

**Transcript of the September 7, 2022, Orange Board of Education Meeting**

**SPARKS:** We will call the meeting to order. Darou, roll call.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** I am present

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Here.

**SPARKS:** Nina, are there any comment cards received, related to the closed session?

**BOYD:** There are none.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** I make a motion to adopt the Agenda.

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** I make a motion for the Minutes from August 17.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Passes 5-0. Okay, now we are going to go into closed session to conduct an appeal hearing followed by closed session items. Thank you.

[The Orange County Board of Education goes into closed session  
and then returns to open session.]

**SPARKS:** Okay. I would like to now call our good friend, Rabbi Levi to the podium for invocation.

**LEVI:** Thank you. It is a delight to be back here with you all. I'm Rabbi Peter Levi, a rabbi in the local community. I want to actually share an old Jewish joke with you all. It goes: there is no one in the Bible that you want your kids to grow up to be like. Right? They all had issues, right? Adam was blaming Eve; Cain killed Abel; Abraham, well between his handmaids and trying to sacrifice his son; the sibling rivalry with Jacob and Esau; or Joseph and the brothers; they all have got their problems and their challenges. But yet for the Jewish people, we hold onto these stories and these narratives. We tell it as part of our history because we are better off for it, right? The good, the bad and the ugly is all part of our narrative. When we learn how to embrace that, it is part of the secret for the Jewish people and our thriving for this millennium.

And of course, public education is a part of America's story and how we became great as a nation that we recognize today. In fact, without our public schoolhouses, we wouldn't have the high literacy rates we do. We probably wouldn't have been able to usher in the industrial and scientific ages and might that our country bears. Public education in the U.S. has consistently welcomed newcomers from all over the world, which has knit our democracy back together. You know, after its challenges, particularly the Civil War, enabled us to become the wealthy nation with the high living standards that we have today. That is what public education is about in our country. To renew the benefits of public education that have brought to America, we need to commit ourselves to this vision, to telling our whole story.

Our democracy sprouts from the seeds planted in public education, where students grapple with our messy history and learn to negotiate the differences of race, class, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability. Education thrives with the separation of church and state. The flower of the freedom of thought will wilt when religious doctrine is foisted upon our students. Education flourishes with the free flow of ideas. In the past two years, we have seen 36 states in this country propose 137 bills that would limit teaching about race, gender and American history. In our increasingly diverse Orange County, insulating students from the lessons about racism or the lesbian, gay, bi, and trans and queer community and the bigotry they suffer, would create a generation ill-equipped to participate in our multicultural and diverse democracy. When the teaching of our country's full history is inhibited, our children are purposely made ignorant on how American society works. Lies and omissions about history were essential to the program of Jim Crow subjugation in the history of racial oppression and the denial of political rights.

Now, as a rabbi, I know that freedom came into this world in Hebrew. In the Hebrew scriptures and the story of Moses, liberating the ancient Israelites from slavery and oppression in Egypt. The story of the Exodus from Egypt has been the most inspiring transformative story this world has ever seen. It has toppled tyrants, and it has led the way for the freedom of this world. And every student deserves the kind of myth shattering and empowering education by telling and owning the true stories of our country and the wonderful and rich diversity of people who inhabit it. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you, Rabbi Peter, President of the Orange County of Rabbis. I truly appreciate it. Now it is time for our Pledge of Allegiance. Perhaps we have a volunteer? Lorrie Kaylor, would you like to lead our Pledge of allegiance?

**WILLIAMS:** was that an invocation? That was not an invocation.

**SPARKS:** I know.

**LORRIE:** Please join me. Right hand over your heart. Ready? Begin. 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.

**SPARKS:** Thank you, Lorrie and welcome everyone. Nina, are there any introductions?

**BOYD:** There are no new introductions, but I would like to introduce our Chief Academic Officer Dr. Christine Olmstead. She is no longer the interim.

**SPARKS:** Oh, okay.

**BOYD:** She is now the Chief Academic Officer.

**SPARKS:** Congratulations.

**SHAW:** Wow, look at her.

**SPARKS:** Congratulations. Okay. Are there any comment cards?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SHAW:** Two. I think that's Lori, followed by Andrei. You want to come on down and if you want to just be on the on-deck circle? You could come on down to the front row.

**SPARKS:** Come on down.

**SHAW:** Be ready to roll.

**SPARKS:** The price is right.

**SHAW:** All right.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, right here in front of the microphone, and they are going to set the timer for three minutes.

**LORI:** I just wanted to pass something out to you guys.

**BOYD:** If you would lower the mic? You can bring anything that you have to hand out to me, and we will distribute it.

**LORI:** I don't know if I printed out enough.

**BOYD:** Okay. We will get copies for everyone. Thank you. Before you start, if you just state your name and then start your comments?

**LORI:** Yeah. My name is Lori Morris and I'm a parent at OPA SOC. Good evening board members and staff. I'm here because I have a child at Oxford Prep. I'm here to shed light on my experience and encourage parents to keep their eyes open. My concern started last year when I was informed that OPA was implementing the Second Step Social/Emotional program into their curriculum. At the time I was somewhat familiar with the term, as I had watched a video on SEL via the Capistrano Unified School District which promoted supporting a child's social and emotional wellbeing. After digging a bit deeper, I did find some negative press about the program. I read an article by Anne Marie Banfield, titled "Resignation," about a teacher who spoke out and said that Second Steps SEL program attempts to undermine the parent-child relationship by subtly suggesting that people from other generations, i.e., parents and grandparents could be a roadblock to their child's goals. I did not see that for myself, but when I read the account, it was certainly troubling.

Fast forward to the beginning of this year. Within the first week, my child informed me that her teacher had posters hanging in the classroom that highlighted the words marxist, critical race, gender, and feminist and many others. I asked my child about the posters and she replied that the poster topics could be used for extra credit writing assignments. On September 1st, I attended a classroom orientation where I saw the signs for myself. After seeing the posters, I was definitely concerned. I reached out to a friend who encouraged me to watch the August 17th, Orange County Board of Education meeting. I was shocked to see a whistle blower from OPA come forward and expose a vendor that OPA had approved. This particular vendor, as it was explained, promotes CRT, social justice and also uses software to collect data from invasive online surveys.

After the whistle blower exposed the vendor, the Board came back and expressed their deep concern over this issue and stated the vendor had no place in the K-12 classroom environment. I was encouraged that OPA took note and from my understanding, dissolved that contract immediately. What I find concerning, despite the warning from the Board, is my child's teacher had these controversial signs in the classroom well after the start of school. In fact, not until I reached out via email on September 6th did the signs come down. I did not demand the signs

come down. I just wanted to know how these topics fit into the curriculum. The principal was quick to respond to my concern and even gave an example of how the signage was intended for use. She explained for instance, that gender on the main character could be changed to allow for a different outcome in the storyline. No example was given regarding marxist, critical race, or feminist. And to be fair, I'm not sure those terms were part of the extra credit writing because I did not hear directly from the teacher, other than to tell me that the signs were down.

In closing, I want say I love OPA. I'm grateful for its existence and I support the charter. I just want to make sure that all the teachers and the administration are communicating about what is appropriate in the classroom. I want to have faith and confidence in OPA to do the right thing.

**SHAW:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**SHAW:** Andrei?

**ANDREI:** Hello. My name is Andrei Jagodin. I will be talking about OPA as well. First of all, I would like to thank OCBE for advising OPA charter school to cancel the contract with Restorative Equity Partnership. And I'm thankful to OPA leadership team for following your advice and doing the right thing. I think it is important to review OPA's decision-making process that led to signing this contract in the first place to make sure the situation will not repeat in the future. I noticed one anomaly when OPA's board was choosing an insurance company. Quotes from multiple providers were presented to the board. Insurance companies are not political, but training providers may have strong political biases. When OPA's board was choosing a training provider, then no alternative quotes were presented to the board. It was strange that only one person, Patricia Luckeroth, decided with whom to sign the contract. Ms. Luckeroth provided misleading arguments and used her influence to push this contract through the approval process despite warnings voiced by me and some board members.

Her political views seem to overlap with REP's views because she uses pronouns. Believing in gender fluidity became a political thing, so I guess we are witnessing some favoritism here. Ms. Luckeroth never replied to my email asking what criteria she used in choosing REP over competitors. She is responsible for student services and accountability at OPA.

I checked the definition of accountability on Wikipedia and I learned that ignoring questions is not part of it. I asked my questions again at the last OPA board meeting. I had to retrieve Ms. Luckeroth's emails through (inaudible) request. I found that in one email sent to REP, she complains that their website's radical wording is causing too many questions and she had to answer all these questions. Here, I have to emphasize that Ms. Luckeroth's job was to advise OPA's board how to choose the best vendor, not to advise her favorite vendor how to secure the contract by hiding the truth. This raises the question whether she is loyal to OPA or REP. By the way, if Ms. Luckeroth decides to apply for a job at REP, then I promise that OPA parents will write an excellent reference letter for her.

We saw how hard she was trying to pull this contract through and we have her emails to back it up. I would like to advise OPA to harden the decision making process during the new vendor onboarding because I can definitely see flaws there.

**SHAW:** Andrei, your time has expired. Thank you.

**ANDREI:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**ANDREI:** Thank you. I would like to submit this to the Board.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Is that how many cards?

**SHAW:** That is it.

**SPARKS:** Okay, wonderful. Thank you. At this point then we will move on to the organizational meeting part, number two, election of officer. I'm going to preside over the election of the clerk of the board. Do I have any nominations?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes. I would like to nominate our new Trustee, Jorge Valdes.

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

**BARKE:** I will second that.

**SPARKS:** Okay. I guess we will go for a vote then. All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** I think you passed 5-0.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Including yourself. Thank you for serving as clerk of the board. Now we are on item number three. We will nominate and approve board member assignments for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. What assignments do we have left to do?

**BOYD:** They are under item three. It would just be Orange County School Boards Association and the PTA Liaison.

**SPARKS:** Okay. We will start with the OCSBA, do I have any nominations for that role?

**WILLIAMS:** Since we are on a roll? I would like to nominate our new Trustee, Jorge Valdes for that position, too.

**BARKE:** I will second that.

**BOYD:** For which one?

**SPARKS:** For the OCSBA?

**VALDES:** It sounds like I'm getting a lot of extra work.

**SPARKS:** Do I have a second? Yeah, I do?

**WILLIAMS:** You can refuse it, Jorge.

**SPARKS:** You can refuse.

**WILLIAMS:** It is a good starter to get to know everybody.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Should we take it for a vote? All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** That is four and a half. No, 5-0. Thank you, Jorge.

**WILLIAMS:** To be fair and to be equal, I will nominate myself for the PTA Liaison to make this easy.

**SPARKS:** For the PTA Liaison, okay. That's very generous of you.

**BARKE:** I will second the nomination of yourself.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Wonderful. All in favor then?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay. Dr. Williams, our PTA liaison, thank you for doing that. All right, that moves us on to our time certain. I'm going to call Chief Academic Officer Christine Olmstead to the podium.

**OLMSTEAD:** I don't see our guests, so I'm thinking they weren't able to make it tonight. I will just read our resolution and we will go from there. Okay. Good evening, President Sparks, Trustees and guests. Red Ribbon Week officially began in 1988 to honor DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. Kiki was a highly decorated DEA agent who dedicated 11 years of his life to combating drug abuse before his passing in 1985 at the hands of a drug cartel. His passion for this work stemmed from his love for his wife, three children and his community. The Red

Ribbon Week movement was started in 1985 by students and teachers at Calexico High School in Kiki's hometown. When they heard about his death, the students and staff wore red ribbons and pledged to lead drug free lives to honor the sacrifices made by Kiki and others on behalf of all Americans. Calexico High School students and staff also had a goal of spreading awareness of drug abuse across the country.

In 1988, the Grassroots Campaign was officially recognized as Red Ribbon Week by the National Family Partnership with President Reagan and Nancy Reagan serving as first honorary chairpersons. Since 1988, Drug Use is Life Abuse, a support group of the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council, which OCDE participates on, and the Orange County Sheriff's Department have promoted Red Ribbon Week as a kickoff to drug use awareness and prevention education activities in Orange County schools. As part of their campaign, the Drug Use is Life Abuse Council distributes Red Ribbon Week wristbands. Ooh, can you guys say that really fast?

**SPARKS:** That is a tongue twister.

**OLMSTEAD:** Five times, right? To all public, charter, and private school students and staff, encouraging them to be drug free and to show their support for drug prevention efforts. To support Red Ribbon Week, the Drug Use is Life Abuse Council has developed a partnership with local businesses that offer incentives for customers who are wearing Red Ribbon Week wristbands. This year, Red Ribbon Week is October 23rd to October 31st, but it doesn't stop there. Throughout the year, numerous county, city, and community-based organizations provide drug abuse prevention and education services to thousands of youth and families across Orange County. The Orange County Department of Education and Orange County Board of Education are honored to continue our partnership with the Drug Use is Life Abuse Council to promote Red Ribbon Week through drug prevention and awareness messages throughout Orange County honoring the memory of Kiki Camarena.

We appreciate the Board's annual support of Red Ribbon Week here in Orange County. And a resolution is officially in your packets tonight to recognize Red Ribbon Week as October 23rd to the 31st in 2022. At this time, we would like to honor our partnership with our partners at the Sheriff's Department and Drug Use is Life Abuse. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. And thank you for sharing the history, very interesting.

**SHAW:** If I might real quick, Madam President?

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**SHAW:** I was going to mention, I heard once Agent Camarena's son. He is now a judge and he goes around speaking. It is quite moving, his presentation. I was going to ask, years ago I worked when I was working for state Senator Bob Huff, the State Senate had a program of printing up bookmarks, Red Ribbon Week bookmarks. I would drive around. I put my whole back seat of my car, and I just drove from schools that the Senator represented and dropped off boxes to give to the students. I don't know. Do we still do that? I bet—



**OLMSTEAD:** There are all sorts of paraphernalia—

**SHAW:** Little fun gifts, giveaways.

**OLMSTEAD:** —you can get for part of Red Ribbon Week. Our office sends things out to the schools through prizes we get, and then there is a Red Ribbon Week website that you can go on and order more things if you want that. But we do make sure all the wristbands get out to all of the schools. Then through various programs that we have, different items are provided to students if they are part of our student programs.

**SHAW:** Great.

**SPARKS:** Cool. Thanks for sharing.

**WILLIAMS:** Question, that is Officer Rique?

**SHAW:** Enrique.

**WILLIAMS:** Enrique.

**SHAW:** Camarena.

**OLMSTEAD:** He goes by Kiki.

**WILLIAMS:** Kiki.

**OLMSTEAD:** Camarena. C a m a r e n a.

**WILLIAMS:** Camarena. Okay. And he was slain in 1985?

**OLMSTEAD:** 1985.

**WILLIAMS:** By the drug cartel?

**OLMSTEAD:** Correct.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. Okay.

**SHAW:** He was a DEA agent undercover and they realized he was working for the US Government and the cartels got him.

**WILLIAMS:** The reason why I asked that question, that is new to me. I didn't know that.

**OLMSTEAD:** Oh, okay.

**WILLIAMS:** You know we have a resolution before us. In looking at it, I would like to make mention of DEA Agent, Officer Enrique Camarena in it and add language “In memory of his service to this great country.” I just bring that before the Board. When the actual item comes before us—

**SPARKS:** We can make that friendly amendment, yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** We can make that amendment. Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. In fact, our next thing to do, I think, is to adopt the Resolution #13-22 in support of October 23 to October 29th, 2022, as Orange County’s Red—Red Ribbon Week Campaign.

**OLMSTEAD:** There you go.

**SPARKS:** And encourage all community members to promote alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention education programs and activities and send copies of the resolution to school districts in Orange County. So do we have a motion?

**WILLIAMS:** Jorge, would you like to make a motion or somebody on the Board?

**BARKE:** I will make a motion.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** To accept this with a friendly amendment, to somehow add Enrique Camarena’s name, in memory of, or somewhere in there.

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

**VALDES:** Second.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** So if I—discussion, if I can?

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** So the language should be more specific in that, “Therefore be it resolved that the OCBE acknowledges DEA Agent, Officer Enrique Camarena’s service to this country and for this Red Ribbon Week origins.”

**OLMSTEAD:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Something like that.

**OLMSTEAD:** Just a little history, yeah. Piece of acknowledgment.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**OLMSTEAD:** Sure.

**WILLIAMS:** Piece of acknowledgement.

**BOYD:** Actually, Darou will make the corrections to your resolution.

**OLMSTEAD:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Oh, okay.

**BOYD:** Then we can either bring it back for signature or send it to you to sign.

**SPARKS:** Oh, okay.

**BOYD:** With the amended language.

**SPARKS:** Sure.

**BOYD:** If you all want to proof it before, we have got some time? We could bring it back at the September 20<sup>th</sup> forum so that the full board could see the document.

**WILLIAMS:** Sure.

**BOYD:** If you want to all see it, it is up to you how you want to work that.

**WILLIAMS:** I'm fine if you just adopt the language that we just used.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** I don't know how my other board members feel.

**BARKE:** I'm fine with that as well.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Just make it easier for Darou.

**BOYD:** Okay. And then we will just get your signature, Lisa.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, sure. No problem.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Wonderful.

**OLMSTEAD:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**OLMSTEAD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Okay. So now I will recess the regular board meeting to a meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation, right?

**BOYD:** Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** Correct.

**SPARKS:** But I didn't close the other one?

**BOYD:** We need to close with a vote. You all had discussion.

**SPARKS:** Oh, we didn't vote?

**WILLIAMS:** That's right. We didn't vote.

**SPARKS:** We didn't vote. We just discussed. Okay. All in favor of adopting the resolution?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay. Passes 5-0.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** So now we will recess the regular board meeting to a meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee?

**WILLIAMS:** Better for the record. Did you read that?

**BOYD:** You have another red line, for the other agenda.

**SPARKS:** I don't see it.

**BARKE:** It is a separate piece of paper. It should be. Oh, separate. Yeah. There you go.

**SPARKS:** This one? Oh, I see. Okay. Okay. So now, I will call to order for the benefit of the record the regular meeting of the Facilities Corporation is called to order. Roll call.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Present

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Here.

**SPARKS:** Now.

**WILLIAMS:** I make the motion to adopt the agenda.

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

**BARKE:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay, 5-0. We are adopting the agenda. Do I have a motion for the approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of August 17, 2022?

**BARKE:** I will make the motion.

**WILLIAMS:** I will second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay, 5-0. Nina, do we have any speaker cards received?

**BOYD:** You have no public comments on this item.

**SPARKS:** Okay. I will adjourn this meeting and go back to the regular board meeting. There we go.

**BOYD:** And just for point of reference since you do have a new board member, if I could—

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** —just take a moment just to explain what you all just did. This item comes up once a year. Last month they had the Facility Corporation—the Board determined some years ago that they wanted to adopt the minutes the following month, because we used to do it the next year. And then by the time it came up again, a year later, most items were too far from memory for most of us. That is the purpose of doing it now. And then when this comes up next August and you have your Facilities Corporation meeting at that time, then these minutes will already have been approved, so it is not trying to recollect what has taking place.

**VALDES:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. So now we will move on to the consent calendar, item number six, approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community and Correctional Education Schools and Services.

**BARKE:** Can I just make a motion to accept the consent calendar as it is?

**SPARKS:** You can.

**BARKE:** I make a motion to do that, to accept the items six through nine in the consent calendar.

**SHAW:** I will second, but I would like to ask a question if I could?

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SHAW:** You know, on item seven, the Teacher of the Year program. I realize Dr. Mijares will make these presentations. Would it be possible—I would love to participate, particularly if it was someone from the Fourth District or how does that work?

**BOYD:** The Board is invited every year to Teacher of the Year Program.

**SHAW:** Okay.

**BOYD:** The invitation is typically, Darou sends those out. Then based on the responses from the Board then we certainly encourage you all to attend if you can make the meeting. And then--

**SHAW:** Do we know already when it will be?

**BOYD:** Yes, we do.

**SHAW:** I didn't see it in the packet.

**BOYD:** It wouldn't be in there yet, but I can get you the date.

**OLMSTEAD:** It is Friday, October 28.

**BOYD:** Thank you. Friday, October 28.

**VALDES:** Do we know who the teacher is?

**BOYD:** No, it is actually a countywide teacher of the year program. Every district has submitted, so we will be recognizing teachers from all districts and charter schools. Is it going to be at the Disneyland Hotel again? Okay. At the Disneyland hotel. Thank you, Christine.

**OLMSTEAD:** As Nina said, we celebrate all 28 districts. They all nominate teachers from local—they have their own local nomination process and then they send them into the county nomination process. And so all nominees are recognized whether they are our finalists or not. So 28 districts, our charter schools as well are included. It will start, I think we have a pre-reception at 5 o'clock for those who are our finalists. Then the evening starts around six with a dinner and stuff.

**BOYD:** There is six finalists and 60 teachers being recognized, 60 teachers being recognized.

**VALDES:** I have a question just about the process. So the nomination process, I can probably figure out. How do you get to be a finalist?

**OLMSTEAD:** There is an interview panel, so all the nominees get sent to us. Then there is an interview panel and they go through an interview process. And then through that interview process, the finalists are determined. And then through that process, those names are sent to the state. And then the state has a finalist for the State Teacher of the Year. So we will have an Orange County Teacher of the Year and then a State Teacher of the Year, and then the State Teachers of the Year move on to National Teachers of the Year. And the interview panel is comprised of former Teachers of the Year, as well as some of our staff.

**SPARKS:** Wonderful. Thank you.

**OLMSTEAD:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Do we have any other discussion on any of the items on the consent calendar? I know we have a second, a motion and a second on the floor.

**BARKE:** Okay. So call to vote.

**SPARKS:** Okay, so call to vote.

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

**SPARKS:** We adopt six through nine, 5-0. Now we will move to charter submissions, item number 10, Nina do we have any charter submissions?

**BOYD:** We do not.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Now we are on item number 11, which we can find the update in our red folder, to approve the consulting and lobbying agreement with the Sheehy Strategy Group, effective September 7 through June 30, 2023. Do I have a motion?

**WILLIAMS:** I make a motion.

**BARKE:** I will second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor, or any discussion?

**WILLIAMS:** Let's discuss.

**SPARKS:** Any discussion? Yeah.

**SHAW:** Greg is ready.

**SPARKS:** Greg, there you are. Discuss.

**ROLEN:** Thank you for the opportunity to bring this before you Madam President. The Sheehy Strategy Group is here with us this evening and I just wanted to share with the Board and the public what the Executive Committee has been made aware of about our interview process. When it became apparent that AB 286 was a train that was going down the track for quite some time, it became mission critical. So I interviewed several of the top lobbyists in the state of California. I called Mr. Sheehy's office. He answered the phone, which is an important first step in an interview.

I told him the situation and much unlike some of the other lobbyists with whom I spoke, he said, give me two hours. He gave me, you know, just over two hours to be fair, he called back and he had a very targeted and specific plan. But there was a matter of approving him and implementing his contract. And they said, "Don't worry about it. We are going to go to work right now." So we



brought the contract before the Board, the contract was approved and several months later we got a Herculean victory on SB 286. Mr. Sheehy and his lovely wife Brena are to be thanked for that. And some of the efforts that our board members made to gather support is also critical so we had a meeting. At the direction of the president, I went to Sacramento and met with the Sheehy Strategies Group and devised some other endeavors for the Board to follow. He made it clear that there are a number of other public entities. He actually sent me 38 in Orange County that employee lobbyists for just this purpose. And I wanted to come explain the interview process and offer my personal thanks to them for the work they did and the work that hopefully they are to do in the future.

With that, if we want to take a victory lap with Mr. and Mrs. Sheehy, I'm happy to.

**SPARKS:** Let's take a victory lap. Yes.

**SHAW:** Let's do it.

**SPARKS:** Come on down.

**SHEEHY:** Good afternoon. And thank you very much for the opportunity. Just to say a couple words, it is an honor to work for you.

**BOYD:** Excuse me. The microphone right there. Thank you.

**SHEEHY:** My voice is so loud. I just figured we would get by without it.

**BOYD:** We are recording.

**SHEEHY:** Of course. It is an honor to work for this board and we are so glad that Greg called. I'm really glad I answered the phone. I have got to tell you, I don't normally pick up the phone if I don't recognize the number. But there literally was a little voice in my head that said pick it up. So I did and it was Greg. And you heard the rest of the story. We did go to work right away. That's true. But we couldn't actually go into the capital and have any formal communication with elected officials or their staff until we got a signed contract. We got that contract from you all at about, I think, 11 o'clock in the morning. And by 1:15, Brena and I were working the halls, not at the state capital, but what we now call the swing space which is across the street because they are doing a renovation. We just never stopped working it.

I don't remember whether it was Mari or Dr. Sparks, but one of you asked, what are our odds of being successful in getting the amendments or perhaps stopping what was an ill-conceived idea? And I think I said, 1 in 3 or 1 in 4.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. Yeah.

**SHEEHY:** Brena and I expected that we would be working on a veto strategy right now with Governor Newsom, but we were delighted when the bill failed to pass out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. We look forward to continuing to work with you. I know there is a

lot of important issues that are being discussed in Sacramento that you may want to weigh in on and we are honored to help your voice be heard. Thank you. Brena, do you want to say a few words?

**BRENA:** No, I just echo what Tom said. It really is an honor to represent you in Sacramento, and we hope to have many more years of future representation.

**SHEEHY:** We are two thirds of the Sheehy Strategy Group. There is actually, there is three of us, but our procurement partner was not able to make it down for this meeting.

**SPARKS:** Well, we are so honored and grateful to have you represent us. You know, we couldn't have navigated that territory without your savvy navigation, so thank you very much. We really appreciate it.

**SHEEHY:** And I apologize, Madam President, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the work that you all did in contacting different individuals here from Orange County and asking them to write letters that would be helpful in the campaign. Also ensuring those letters with us which we used as props in our discussion. Thank you because it was a team effort.

**SPARKS:** We are learning a lot about this process and we really appreciate your direction and Mr. Rolen's guidance to connect us.

**BRENA:** We are very grateful to Mr. Rolen for giving us this opportunity.

**SPARKS:** Everything came together, so 286 was 286'd and we are very grateful.

**SHEEHY:** Thank you very much.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President.

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**WILLIAMS:** I have questions.

**SPARKS:** Yes, sir.

**WILLIAMS:** You are not dismissed, sir.

**SHEEHY:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** For the record, tell us why SB 286 was a bad bill and why it was shelved.

**SHEEHY:** Yeah, it was a bad bill. For your constituents here that don't know the details of it, that bill was essentially introduced in January of this year. It was actually introduced last year,

but it was a different subject matter. But it was gutted and amended in January of this year. When it was amended, what that bill did is it usurped local control here in Orange County, over the election process. Orange County in California is a charter county, and Orange County has the authority under current law to determine how they want their local elections to be held, which includes the County Board of Education. If you were to ask the Orange County Board of Supervisors—if this body asked the Orange County Board of Supervisors to pass such a resolution, you could accomplish that.

It was completely unnecessary for a state statute to be enacted in order to achieve a change in Orange County's election process. One of the reasons why that bill in our judgment and one of the things that we emphasized in our discussions with legislators and their staff was that this was a local control issue. That the Board of Education hadn't asked for it, the Board of Supervisors hadn't passed such a resolution, and, as such, this legislation was unnecessary and it was unwelcome. I used just those words when I testified in the Assembly Education Committee. And I suggested then to Senator Min who carried the measure, because I talked with them afterwards, I said, "Why don't you sit down and try to work this out because this is an unwelcome action on your part?" Now that alone was enough in my judgment to ask for a no vote on this bill.

But there was another matter that folks were trying to sort of paper over, and it was your—this sounds self-serving, it is not meant to be, but it was your good fortune to hire us. Because as part of the team, I used to be the chief deputy director of finance for the state of California. I spent seven years working at the California Department of Finance. I'm a bit of a budget nerd. And one of the things that was in that bill that nobody was paying attention to, or not much attention to, was the local mandate. The California Constitution says that if the state of California passes a law or a regulation, or even an executive order by the governor, that requires a local government entity, which could be the county, a city, a special district, school districts would be included, to do something different than they currently do, that then becomes potentially a reimbursable mandate by the State General Fund.

I say potentially because when that happens, there is a process involved. A claim has to be filed through the Commission on State Mandates. When I worked for Governor Schwarzenegger, I chaired that commission so I knew the inner workings of it. So when I looked at that bill and Mr. Rolen needed a plan on how we might stop it. I told him, I said, "Well, if we don't stop it on the policy, we are going to stop it on the fiscal." Because had SB 286 been enacted into law, Orange County in fact, would have filed a test claim with the Commission on State Mandates and it would have been approved because it would have been an open and shut case. And then every single election going forward in perpetuity would have become a general fund liability, which means that the constituents of every elected official in this state outside of Orange County would be paying for your elections.

Once I pointed that out to the elected official, they said, well I don't want my constituents paying for this. I said, "Vote no." When I talked with the Department of Finance, they were notably concerned. We don't know what would have happened with Governor Newsom because the bill didn't make it to his desk. But our plan was to try to stop at the Legislature because we think it was ill conceived. If we couldn't stop it there, we were going to ask for a veto and we were

hoping that Governor Newsom and his Department of Finance would agree with us. We don't know that, but that is the reason, Dr. Williams.

**SPARKS:** While we are discussing if I may, Dr. Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Sure.

**SPARKS:** You mentioned the gut and amend and we are kind of policy nerds in a way, not quite as much as you all in terms of knowledge, but the general population may not know really what that means. Could you explain what that means?

**SHEEHY:** Sure. A gut and amend is, let's say this was a bill, an actual bill going to the Legislature. A gut and amend means that what we would do is we would first strike out every word on this page, strike every word out. Then down below it on a second page, which you have to imagine is there, we would write a new bill and we would submit those amendments so that when those amendments went over to the Senate Desk or whatever, the Assembly Desk, and the bill came back in print in its amended form, that bill would no longer say what was here. It would say what was in the new language we put in.

In the case of SB 286, it was an elections related bill, but it was not about the Orange County Board Education. It wasn't about Orange County at all. It was something happening—it was germane because it was dealing with elections. But in January—so the way the legislative process works is it is a two-year process. In 2021, was the first year that bill got introduced and it didn't go anywhere. When we got to January of 2022, the rules of the legislative process say that any bills that didn't make it out of the House of Origin in the first year, which was 2021, has a 30-day window in the beginning of the next year, 2022, to get out. So, Senator Min amended his bill into the language you are familiar with, SB 286, concerning the elections of this body. In January, it passed off the Senate floor with 31 Democrats voting for it, five or six Republicans voting no, and a couple of Republicans abstaining. But it got unanimous support when the Democrat caucus when it went to the Assembly, the bill got put on a shelf for several months. It didn't really get referred out and heard in Committee I think until April, about four months later. It was no action at all.

I don't know when exactly it got on your all radar screen. But I think I got the call from Greg, it was in late June. It was just one week before its very last policy hearing in the Assembly. When it finally got referred out of Committee, it was referred to the Elections Committee in the Assembly. And then if it passed from there it was going to go to the Education Committee in the Assembly. And once we got a signed contract from you, we were actually able to represent you publicly. Then we testified at the Education Committee in the Assembly, and then the rest is history.

**SPARKS:** The numbers stayed the same, but all the language changed.

**SHEEHY:** Yeah, the bill numbers stayed the same.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. Yeah.

**SHEEHY:** That's right. But all of the language changed and the bill really didn't get many amendments. When it passed from there, it was referred to the Committee on Appropriations because there was a fiscal impact because of the mandated program. The Senate Appropriations Committee analyzed the bill and said they thought it was going to have annual costs of about \$386,000. I don't know if they really meant annual or if they meant bi-annual. But I think the \$386,000 number was probably low. There is a cottage industry that exists in the state of California. I learned this from when I chaired the commission. Once a bill like SB 286 passes in any county, once a bill that has a mandate and they pass it, the consultants start dialing for dollars. They will get ahold of the county. They will say, this regulation has passed or this law has passed, and we think it is a mandate, you need to file a claim. They are very, very, very, very good at upping the value of those claims. I saw this cottage industry in action.

In fact, I remember when I shared that with the Assembly Appropriations consultant, she started turning red. She said, "That is just not right." I said, "Well, that's how it works." That is the game, you know, so I think the number is probably low. It probably would have been a multiple of that, had the bill actually gone forward and been enacted. Then as I say, you know, that was not a one-time payment, that would have been a payment, at a minimum, every single election cycle going forward, perpetually. So those are the reasons why it was a bad idea. This is an issue that could be worked out locally here. It doesn't require San Diego County to pay for your election costs, or Los Angeles County to pay for it, or Marin County, or any other county. You guys, the people that live in this county should pay for your election costs. And it should be under your control because you have the authority under current law to make those determinations, and there is no reason why you shouldn't.

**BRENA:** Your county was deemed to be somewhat unique because there are four other counties in the state of California that also have their elections in the month of June.

**SPARKS:** Right. Right.

**BRENA:** So our question was, why?

**SPARKS:** Yeah, that was our question. Do you have anything else, Dr. Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Of course. I do.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** So from a policy perspective, the local control issue, how unusual is it that a single county would be called out in the Education Code? I asked that question because when I talked to some of my colleagues at other county boards of education, especially the president of the State County Board Association, he thought this was purely partisan. It was not necessary. It was ill conceived. You added a lot more to that, but how common do we get—this looked like it was targeted politically against us.

**SHEEHY:** Well, that's a really good question. Let me tell you what I know and what I don't know. I don't have any facts that say that it was a political action against you. That may be true.

That is not what Senator Min testified to. It is not what his author's statement said in any of the committees in which his bill was heard. So while it is possible it could have been truly political, I can't confirm that because he didn't say that to me and I never heard him say that publicly. So that is a matter of speculation. It certainly would appear that way, but we just don't know. On the other question you asked, which is, how common is it for there to be a matter in the Education Code that just targets one county? I would like to broaden that to say, not just the Education Code and rephrase the question: How commonly does it happen where one county is singled out in a piece of legislation? Now that does happen from time to time, it is usually a non-controversial issue. These are referred to as district bills by the member that carries them. It is usually something that the whole body would vote in support of within all of the members of the Assembly and all the members of the Senate. It is less common, considerably less common, to have a controversial measure be authored by a representative from just one county and run it through.

It does happen. I have seen it before, not necessarily in the Education Code. I'm not saying it hasn't happened in the Education Code, but I don't want, you know—I would want to do some more research before I said something on the record about that, but it does happen. It does happen where it is not controversial, that is more common. But something as controversial as this was, because I read the press clippings on this and the Orange County Register thought it was controversial, so it must have been controversial.

**BARKE:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yeah.

**SHEEHY:** It is not that common.

**WILLIAMS:** Just for the record, the Orange County Register did suggest to Senator Min that he run for the County Board of Education if he wants to change any state law.

**SHEEHY:** Okay. See, there you go.

**WILLIAMS:** Also for the record, let me put it on right now. There was never a conversation between the Executive Committee with Senator Min. We did have a conversation earlier, which was interesting in and of itself, but there was no conversation ever about this issue with Senator Min. He never reached out to the other side of the aisle.

**SHEEHY:** Oh, okay. I didn't know that. Thank you for sharing that.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**SHEEHY:** I did speak with Senator Min about this. He was very friendly with me and you know, I told him I would be seeing more of him.

**SPARKS:** Excellent. Excellent. Any other questions or discussion?

**BARKE:** Thank you for your work.

**SPARKS:** Thank you for your thorough work. We really appreciate you explaining everything and we appreciate your hard work and tenacity on this issue and future issues.

**SHEEHY:** Oh, you are so welcome. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Pleasure, and thank you for coming down. Okay. All right, so we have a motion and a second, and now barring any more discussion we will go ahead and put it to a vote to approve the consulting and lobbying agreement with the Sheehy Strategy Group effective September 7, 2022, through June 30, 2023. All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Passes 5-0. Welcome again. All right, and that moves us on to item number 12, the approval of the Charter School's Forum that we have scheduled for September 20, 2022. Do we have any discussion you want to lead?

**WILLIAMS:** Do you want to lead?

**BARKE:** Sure. I will lead. Ken and I have kind of been working as the co-chairs to put together this Community Forum on Charter Schools. And the purpose is to educate the community to parents, even maybe districts about charter schools. There is so many unknowns to the public of, is a charter school—they don't even know it is a public school. Is it a free school? How do they take their applicants? We really want to talk about some minor issues as well as some important issues with charter schools, we have an excellent cast of experts that are going to join us on that evening. We have Lance Izumi, who is one of the premier education experts in the state of California. He works for Pacific Research Institute and is a dear friend. We also have another dear friend Kevin Kiley, who is an expert in education. Even after they threw him off the Education Committee, he still continued to help us. We appreciate that. He and I, and Lance all spoke on a panel this weekend in San Diego. Then we also have, let's see, we have Gloria Romero, another founder and charter school expert. Who am I missing? Oh, Walter Myers.

**WILLIAMS:** Walter Myers.

**BARKE:** We have Walter Myers who some of you got to see during our Critical Race Theory Forum. He will be back and is just wonderful. And then we have, let me just look at his name, Soto.

**BOYD:** Richard Soto.

**WILLIAMS:** Richard Soto.

**BARKE:** Richard Soto, we have from CCSA, and I have been on calls with him. He is outstanding. We have a great, great group of experts that is going to be here with us on the 20th. We have Mr. Scott Baugh who will be moderating that forum, so we are very excited about that. It is going to go from 6 to 9:30 p.m., and about 5 o'clock we are going to have a press conference, so we are really excited.

**SPARKS:** It will be held here, correct?

**BARKE:** Yes, it will be held here. We will have some social media, some information going out today as a save the date so everybody will know about that information. Ken, do you want to talk about the specific, there was a nice little bullets that you put together of what we want to accomplish. Do you want to maybe read that?

**WILLIAMS:** Sure. Let me just kind of set another direction here for us. Officially, what happened was the one individual from CCSA was unable to make that date. She said that she had another conflict so that is how we got Lance onto it. So really in your red folder is the updated expert panel that has been selected and a little bio. As previous in our forums, we will have a moderator and all the Board will have the ability to ask questions. It should last and be over about 9:30. We do have public comments that that will be about 30 minutes, but it should be interaction and dialogue with our experts on how to strengthen California's charter schools at both all local and a state level. We will have a white paper that will be created from this that we will eventually publish and put it on our website.

**SHAW:** I'm sorry, the forum starts at 6, but what time did you say we were doing like a—?

**BARKE:** Press conference, between 4:30 and 5. Is that?

**SHAW:** Okay. I just want to have it in my calendar.

**WILLIAMS:** Right.

**VALDES:** Trustee Barke, just a quick question. What kind of advertising are we putting out there for this?

**BARKE:** Well, we just today, now that we are going to have this approved, we are going to put out—and I have this wonderful little graphic that a friend of the Board helped put together.

**VALDES:** I mean, I just think people need to hear about it.

**BARKE:** Yeah, no, for sure. So this is super bright. I think, you know, it will draw a lot of attention and we will get it on all the various social medias. We will get it on our website and ask everybody to share it, certainly with their networks. I hope that there is a ripple effect and lots of people show up.

**SPARKS:** Well, we really appreciate you guys putting the effort in. I know what it takes to put on a conference. It takes a lot of work, so we really appreciate you putting all the effort in to getting these great speakers. I think it will be a wonderful information session on charter schools and any misconceptions around charter schools. A lot of the public aren't aware of public charter schools and the role that they can serve. Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** If I can just state a few other issues. On pages 96 and 97, is the sample letter that we sent out to our experts. On page 97, is the actual purpose and the goals of this public of



community forum. Then the actual format is on page 98. That gives a breakdown. We have always been very amicable and not so tight on the timeline, and that will be up to Mr. Baugh. On page 99 is a guest list. If you do have anybody that you want to have invited and have save seats, Nina and Darou will handle that just like they have in the past. And that is—

**BARKE:** Also, sorry to cut in. But, Jorge as far as getting it out, I also will be reaching out to *The Register* and to the *Times*, to *Epoch*, and to *Voice of OC*. Now that I have this graphic, I will send that out to all four so that they will hopefully help promote it.

**SPARKS:** And maybe the *LA Times* as well.

**BARKE:** I did. I added, yes.

**SPARKS:** Oh, okay, good.

**BARKE:** *OC Register*, *LA Times*, *Voice of OC* and *Epoch Times*. If anybody else has other contacts and they want me to reach out, or you want to reach out yourselves, feel free.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. This has been something we have been working on for quite some time. We sort of take turns in what we do. Mari is sort of the media expert and I'm just more of—

**BARKE:** I'm not the expert. I'm the media liaison.

**SPARKS:** I know in the past, Nina you all have asked questions about facilities and arrangements. Have you guys worked that all out or do we need to discuss that?

**BOYD:** I was waiting to get to that.

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

**BARKE:** That is Ken's expertise.

**WILLIAMS:** Do you want to do it privately, or do you want something given by the Board to you now?

**BOYD:** Well, just in terms of, I mean certainly because it is YouTube and so forth, some people will watch it online. We will naturally have all of the rooms and so forth. But if there is an expectation that there is overflow, we have had different forums where we have bought tents and set up outside and so forth. And then there is others where we have just set up sound and tried to utilize—For safety concerns, we have some concerns with using, behind the gate. I don't know if you all have thought about that in terms of expected numbers if you think that the Board and the side rooms will be adequate?

**SPARKS:** Is there a possibility to have a registration link where people can click so that we can have people register that they are planning on coming?

**BARKE:** I mean, we could put that in the graphic.

**BOYD:** It is a public meeting.

**BARKE:** Yeah. Yeah.

**BOYD:** From the standpoint, you could certainly do a registration link, but you couldn't limit it from that standpoint because you are a board.

**SPARKS:** Right. It just might give us an idea of the numbers.

**VALDES:** What is the capacity that we can do in—?

**BARKE:** About 200?

**BOYD:** Yeah.

**BARKE:** About 200.

**WILLIAMS:** I don't expect 200.

**BARKE:** I think at this time of year there is so many other things going on with, you know, the elections coming up in what is it, 60 days almost. I think we will be fine with 200.

**VALDES:** I think 200 is a good number.

**BARKE:** And you know what, if we have so many people we will have to do another one.

**SPARKS:** There you go.

**BOYD:** Those were the questions that we had just in terms of ensuring we could take care of the needs of the Board.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** And you could just call me if there is anything that comes up and Mari and I are pretty much talking on a daily basis about this.

**SPARKS:** Okay. So if there is no more discussion around that, I guess we are waiting for a motion.

**BARKE:** I will make a motion to approve—

**BOYD:** Just for clarity.

**SPARKS:** Yup.

**BOYD:** Can you motion? Because you had a previous speaker, you want to make sure that your motion is—

**BARKE:** With the updated speakers?

**BOYD:** With the updated speaker.

**BARKE:** I will make a motion with the updated speakers, which includes Lance Izumi replacing Merna Castrejon.

**BOYD:** Correct.

**BARKE:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** And do I have a second?

**WILLIAMS:** Oh, second then.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay, 5-0, that passes, the approval of the Charter School's Forum for September 20th, 2022. We will have press around 4:30-5, and the actual event kicks off at 6 o'clock, expected to go until 9:30 p.m.

**BOYD:** Will all the Board be participating in the press conference?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** We are all welcome to, yes.

**BOYD:** Then that would make it public, so I just want to make sure that you are aware that we can't close that.

**WILLIAMS:** Sure. Of course. Of course, yeah.

**SPARKS:** That is fine. Of course.

**BARKE:** Yeah, absolutely.

**SHAW:** We were going to do it here probably again?

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**BARKE:** Yeah. Yeah. The more, the merrier. Sure. Yeah.

**BOYD:** Perfect. We will have the Board Room set up in advance so that by 4:30 when you all are expecting press and so forth, then you can just roll into your—

**BARKE:** I would expect the board members as well as our forum experts, those that can be here in time, to all participate.

**BOYD:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. And then we will have all the tables set up like we have before.

**BOYD:** Like we have in the past.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** With microphones and so forth. Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Okay, wonderful. So we will move on to item number 13, staff recommendations.

**WILLIAMS:** I will make that motion.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** For item number 13, for Gann Limits.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** I will second.

**SPARKS:** Any discussion? Okay, we will call the vote. All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Passes 5-0. Adopting the Resolution #19-22, identifying the Gann actual appropriations limit for 2021-22 and the Gann estimated appropriation limit for 2022-23. And that brings us to information items, the first one being communication information discussion. I will call Renee up to talk about the Rancho Sonado update.

**HENDRICK:** Thank you. As we have a new board member, I will just kind of go back a little bit. A couple years ago, we did have a major fire at our Inside the Outdoors program, which is in Rancho Sonado. It was called Rancho Sonado and it destroyed—it is on Silverado Canyon area

off Chapman—Chapman, right? The fire destroyed two out of three buildings. It basically decimated the site. Since that time, we have been continually cleaning up. Each time it rains—which I guess it is fortunate we haven't had enough rain. Not sure if that is fortunate or not fortunate, but every time we have had rain because of the runoff areas, I know Dr. Williams lives close to that area, so he has been able to help us with some of that. He will tell us, yeah it did rain really hard that day. We continue to do that cleanup.

We have done an RFP for architect services, which will be our first step in moving forward. We have met with a couple different groups already and some of the community areas on what would they like to see in that project. That was some of the discussion with the Board also. That has helped us kind of define the project a little bit. But once we have selected the architect, we will be coming back to the Board to see what would be your involvement and your input to the design process.

I think we had discussed at one of our prior meetings that due to the continued fire danger in that area, we are going to house the animals at Esplanade right here. They were in trailers up there and it is hard to build something that is fireproof and that is a very high-fire area. This is not as big of a high-fire area, so we are remodeling the building right now and they will be housed here. We actually haven't purchased all the animals yet, so we don't have them. I'm sure at one point if we get large animals again, we will have to think of something different. That is kind of the process we are in. We are hoping we have those architect finals within the next month and then we will be coming back to you for your input. Okay.

**SPARKS:** Wonderful. Thank you.

**HENDRICK:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Any questions? Discussion? No? Okay. Oh, I was wondering where is Tim going? All right. Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Renee. And for Jorge, the Inside the Outdoors program is probably, one of my favorite programs here. When I first came on the Board in '96, it was amazing the impact that this program had in the local communities, even outside of Orange County. A lot of the school districts from L.A., San Diego, the Inland Empire, they came to our program and it was amazing interaction with animals. If you get the opportunity, I would love to go out there with you. I will show you around. You would be next to my home.

**VALDES:** I definitely will.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, it is an amazing facility. Unfortunately, it is all burned down, but what we are doing here, working with communities, we are hoping to gain this momentum where this is not just Orange County, the Department, but it is a community effort. I want to thank Renee for doing something that is very, very near and dear to the hearts of the Board here.

**SPARKS:** Thank you for that very important work. And yeah, I actually would like to see it at some point too. Yeah, like in its current state. Okay. Announcements from the Superintendent or the Deputy Superintendent in place of the Superintendent.

**BOYD:** Dr. Mijares is unable to be here. He had a commitment outside of the area. We miss him, but he did send his regards to the Board. I'm going to ask Dean, he is our Associate Superintendent of Business Services to give you some updates. The information he is going to be referencing is primarily related to new funding and there is an attachment in your red folder.

**WEST:** Okay. So you have the attachment, and I will put some on the back table. I will leave that for anybody that wants it. It is on the back table at the end. This funding here, I thought would it be great—I had staff put together three different funding sources that we received here in 22-23 and I will be receiving. The schedule has three columns of data, fourth, which is a total. But they represent three of the significant funding sources that the state is using their money for this year. One of those is ongoing, Expanded Learning Opportunities program. It is to extend that nine-hour day and wraparound services. That money is ongoing there. Districts received that. Charter schools received that this year as a planning process, but they will be receiving it again on an ongoing basis.

Now the other two elements was the decisions of deciding what to do with one-time dollars, trying to fiscally make sure that they are not overextending themselves as they went into the next fiscal year. There are two grants there. One of them are Arts, Music and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant, the other one is Learning Recovery and Emergency Block Grant. Like most of the dollars that have come out of the state, they are always determining whether this is going to go out on a per pupil basis or on an equity basis, like a UPP, Unduplicated Pupil Percentage, those that are low income, foster youth, or English language learners. That is the kind of the funding distribution. You kind of see how one side is school districts, and I think County Office is the bottom. County Office only reads/sees about \$2 million of these dollars, but this is about a billion dollars represented on the two sides of this paper.

Most of the money that we received in the last few years, a lot of it was federal dollars, federal aid, ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER III dollars. That is an excess of a billion dollars in the county and then we had some state resources as well. But these are the new dollars represented in 22-23. And we thought it would be good representation so you can kind of see kind of what is out there in the county, and charter schools and districts.

**SPARKS:** I have a couple questions related to some of the numbers here.

**WEST:** Sure.

**SPARKS:** If you look at like the learning recovery block, which is obviously very, very important given the last couple years. How did you determine, or how did whoever determine, for example Santa Ana Unified getting \$75 million there and comparing Newport-Mesa getting \$17 million in that category? Is it by student numbers or how is that determined?

**VALDES:** I was about to ask the exact same question with respect to Santa Ana versus Tustin Unified.

**SPARKS:** Right, right.

**WEST:** Sure. So it is a legislative process. So this goes through the Legislature, it is a funding bill and that is the budget that works out with the Governor. So the two houses and then the Governor working out that funding. The bill is prepared and it is decided what the funding methodology is going to be. And usually they are looking at it to say, what is the nature of this? Is this arts/music instructional materials discretionary dollars that we really want to do? Is it going to go out to every pupil, or is it really in the learning recovery grant area? Do we think that there was more differentiation, some students suffered more or maybe had more needs in recovery?

**SPARKS:** Was that based on data or socioeconomic status level?

**WEST:** Yeah, I don't know that this specific funding was tied to a specific result—

**SPARKS:** Test results.

**WEST:** But that is more in past studies related to an average household student not losing as much on the national standard when those resources aren't there versus those that when those resources are there.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WEST:** So there is usually, you hear from Renee related to the county office's funding. There is obviously lots of funding that is coming out there related to either the county or school districts per se, that is ADA protection, universal meals, transportation. We didn't really schedule that out for you right here.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WEST:** This represents about 15 and a half billion dollars to state spending right now.

**SPARKS:** Right.

**WEST:** We do the scheduling all the time for our agencies to make sure that they know. This estimate actually is done by School Services of California, reputable firm that kind of is early in the numbers out there, so we don't have these from CDE yet. We don't have a lot of those numbers yet. In allocations, the dollars probably won't come until—well, it is September, so they are going to start to flow right now.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Yeah, I'm just curious what the criteria were for those decisions.

**VALDES:** It looks like my district did extraordinarily well.

**WEST:** You will notice like the urban areas.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WEST:** Anaheim Elementary, Anaheim Union High, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, those areas will have a lot more—

**VALDES:** I'm looking at Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Tustin.

**WEST:** Those have a lot in the Learning Recovery Block Grant, because it was based on that equity UPP format.

**BOYD:** They also use the unduplicated count related to socioeconomics. You will see based on the areas that you are describing, that is where typically the lower socioeconomics are. So the numbers are going to be higher.

**SPARKS:** Right. Okay. Yeah.

**WEST:** And this is only for informational purposes.

**SPARKS:** No, I understand. I understand. I just wanted the general picture so the public could have an understanding of what the general criteria were for those numbers. Okay. Any other discussion or questions?

**BOYD:** Thanks, Dean.

**SPARKS:** Thank you very much.

**WEST:** Sure.

**BOYD:** I would like to call up Renee to give you some facility updates.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** She is getting her steps in.

**BOYD:** Yes, she is.

**HENDRICK:** Before I forget though, I just want to mention one thing about Inside the Outdoors. Dr. Williams I thought would remind me, but that land was donated to us by a trust so that is used specifically for educational purposes and public use.

**BOYD:** How large is that site?

**WILLIAMS:** One hundred plus acres.



**BOYD:** One hundred acres.

**HENDRICK:** I'm sorry. Huh?

**BOYD:** It is 100 acres. I was just giving—

**HENDRICK:** Yes. I'm sorry, I did forget that.

**BOYD:** I just wanted you to know the magnitude of it.

**SPARKS:** Right.

**HENDRICK:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** It was 100 acres

**HENDRICK:** Actually, Dr. Williams knew that. That is what he said.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**HENDRICK:** Thank you. All right, major projects here. I know the Executive Committee is aware of a couple of these. Following our October board meeting, this room will actually go into some refresh of video equipment once again. Remember we did this a couple years ago? Hopefully, none of you are aware, but I think it was two meetings ago we almost couldn't get our YouTube feed out and we were panicking a little bit. It was a little stressful. So what we are finding out is components that were purchased at different times are not working together, so we need to do a refresh to get the equipment up. It is going to cause some small remodeling of the media booth. If you look in there, it looks like a huge snake group of wires. We are just going to simplify that, put some updated technology. Hopefully everything works a little bit better. The timing for that is we should be up by the November meeting. If not, they have a backup plan. We did order the equipment quite a while ago, so everything is here. That was our big issue. We hope we will be on time with that one.

**VALDES:** Are we doing that with Department staff or an outside vendor?

**HENDRICK:** No, we used an outside vendor, so it was a bit—I don't even know the name of the company now at this point. The construction for the booth was very small and that will actually be done by our staff. It is really just refitting. That is very small. You have noticed we had a lot of paving, so we actually repaved, restriped this site, Red Hill, Esplanade and Harbor Learning Center, our first site. A lot of that was also to do some ADA compliance that we were, through the years, had changed. All of the buildings are also being painted. This campus, Esplanade, Red Hill, Harbor Learning Center and Hillview School, and then we are also working on roof replace improvement.

You are going to see just a lot of construction. Most of this we have talked about throughout last year. It has been on the planning for quite a while, but we are trying to capture the last of our—I

would say good weather, but I don't think the staff that have been working, our vendors, the last couple weeks have been too excited by us. But that is the major projects we have going on right now.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Wonderful.

**BOYD:** Renee, the turn style.

**HENDRICK:** Yes. Thank you.

**BOYD:** You're welcome.

**HENDRICK:** As part of the project, the turn style is actually not ADA compliant—

**SPARKS:** This, out here?

**HENDRICK:** Yes. That will be removed and a gate will be put in there.

**SPARKS:** Oh, okay.

**HENDRICK:** I don't know if you remember that when we did the front doors, and also we had to enlarge the door for this exit out? We have gone through architect drawings and approvals by the city. The other thing would be the awning coverage will be redone also, so just to make sure we are all in compliance.

**VALDES:** Renee, could I make a facility's request perhaps for a more sensitive microphone here? I have noticed that for the taller speakers at the podium, it just seems to me like we need a longer—

**HENDRICK:** Longer.

**VALDES:** Longer microphone for the taller people speaking at the podium so they don't have to bend over and hunch over.

**HENDRICK:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** It was made for us hobbits, you know, that.

**HENDRICK:** I'm fairly tall. I kind of do okay. But yes, we will look at some of those different things. This one is a little bit higher, but we don't use it as often. We do try to space people out from the Board a little bit. Okay. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BOYD:** Just as a reminder, you all have already talked about your forum on September 20th, so we will be preparing the agenda utilizing what was approved. We will also get items posted to

the website so that that information is available to the public and it reflects everything that you approved this evening. And then that is considered a special meeting, so the next regular meeting will be October 5th, here in the Board Room. Submission deadline for the regular meeting will be the day after your forum, so September 21st would be the last date for items. I want to call that to your attention.

**SPARKS:** He is looking it up, Tim.

**SHAW:** I know.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Thank you.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Do we have any legislative updates from anyone, CSBA, CCBE, NSBA, Capital News or School Services?

**BARKE:** I think we got the best legislative update ever from Sheehy Group.

**SPARKS:** I think so too. I think so too. Do you have any additional? No?

**BARKE:** No.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Good.

**SHEEHY:** I would probably—

**SPARKS:** Oh, yes.

**BOYD:** Excuse me, can you come up to the mic?

**SPARKS:** Come up to the mic. You get your steps in today, too.

**SHEEHY:** Well, the Board and staff here probably already know this, but the legislative session has ended. But there are about 500 bills that have been sent to Governor Newsom. Not all of those are ready to present to the Governor yet. They go through a process called a bossing and engraving, which is a fancy way of just saying they are making sure there are no typos in the final language of the bill jacket. The Governor has until midnight on September 30th to either sign bills, veto them or let them become law without his signature. It is very rare for a governor to let a bill to become law without their signature, but it happens on occasion.

There is no telling when he will sign different bills. Some of us thought he was going to—there was some pretty big bills. There were big policy bills, big bills politically and he signed them right away instead of waiting until the end. I don't know which particular measures you might still be interested in, but I think that the Governor will keep us guessing right up to the end of this month.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**SHEEHY:** Yes, sir.

**WILLIAMS:** Tom, do you have a list of these bills, maybe you can get to all of the board members so we can look at it?

**SHEEHY:** All the bills that are enrolled? I can produce such a list.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Okay.

**SHEEHY:** Oh yes.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. That would be good to look at.

**SHEEHY:** Yeah, absolutely, when I get back to my office.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. And certainly the ones that would apply to us.

**VALDES:** Tom, I would only be interested in the ones that you think are relevant for us, not the whole list.

**WILLIAMS:** Of course, relevant to us.

**SHEEHY:** I will see what I could do. I will see what I could do.

**SPARKS:** Whatever is easiest for you. But yeah, that would be great.

**SHEEHY:** Yeah. I will see what I can do.

**SPARKS:** That would be great.

**SHEEHY:** Okay, very good. Anything else?

**SPARKS:** No, thank you. That is wonderful. Having real legislative updates, I love it. Moving on to committee—oh, do you have something? No?

**ROLEN:** No, I was just—

**SPARKS:** No, you are just exercising in between? Okay. Got it. So that moves us to committee reports. Do we have any committee reports, Dr. Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes, Tim and I have a report.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** For the Website Social Media Committee, now that Tim is back on the Board and we are up and going, we can talk now. We were on a little hiatus there during the few months that the good judge said, “No, you are not going to be here, Mr. Shaw.” But we are up and going, you will see on the next agenda I failed to meet the deadline for this actual authorization of social media accounts by this board. Tim and I have been—and Tim, please step in and say what is necessary. We have been talking about just making this a small event, maybe just starting like on Twitter and making that account, and making postings, and working with Mr. Rolen, making sure everything is legalized and looking good.

Then we thought we would have a board policy that would be more specific for each one of us if we want to put something on. Obviously, the Website Committee and Social Media Committee, Tim and I would be putting them on initially. But we want the opportunity for all the board members to put something on, so we will make and create some type of board policy that allows that to give us more direction. Tim, anything else?

**SHAW:** Sure. Well, I mean we had the committee when we were talking about the website. I mean, that was the impetus I understood. If we want to kind of continue, I'm happy to do that with Ken, kind of morph into more of our social media presence if that was according to the pleasure of the full board. I'm not sure if that was the exact intent, but you know, working on the content I have been interested to read a lot of stories lately in the news about the impact of the school closures during COVID. And I think we are getting more data on how that impacted students' learning and stuff. There is a lot of interesting content related to education to be shared. What that looks like amongst us and our accounts, I'm happy to take input and I'm happy to work on it, according to the pleasure of our president and our board.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. Since I have served on the Social Media Committee, I'm happy to participate in that process as well in whatever way is deemed appropriate and best for getting our information out there, so that would be great. I appreciate that. Any other comments?

**WILLIAMS:** That was a committee report.

**SPARKS:** That was a committee report and any other committee reports before we move on to board comments?

**BOYD:** Also, are you going to have a report out from closed session?

**ROLEN:** We will return to closed session.

**SPARKS:** We need to go back to closed session.

**SHAW:** We didn't finish.

**SPARKS:** Because we didn't finish.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Any other committee reports? No? Okay. Moving on to board member comments, I will start to my left.

**BARKE:** Nothing for me.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** I'm going to be the last.

**SPARKS:** Oh, you want be the last? Okay. Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** I have a comment. The night I was appointed last month, I did make the comment that I would start to put my ear to the ground and start walking some of the schools. And boy, did I get a response to that. I just wanted to share with you all that I did walk the Vista Meridian Global Academy on August 26th. I met with Dr. Collin Felch who is just so impressive, I mean, really. We walked the entire school. I saw many of the classrooms, the gym facility, the school spends a lot of time teaching global cultures. The classes are labeled by country, and the kids learn about the various countries around the world. I had the opportunity to tour the Innovations Lab, which has a topographical sandbox run by a computer.

I saw a green screen, recording studio, music room and professor or teacher Luis Hernandez, really toured the room in great detail. I really thought back to my high school experience, which had a bunch of IBM computers with the loose floppy disks back in the day in the '80s. I'm like, "Wow, we have really come a long way since then. The school has 870 students. I did have a briefing with the entire staff. Overall it was a great experience. I know they are doing some remodeling in the back and I have told Dr. Felch that I would assist in any way I can with pushing forward with that remodeling process. In any way I can, I will help him. I just wanted to share with everyone that I have toured my first school.

**SPARKS:** I actually had real typewriters in my high school. That dates me even more. Okay. Any other board comments? Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** I just want to once again welcome, Trustee Valdes to the Board. I know what a great job he is doing already and really taking it seriously and getting out there and working hard. Good job, Jorge and glad to have you.

**SPARKS:** Dr. Williams.

**WILLIAMS:** To begin with, I thought the Board might be interested in an article from the good Joe Nalven who was here for our Community Forum on Critical Race Theory. He wrote this for an organization called, Minding the Campus, which is about exposing the intellectual conformity and the lack of free expression in the university, postgraduate arena. I thought that was a nice little overview here. If you go to look at it, to compare the two different approaches, the

pedagogical approach to education between the critical lens and a more liberal lens. That is something I just wanted to share.

Also, I just wanted to share that I will be creating, along with Trustee Valdes, we are creating a policy on education curriculum dealing with something akin to that, which is the teaching of critical theories and the need for more open expression and academic honesty, free moral agency. We are working on that. Again, we couldn't make the date for this meeting, but it will probably be on the October meeting. Also, another board policy that we are working on is something to do with parental rights. That may take a little bit longer. I'm getting reviews from people in many, many different corners of the political arena and public policy governance decisions so that is coming out probably November, around there. And lastly—

**BOYD:** Ken, what was that labeled?

**WILLIAMS:** Oh, parental rights.

**BOYD:** Parental rights.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**WILLIAMS:** Still working on that. Lastly, I have something very special to share. If our social media—? We want to show you a little something here. This is a video and this is my nine-week-old son to be.

**VALDES:** Oh, wow.

**WILLIAMS:** As you can see him there, he is moving about. You see his 10 toes, and 10 fingers, and the head. That is Ken Floyd Williams, III.

**SPARKS:** You already have a name, wow.

**WILLIAMS:** So I just wanted share that.

**SPARKS:** Congrats.

**BARKE:** Yeah, very exciting. I didn't realize you were going to go on the big screen. Love it.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. This is amazing, the technology that we have. To look at a nine-week-old, my son, we went through IVF for the last five years. I have pictures of him when he was just a blast at this stage. And then we put him into the uterus a couple months ago. To watch him grow, only talks about the sanctity of life and the uniqueness of our humanity. I wanted to share that publicly with my good friends and to the public out there.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**SHAW:** Congratulations, Ken.

**SPARKS:** All right. Well, I think that might be a great way to end the comments, the board member comments. And at this point, we need to go to closed session to finish.

**BOYD:** Recess back in.

**SPARKS:** So we will recess into closed session and then we will recess back in. Right.

[The Orange County Board of Education conducts a closed session.]

**SPARKS:** Okay. Are we all here, Tim? Okay. We are back from closed session and we are going to have a report out from Jonathan Brenner.

**BRENNER:** Thank you, Madam President, members of the Board, good to be with you this evening. This is the report out for closed session tonight. As to closed session items 1-4, the Board held a discussion and received an update from counsel. It took no action other than to approve the invoices of Epstein, Becker and Green, specifically invoice numbers 1094608, 1094609 and 1094610, each invoice dated August 31, 2022. As to all three, the vote was to approve 5-0 unanimously by the whole board. That is the report out for tonight's meeting closed session. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you, Mr. Brenner. In wrapping up our meeting, I would like to, again, welcome our newest board member, Jorge Valdes. We are so excited to have you on board and great job tonight. I would like to acknowledge our Sheriff Deputy Harris. Thank you for hanging around with us tonight and every time you come here. We really appreciate it and the staff as well.

**WILLIAMS:** The staff, yes.

**SPARKS:** With the media, and you are going to get your new media room pretty soon. That is kind of exciting, but thank you for all the work you guys do. We don't always remember to acknowledge you. But we do know you are hovering around and making sure everything works for us, so we really appreciate it. And thanks for organizing all of us and keeping us in line as I try to do as well to herd the cats. With that, I will call the meeting—

**WILLIAMS:** Make a motion to adjourn.

**SPARKS:** I make a motion to adjourn. That's what I will do.