpful. They are very helpful. I think continuing education would be really appropriate for the—

**BARKE:** Board of Education.

**SPARKS:** Board of Education.

**SHAW:** What I always did when I took one of the classes was any of the readings and information I got from the class, I just made copies and made sure all my colleagues and city manager got a copy.

**SPARKS:** Sure.

**SHAW:** Just make it available to everybody, so maybe we just do something like that.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, I think we have our slush fund, kind of budget line item. Maybe we—

**SHAW:** I don't think it is called that.

**SPARKS:** Right. It was a joke. I'm a little jet lagged, but yeah. We have a fund that is a board fund. Perhaps we could use some of that for this kind of—because we get to decide sort of how that money is allocated, unless you think there should be a separate continuing education fund.

**SHAW:** Well, if we decided that was an eligible expense and that was good, that would be fine with me if we don't want to make a separate fund. But you know, I was looking at a class here. There was one called, "Crisis Leadership in Higher Education," for example. I was looking at that.

**SPARKS:** Yeah

**SHAW:** I'm sure that would have a lot of good information.

**SPARKS:** We must be on the same listserv.

**WILLIAMS:** As a matter of helping out the new Executive Committee, you would work that out and bring the presentation to the Board for approval, so you can work with Nina, and Greg, and Board policy. There is a lot of different options for you to work that out. I would definitely seek their input.

**SHAW:** Great.

**WILLIAMS:** Then bring it to us and flush it out .

**SHAW:** Great.

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**SPARKS:** Okay. That sounds good. That sounds really good. Well, I will just end then, unless you had something else to say?

**SHAW:** I just wanted to say thank you to you guys—

**SPARKS:** Oh yeah.

**SHAW:** For allowing me to be the vice president. I look forward to being on the Executive Committee with President Sparks. Of course, as I mentioned, the voters of the Fourth District who were kind enough to reelect me here for another couple years, so glad to be back. They say in politics sometimes, there is a silly season. I seem to have been subjected more to like a silly year, or actually silly years, not just a silly season, but silly years.

**SPARKS:** Well, you stole some of my words, because I was going to thank the Board for selecting me to be the next president after I declined for many years. I'm happy to serve at this point and continue the great work that Mari and Ken, our good trustees, have done over the last four years. Taking those roles of president and vice president, and vice president/president and president/vice president, so we really appreciate all the hard work you all have done. Taking the leadership as Executive Council for the last four years, it has definitely been a lot of fireworks, a lot of hard work, and you have really taken the lead on that. I'm just really grateful for your leadership for these last four years. Big shoes to fill. I will do the best I can to continue that great work and we will all support each other through that process. I would also like to congratulate, Superintendent Mijares on your victory as well.

**MIJARES:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** I understand you will be sworn in later. I don't know when.

**MIJARES:** Well, we all get sworn in. Remember, at the Registrar of Voters office?

**SPARKS:** Oh, there you go.

**MIJARES:** Just so that we meet the letter of the law, and then the other part is symbolic.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Yeah.

**MIJARES:** At some point down the road I will.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**MIJARES:** Thank you. Thank you for asking.

**SPARKS:** Awesome. Then I would like to close in a moment of silence for the victims of the recent Illinois shooting and all the previous shootings that we have not sort of paused for these tragic, tragic incidents and just, you know, put forth good vibes for safety in our schools, and I hope this conference that is upcoming will be very productive in that regard. If we could just

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have a few seconds of silence? I will give 15 seconds. [Silence is observed.] Thank you. Thank you all for electing me president, and, Tim congrats on being vice president. We have oranges if anyone is hungry at the end of the day, and I will conclude—

**WILLIAMS:** I make a motion to adjourn.

**SPARKS:** Okay, we will adjourn the meeting. Second?

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.