

## **Transcript of the May 3, 2023, Orange County Board of Education Meeting**

**SPARKS:** All right, we will go back to the agenda of the regular meeting of May 3, 2023. Roll call.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes. I am here in downtown Sacramento.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Here. In lovely Costa Mesa.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. All right, call for adoption of the regular meeting of May 3, 2023.

**BARKE:** So moved.

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

**VALDES:** Second.

**SPARKS:** All in favor?

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

**SPARKS:** Okay, and the regular meeting of April 12, 2023.

**SHAW:** Madame president?

**SPARKS:** Yes, sir.

**SHAW:** When someone is participating remotely, I believe you have to do roll call votes for every time, I'm sorry.

**SPARKS:** Oh, we do Okay.

**SISAVATH:** Go back to the agenda.

**SPARKS:** All right, we will go back to the agenda of the regular meeting of May 3, 2023. Roll call?

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Here.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams? Trustee Williams?

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Here.

**SPARKS:** Okay, and then, approval of the regular meeting of April 12? Roll call?

**ROLEN:** We need a motion and a second.

**BARKE:** I will make the motion, so moved.

**VALDES:** Second.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Perfect. Okay. Now, Nina do we have any comment cards?

**BOYD:** There are none.

**SPARKS:** All right, now we are going to take a recess, go into closed session, and we will have student appeal hearings on closed session items. Thank you.

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

**SPARKS:** Okay. We will call the meeting to order. Welcome everybody to the Orange County Board of Education. We are going to move a few things around, but just follow our lead and we will all be good. First, I would like to call for our invocation, Yan Killy. Right there, the microphone. Yeah.

**YOUNG:** I talk loud. Okay, everybody, please bow your hand. Lord, thank you for your wisdom, look over this assembly, guide us and let us act in unity, not as one. And let this board and everybody who supports them do good for our children and for the state. Amen.

**BOYD:** Thank you. Could you please give us your name, sir?

**YAN:** Yan, Y A N. Last name is K I L L Y.

**BOYD:** Thank you so much.

**YAN:** You are welcome.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Thank you so much, Yan. Because one of our award winners is not quite here yet, we are going to go ahead and move the consent calendar up first and approve that if you will just bear with us; then, hopefully, they will trickle in.

**WILLIAMS:** I will second it and if I can make a motion to suspend our rules from the original adoption to pull item number 11 for a special presentation?

**SPARKS:** Yeah, and I will second that.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** Do we need a roll call vote?

**SPARKS:** Do we need a roll call for that?

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** To move that around? Okay.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams.

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Now you do the consent calendar.

**SPARKS:** Now we will do the consent calendar.

**WILLIAMS:** One through 10, and then I will do—

**SPARKS:** Okay, motion to approve consent calendar one through 10.

**BARKE:** I will second that.

**WILLIAMS:** No.

**BARKE:** I will move it. I will move it. Sorry. I will move it.

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

**VALDES:** I second.

**SPARKS:** Roll call.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Now, do I have a motion to approve?

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

**SPARKS:** You make the motion. You got it. Okay.

**BARKE:** I will second it.

**WILLIAMS:** Very good. Discussion.

**SPARKS:** Do we have any discussion on item 11?

**WILLIAMS:** Madam President, if I may read the proclamation and give a little bit of background before the final vote on this proclamation? This proclamation is from a constituent in the city of Irvine in honor of Ahmad Shah Massoud, who is known as the Afghan Napoleon, or (inaudible) Panjshir who was a founding member and father of the resistance against the Soviet invasion in the '80s and against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in 1990s. What this proclamation states is that we are recognizing an individual who is a legendary guerrilla leader, who is staunchly anti-communist and anti-terrorist in his effort to go up against the dark evil influences there in Afghanistan. He was unrivaled in his devotion to his people and his country, and to the legacy that lives on until this day until he was assassinated by Al-Qaeda just two days prior to 9/11.

The County Board of Education recognizes Ahmad Massoud as an inspiration for a United States organization called VETS4NRF. It is a Nebraska nonprofit that is involved in helping the people in Afghan, where 800,000 American veterans who have endured an operation enduring freedom. This organization continues to improve the relationship between that good country and this great country here called the United States of America. Ahmad, if I may read on, the proclamation states that Mr. Massoud inspired the formation of the Massoud Foundation USA that provides meals, water, and education to women and children of Afghanistan.

If I can have the former mayor, great mayor of Irvine, Christina Shea and her grandson, if you want to come up here? Christina is going to give a little bit of background to Massoud, and this is the proclamation that you will give to this son.

**CHRISTINA:** Thank you so very much. Thank you. I can't tell you how much I appreciate our board here to support our efforts that we have been working on with the Legend Group. Our city council in the city of Irvine has provided a proclamation, so has Newport Beach and many other cities, and across the country. It is a real wave that we are trying to promote to support this effort. My grandson is here to videotape me. I really appreciate a moment to let me share a few thoughts.

Known as Afghan Napoleon, Ahmad Shah Massoud is the national hero of Afghanistan. As a strong protector of his people, the late Commander Massoud fought to defend his people. Not only against the aggression of the Soviet Union, but also against the first wave of the terrorist Taliban regime and its ally Al-Qaeda that was planning to carry out attacks on America. After liberating Afghanistan from Russia occupation, Massoud worked tirelessly to rebuild Afghanistan. Commander Massoud was assassinated two days before 9/11 in a preplanned and coordinated attack on our American homeland. Around the world, Commander Massoud is known and celebrated for protecting women's rights and their right to an education, which brings us to asking for this proclamation today.

Today, the terrorist Taliban regime has once again banned young girls from schools and universities. Afghanistan has been turned into a prison for women and a paradise for terrorists. This Orange County Board of Education proclamation will give hope to young girls in Afghanistan, that we, the people of America, stand with them and their struggle for freedom and their struggle for justice, and in their struggle, to return to schools to create a better future for their generations to come.

Once again, I can't tell you how much I so appreciate all your efforts. I know it is a little bit out of your jurisdictional oversight, but it is something that really supports a much important effort across the United States and globally. Thank you so very much. And thank you, Matt, for doing the video. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Thank you so much. Do we have any discussion or comments from the trustees? No? Okay. Do you have a motion to approve?

**WILLIAMS:** There was a motion. I made it and I think it was seconded.

**BARKE:** I seconded.

**SPARKS:** Okay, so let's call for a vote.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Okay, wonderful, congratulations. At this point, I would like to announce the Sunburst—We have a very special Pledge of Allegiance today, at this month's meeting, announcing the Sunburst Youth Academy's Color Guards presentation of flags. Dr. Williams, after that, he is going to do additional introductions because he has been involved with this process for many, many years. Ken, you want to come first?—

**COLOR GUARD LEADER:** Your attention. Colors, forward, march. [Color Guard presentation continues]. Color Guard, halt. Left turn, march. Color Guard, march. Present colors.

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.

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

**COLOR GUARD LEADER:** Carry, colors. Right turn, march. Color Guard, halt. Color Guard, colors.

**WILLIAMS:** You may be seated. My name is Dr. Ken Williams. I'm a trustee here and I have sat on this board since 1996 and it has been a pleasure.

**AUDIENCE:** Your mic is not on.

**WILLIAMS:** Is this not on?

**BOYD:** We can hear you now.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay, now you can hear me. My name is Dr. Ken Williams and I'm a trustee here on the County Board of Education since 1996. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the people of Orange County. Today, what you just saw was a little bit of the inspiration of this board. It represents the Board's vision for America and for our youth, and for what we want to inspire upon them; and that is a love for this country, and a love for the patriot, and a patriotism that is secondary to none. These young men and women who are here tonight were exemplary in their demonstration of such love for their country.

Those individuals are from the Sunburst Academy, which is part of a charter school that was passed—Oh, Nina, help me out. Was it about 20 years ago that we approved that charter school? It is right now at the Los Alamitos Military Joint Air Base there. These young men and women are the kids that were in trouble with law. They were the adjudicated youth. They were the kids that stood out; and unfortunately, didn't comply with all the laws and the rules of school and got into trouble with the law. A good judge who sat there in Orange County said, you have an option. You can go and be incarcerated, or you can go to a military base and learn about self-conservancy, self-discipline. Get yourself a good education at the same time, or you can go into a place of incarceration. And they, of course, chose the best. That is to go to Sunburst Academy. My hat is off to the military commanders there. Thank you, sir. Could you stand? Come on, you all have to stand up.

This is part of the cadre and the leadership there at Sunburst that is imparting great educational knowledge and skills and critical thinking skills, but also a love for this country. They are the spark plugs of the future. They are the kids that we are passing that baton too. Thank you again, sir, for your leadership in providing those kids what they need to be successful in the future.

Part of today, each and every May we pay tribute to an individual by the name of Jack Hammet. Jack was the founder of the Freedom Committee of Orange County. Help me out here, Jim. How long ago was it that the Freedom Committee of Orange County was founded, 25 years?

**JIM:** At least 25.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, at least 25 years ago. Jack was a neighborhood name. Everybody knew who Jack Hammet was here in Costa Mesa. He was a former mayor and just was involved in every single aspect of our community. He formed the Freedom Committee of Orange County, which tonight we honor. For those military veterans who are here, we will ask you to stand and Jim will introduce you. But, today is in honor of Jack Hammet. Jack passed away in 2014, I believe. We had originally just made this day in honor, that we would celebrate America and celebrate our patriotism and love for this country. Then when he passed away, we officially named it the Jack Hammet Essay Contest.

What we do here is we give the opportunity for our kids in our programs to write an essay. That essay is chosen amongst the teachers to best represent what honors Memorial Day and what it represents to the students. When you read these essays, they are very moving. Sometimes they move you to tears. That is one category. The other category is pictures and art. That is more for the younger kids, but they draw pictures in honoring and remembering Memorial Day. This is a



tradition we have had going on at this board for 14, 15 years, at least. Sometimes we forget the amount of years.

**BOYD:** Long time.

**WILLIAMS:** But it is my honor to ask to come up, James Grimm, who is the vice president of the Freedom Committee of Orange County. He is a former helicopter pilot for the U.S. Army. Sir, thank you for your service and thank you for being here.

**JAMES:** My pleasure.

**WILLIAMS:** I will turn the rest of the program to you.

**JAMES:** Thank you, Dr. Williams, Dr. Sparks, Trustees, and honored guests. It is really a pleasure to be here this evening. I'm representing the Freedom Committee as the other four gentlemen are as well. Scott Williams, who is the president of the Freedom Committee is not available. His mother passed away recently. She was 104 years old. He is caught up in trying to put together something to honor her life and he is working on that with his brothers at this moment. An interesting fact about his mother is that she had six children, 15 grandkids, and 22 great grandkids.

**WILLIAMS:** Wow.

**SPARKS:** Wow.

**JAMES:** Really awesome. So they expect in excess of 80 people to be there for a celebration of life. But we are here for Jack Hammett, the Jack Hammett Award that you give. That is an honor really for the Freedom Committee, not just Jack. But there is so much that can be said about Jack Hammett as a man. He was a leader of many, he was a family man, and he was a highly decorated World War II veteran. Jack was a friend to all who knew him. I only had the honor of meeting him and being with him maybe for two years. When Jack was basically on his deathbed, I gave my first presentation at the Freedom Committee. He asked somebody else, "How did Jim do?" They said, "He did pretty good, Jack." He said, "But not as good as me, right?"

Jack always had a humor. He really, truly did. But Jack was a Pearl Harbor survivor. He was a former Costa Mesa mayor. He died in 2014 at the age of 94. He was also the founder of the Freedom Committee. We are here to proliferate the Freedom Committee by virtue of our membership. We have men and women, all services, all ages. We have no ladies here tonight, but we have an active group. We meet once a month here in Costa Mesa and we have a great time. We actually have somebody from our group who will present to the crowd, to the group, because we vet our veterans before they go to a school. If a veteran goes into Costa Mesa High School, it says he has a Purple Heart. He darn will better have a Purple Heart because we do that. That is our job. We want to make sure that is correct.

The Freedom Committee of Orange County is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit and it is an organization of veterans. We all volunteer our time. Nobody is paid. It is our mission to bring the Living History

Program into the classrooms by sharing our stories of all generations and services. We just really enjoy it. We embrace it tremendously. But it is an honor to be here tonight because you have a special award that you are giving. In conjunction with what you are doing, the Freedom Committee—I'm going to let one of our members, John Williams tell you a little bit about it. We have another program, it is for an essay contest, but it is about Fred Whitaker who was co-host to Jack starting the program. He was a World War II veteran. We put together a program that follows in suit with what you do.

We just selected today the winner. We will be making that presentation coming up. That is for the Newport-Costa Mesa high schools. I would like to introduce the veterans that are with me so that we don't take too much of your time. I have, Tim Richards, Captain, United States Army. You want to say anything? You want to say anything?

**TIM:** In the Army, we have a rule that you have to have education. If you join the military and you think that school is over, it is not. Every sergeant, as he goes through his progression of ranks, has to go to a certain school. Education is continuous in the military. Thank you.

**JAMES:** Dwight Hanson, United States Marine Corps. Advance Corporal, right?

**DWIGHT:** Corporal.

**JAMES:** Corporal, okay.

**DWIGHT:** Aloha. Real quickly, I just wanted to let you know, the Freedom Committee, our mission is to pass the Torch of Liberty onto future generations. We have spoken to over 300,000 students in the last 10 to 15 years. It is a passion of ours to go out to the schools and let them know. The other thing is, not only Jack, but our founders were D-Day, Pearl Harbor, Navy Cross recipients, D-Day Medal of Honor recipients, Silver Star, Bronze Stars, these are the gentlemen that founded our committee and that gave us the strength to build from, and to pass that torch on to future generations.

Something that Jack would always say at the end of his presentations, he would look at the boys and girls and he would go, can you all do me a favor? And of course, they would say, yes. He would go, will you please take care of my country for me? That is something we need to remember. We need to take care of our country. Real quickly, Jack was not only at Pearl Harbor, Jack was at D-Day. He was both at Pearl Harbor at the beginning and then the huge push into Europe.

Real quickly, one of the most harrowing things that he said happened to him and scared him the most was, on the night of December 7, they had converted the basement to a morgue in the hospital at Hospital Point. He was putting somebody down there. There were a lot of people in there by then that had passed. The power went out in the hospital. He remembers being stuck down there trying to escape. The horrific things that he saw. But then the fact that he founded Bristol Park, that he was the mayor of Costa Mesa. They don't call it the farm anymore. They call it Jack Hammett Sports Complex. When you guys go see Jack Hammett Sports Complex, just please remember, will you do me a favor? Please take care of my country for me.

The last thing that I always say is, because of Pearl Harbor with Jack and all that is, always remember, never forget and welcome home. Thank you so much for your time today.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**JAMES:** Gary Tegel, Senior Master Chief.

**GARY:** Such a blessing to be here. I just wanted to share, Jack Hammet was a man of funny stories. The first story I ever heard about Jack was when Pearl Harbor happened, of course, it was a Sunday morning. Saturday night, him and his wife went out, they had a good time, so Sunday morning he was sleeping in. He heard nothing until he heard, knock, knock, knock. He went to the door and it was the landlord. He said, "Rent is due." So Jack went in and got his money. I think it was like \$7, paid him the money. He goes, "Oh yeah, by the way, Pearl Harbor is under attack." From that point, he was gone from home like three solid days working around the clock, just an amazing guy.

Like you said, you can't go anywhere in Costa Mesa without someone knowing about Jack Hammett. He had his hands all over the city, a great man. Thank you for doing this and carrying this on. Part of our job is to carry on our living history. It is our story that we take to the kids in the public school. I know for me, personally, it is to instill some patriotism and encourage kids no matter what side of the aisle they are on to support the military, because there is bad guys that want to take us over. If we don't keep a strong military, it will be bad. I have been to those countries. It is not fun. Thank you for the time and appreciate it.

**JAMES:** Gary didn't bring it up, but he has a very proud son who is an enlisted man who now has become a Navy officer. Who gave him the first loop? The dad, I think that is neat. John Williams, retired teacher from Estancia High School, U.S. Coast Guard, tell us a little bit about the program.

**JOHN:** Thank you very much, Jim. I'm a new member of the Freedom Committee. When I was in the classroom, I remember the programs when the Freedom Committee would come to our campus and these veterans would honor us with their time and their story. When I retired from teaching, I thought it was only fitting as a veteran myself, a proud member of the U.S. Coast Guard, that I wanted to be a member of the Freedom Committee as well. I have been with them about a year and a half. I didn't have the pleasure of meeting Jack, but we were blessed in the Freedom Committee to have an endowment by Fred M. Whitaker, a World War II veteran when he passed away. We have turned that endowment to the committee into a scholarship opportunity in Fred's name. We have \$5,000 worth of scholarship money that we are awarding.

I just want to say thank you to all of you in the audience today who are serving currently and have served. I want to honor the young people in the back for passing that torch. That is what our mission is. I see you young people in the back and I know that we are in good hands, so I honor all of you for your commitment to our country as well. Thank you.

**JAMES:** Thank you very much. We appreciate being here. It is our pleasure.

**SPARKS:** Thank you for your service and for all you do for our community. We are so, so grateful. Thank you so much. I would also like to call up Dr. Ramon Miramontes, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs before we go into our special award presentation.

**MIRAMONTES:** Good evening, President Sparks, members of the Board, fellow guests, special guests, and families that are here. It is an honor to actually be a part of this tradition, so thank you for having me up here today. The ACCESS and Special Schools teams deeply appreciate the opportunity for our students to participate in the annual Jack Hammet Memorial Day Essay Contest. Students were invited to participate from across ACCESS to special education programs. We had 37 submissions from our ACCESS students in the second year, and inviting our special education students to participate, we had 18 submissions either in written or pictorial form from our ninth grade adult transition students. As a reminder to our guests, ACCESS is OCDE's outstanding, nationally recognized alternative education program offering transformational learning, experience and support to students across the county. Our amazing special education program at OCDE serves students with the most significant disabilities.

Before we get started with celebrating students tonight, I would like to introduce the ACCESS and Special Education team members who have supported these students and are here this evening. Please stand to be recognized. Vern Burton, Assistant Superintendent; Area 3 Principal Ruth Ramirez; Julie Bauer-Ochoa, Teacher at Southwest Anaheim; Griselda Bassoko, Community Resource Specialist; Area 2, Sunburst Principal Dinah Ismail; and a special introduction to our Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. Gilbert Sanchez, the Director of Sunburst Youth Academy.

In addition, from our special education group, I would like to recognize Analee Kredel, Chief of Special Educational Services; Chris Romanosky, Director of Special Education; Joe Arnold, Teacher at Golden West Adult Transition Program; and Dominique Vellanoweth, Teacher at Harbor Learning Center. Other team members from ACCESS and Special Education programs who were unable to attend tonight include teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators providing resources and support to all our students.

Today we are celebrating 55 students who submitted Memorial Day Contest essays or art. All of our students will receive a certificate for their participation. In addition, we will be honoring first, second, and third place prizes to our awardees. For essays, the first place prize is \$250. Second place is \$150 and third place is \$100. For art, our first place is \$100. Two awardees for second place will receive \$75 and our third place will receive \$50. We are very proud of the work of all of our students including the teachers, administrators, and staff who supported them.

Thank you to the members of the Board, Dr. Mijares and our Cabinet for their financial contributions that have made these awards possible today. Thank you once again. Trustees, you have been provided with copies of the essays and pictures in your binders. Now, I'm delighted to recognize the writers of our top three essays. From our ACCESS program, our third place awardee and winner of \$100 is Christopher and his teacher is Elizabeth Wilson from Sunburst Youth Academy. Our second place—

**BOYD:** Wait, before you do.

**MIRAMONTES:** Sure.

**SPARKS:** We are each going to take a picture with the winners.

**BOYD:** Trustee Valdes will be presenting the award along with the cash.

**WILLIAMS:** Nina, is he going to be able to read his essay?

**BOYD:** Just the first place winner is what you—.

**WILLIAMS:** He will read it. Okay.

**MIRAMONTES:** Our second place awardee and winner of the \$150 prize is Jared and his teacher is Julie Bauer-Ochoa from Southwest Anaheim site.

**BOYD:** Just come to the center.

**MIRAMONTES:** Our first place awardee and the winner of the \$250 prize is Sheyla, Teacher Christian Butala, Century Day School. With that being said, I would like to invite Sheyla first to come to the podium and read her essay.

**RAMIREZ:** I'm Ruth Ramirez, the principal for her area and I'm her battle buddy today.

**SHEYLA:** I'm going to read it now. It is called, "What Memorial Day Means to Me." Memorial Day is a day to remember the U.S. military soldiers who have died in war, or any military action, and to honor veterans. Growing up, Memorial Day was a day off of school and a day for my family to have a barbecue. As I got older, the meaning Memorial Day has changed. I now know the privilege I had to be able to think that way. For many people and families, this is a day for them to mourn their dead soldiers. The meaning of Memorial Day means privilege, a day to mourn, and gratitude.

As I hold tightly to my grandmother's hand, we walk through the cemetery. I ask the Mexican immigrant, what do those flags mean? I point to the American flags on many graves. She tells me those are the people who have served in the military and she gives thanks to them. She explains to me, although she was not born here, she gives thanks to them because she found freedom here. My entire upbringing, my grandmother has educated me on the privilege I have by simply being born on another side of a wall. I have so much gratitude that I get to go to school. I can wear what I want. I have the freedom to hold people I love close.

Every Saturday of the month, my grandmother's church feeds the homeless. This month, my mom and I joined in to help. I load the trucks with the bags my mom made containing a blanket, hygiene products, and some snacks. We got to the site, a train track behind some apartments in Santa Ana. Although I'm not too fond of my grandmother's church, I felt as if I should go. As we hand out food, my mom, my grandmother and I meet a man.

He thanks us for the bags with necessities and he begins to tell us his story. He is a veteran who fought in Iraq. He was injured in battle and he had no family. When he returned, he had nowhere to go. His friends let him stay for a couple days on their couch; but after a few days, he had nowhere to go. With no family and injury, he ended up homeless. War was all he knew, so it was hard for him to get back to normal life. We thanked him for his service and gave him a few more plates of food.

The ride back was strange. I felt tears rolling down my face and mascara all over my eyes. I was so touched by this interaction. A few weeks go by and now it is Memorial Day. I'm surrounded by my family and I hear laughter. We are having a barbecue. The loud Spanish music couldn't stop me from thinking of the man I met. I realized how much privilege I have to be able to stay at the table with my family. I told my grandma how I felt and she assured me her church was going that week to go feed them again. Saturday comes and I unload the truck with the plates. I decided to help out again. We give him food and necessities and thank him for what he did. He gives us a smile.

Memorial Day to me is the privilege to live in the land of the free. It is the day to remember those who have fought to give us freedom. It is also a day of gratitude, to give thanks to those in and out of service. Memorial Day means so much to me and to others. We will never forget who we lost in battle and those who are still here to tell us their stories. Now that May is coming up again, I promise to once again load up my grandmothers truck and continue to help those who fought for America. Thank you.

**MIRAMONTES:** Thank you, Sheyla. From our Special Education, winners of the art category, our third place awardee and the winner of the \$50 is Andrew, Teacher Wendy Watts from the Harbor Learning Center. Let's give a round applause to Andrew. Our second place awardee and the winners of a \$75 each is Julius, Teacher Dominique Vellanoweth with Harbor Learning Center; and Stacy, Teacher Joe Arnold from Golden West.

**BOYD:** They are both second.

**MIRAMONTES:** They are both second, same amount. Our first place awardee and winner of the \$100 is Hank, Teacher Joe Arnold from Golden West. Hank, come on up. Thank you, Hank. No better way to end than that. Thank you, President Sparks and members of the Board for your support of this wonderful initiative and special thanks again to our veterans. It is an honor for us to be here today with you. Thank you. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BOYD:** President Sparks, Presidents Sparks.

**BOYD:** Before we move on, we would be remiss if we did not mention the fact that the principal for all of these students—

**VALDES:** Here, here.

**BOYD:** Is here today, and that is Krista Paul. She did not want to be introduced.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. She is hiding there.

**BOYD:** Yes, she was hiding. Also would like to acknowledge the fact that she was just recognized as Principal of the Year statewide.

**VALDES, SPARKS:** Wow.

**SPARKS:** Congratulations. Thank you. That is awesome. We didn't know that. That is amazing. If I may take a presidential privilege to move item number 15 of Tim Shaw up to now, which would be, I guess, item number five. I'm sort of creating, and I think we need to have a motion and a second.

**WILLIAMS:** I will make a motion that we suspend the rules to make that change.

**BARKE:** I will second that. Can we take a vote on that?

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Just raise your hand.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams.

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Sorry, can I just confirm who made the motion and the second?

**WILLIAMS:** I made the motion to suspend the rules.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Thanks everybody. Thank you. You are not going to stay for the exciting, boring part of the meeting? Thank you all so much. Congratulations. Trustee Shaw, we will just take a second for the crowd to move on out. Congratulations. Thank you. Okay, Trustee Shaw, the floor is yours.

**SHAW:** Thank you, Madam President. I appreciate your accommodation. For those people in the audience, I have to be up here. I am in Sacramento today for this week, for my work, my day job. I'm supposed to be somewhere at 6:00 PM for some meetings here, so I appreciate you accommodating my schedule here. I did want to compliment the young people from Sunburst. As usual, they are not a very quiet group, so I have always enjoyed going to their graduations and I'm just sorry I couldn't be there in person this evening with everybody. But, this item I asked to be put on the agenda is Senate Bill 292. It has been introduced in our State Legislature by Senator Shannon Grove.

Occasionally, as it might happen, our board can formally take positions on legislation that is in Congress or our State Legislature. This one I thought would be very appropriate for our board to take a position on. Here at our state level, I have tried to always prioritize the empowering of parents in their kids' education, and I think Senate Bill 292 is kind of the ultimate in achieving that goal and exemplifies that. I have a fact sheet here from Senator Grove, the author of the bill, that I might read a little part of.

It says, "Senate Bill 292 would establish the California Education Savings Account Act of 2023. This innovative legislation creates an individualized approach to K-12 education by allowing parents to choose what accredited school best suits their child's needs and have the students share of Proposition 98 funding follow them. Any unused funds can be saved from year-to-year and used to pay for college or vocational training upon graduation from high school."

I think the idea of having the dollars from the state go with the student—maybe they want to stay at the traditional school in their neighborhood and that is great. The funding would go there. Perhaps they would like to attend a charter school, one of the many great charter schools we have in our county, that would be fine and the money would go there. Whatever the educational preferences of that family, they would get the funding to follow that student. I see that as a very bold and positive step forward in empowering the parents and the students to make that decision as far as what would serve them best in that particular student's educational career.

This legislation has been voted down in committee in the State Senate for this year. Senator Grove has indicated she will be pursuing this next year. As they say, the bill might be dead, but the author isn't. She is going to continue to give it another whack next year, so I think it would be appropriate. Madam President if we went on record supporting this bill now, the beginning of next year when Senator Grove is going to make another push at it, we can have our name and our board's formal support behind the idea so that hopefully we can gain better traction and have a better showing next year. So, my motion is that we formally support Senate Bill 292 by Senator Shannon Grove.



**BARKE:** I will second your motion.

**SPARKS:** Okay. We have a discussion; do we have any comments or questions?

**BARKE:** I think it is super. I think it is wonderful. I think it is great to put it in the children's and parents—

**SPARKS:** I do have a question, Tim. I'm wondering if these monies—for example, the state of Oklahoma just passed a bill where \$7,500 can follow the student for public charter schools, district schools, and/or private schools. Does this include private schools as well or is it?

**BARKE:** It does.

**SPARKS:** It does. Okay.

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** I just wanted clarification on there. Is there a dollar amount attached to it yet, or?

**BARKE:** I think it is whatever the state funding is. Right? It just follows that amount? Is that right, Tim?

**SHAW:** I'm looking at the fact sheet. That is my understanding, so let's see. I'm reading her—

**BARKE:** From what I remember, it doesn't affect the taxpayers. It is just whatever the amount already is.

**SHAW:** Right.

**SPARKS:** Right. Okay.

**SHAW:** That is my understanding.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, I just wanted that clarification for the public. I mean, I'm fully in support of this. I just wanted those additional clarifications. Any other comments or questions? We will take it to a vote now. Roll call, Darou.

**WILLIAMS:** I do have a question regarding the actual protocol? There is a motion and a second to support SB 292, is that then going to be followed up with a letter on our letterhead by you signing it to the author of this bill?

**SPARKS:** It is up to the will of the Board. Do we want to do a letter? Do we want to do a resolution? What is the best path forward?

**BARKE:** I like a resolution.

**SPARKS:** Yeah.

**BARKE:** Author, Tim?

**SPARKS:** Trustee Shaw?

**SHAW:** I was just planning on contacting the staffer for Senator Grove, who is staffing this bill tomorrow. But, probably it would be better to have a resolution we could send along.

**WILLIAMS:** If we have a resolution, we have to have the language and the wording for that resolution. I assume it is not made. Is that correct?

**SHAW:** No.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. We could do a resolution, but then that is something we really can't vote on because we don't have the resolution.

**SPARKS:** Right.

**WILLIAMS:** We need the 72 hours' notice for the Brown Act. I would just advise that we take a vote, that we support it. We could, when the bill is reintroduced, Tim, make an officious resolution to again support the author of this bill later on. But, I would advise, I would just take the vote, vote upon it, and send the letter on the letterhead with your signature.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** And that would be a positive, an easy step to do.

**SPARKS:** That sounds like a good easy step, a good solution.

**SHAW:** Did we have public speakers, Madam President on this item?

**SPARKS:** No, I don't believe so.

**BOYD:** I don't have it. Mari has that.

**SHAW:** Okay. I just wanted to double check.

**BARKE:** I don't know on that item particularly. Is anyone here that did it for this item? Any public speaker for this item in particular? For item 15, did any one—?

**SPARKS:** For SB 292 in support or not?

**WILLIAMS:** It is the money follows the child bill.

**SPARKS:** Oh, we do have a public comment around that.

**BOYD:** It should be listed at the top.

**BARKE:** What number are you?

**AUDIENCE:** (Inaudible).

**BOYD:** You are not at the mic, so we are not capturing.

**BARKE:** We can only speak once, so she will speak on both items. So speak on everything right now.

**BETTY:** I came here originally—

**BOYD:** Excuse me, could you announce your name so that we will have it for the record?

**BETTY:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Thank you.

**BETTY:** Betty Chu, and I live in Villa Park. I actually came here today because I was so disappointed with the Senate Committee that turned down Senate Bill 292. Then I heard about Santa Ana Unified School District adopting two new curriculum, which I would interpret as indoctrination of hatred on a basis of race and religion. I came here today, to your board of education because I admire the work that you have done and that the prior board has done. Oh, I felt so much pride when I saw the Color Guard marching in, and to hear about Jack Hammett, and the award, and the presentation on the Massoud day. Am I pronouncing that correctly?

**WILLIAMS:** Massoud.

**BETTY:** I am very happy to hear about your resolution today. I wanted to point out that there is one misconception that is going around in the public, that this takes away funding from the public schools. No. When we look at the funding for each student, that is the cap of the amount that goes with the student to the other school choices. Each child gets the same amount and that is the amount that will be allotted to this school. Now, you have to apply for other awards, but that is just competition to make all the schools a lot better. I saw your competition here today, the faces, the joy that it can bring. But in doing that, what you did was give us all the pride that makes us say, perhaps, when we have most of these schools and the work that you are doing, that the Santa Ana Unified School District adoption of the Palestinian hatred for the Jewish state, then, I say it was worth it all. I want to thank you. I have actually come here to ask and say to support Senator Shannon Grove. Thank you so much.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Okay. I think at this point we take this for a vote.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Barke?

**BARKE:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Williams.

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Sparks?

**BETTY:** I think when you take your vote, you can write a letter and also do the resolution.

**SPARKS:** Yes, we are planning on doing that if it passes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Shaw?

**SPARKS:** I think I said yes.

**SHAW:** Yes.

**SISAVATH:** Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Support for the bill passes 5-0. Thank you.

**SHAW:** Madam President, if I might be excused, unless I'm desperately needed? I'm going to—

**SPARKS:** You are desperately needed, but we will excuse you this one time.

**SHAW:** I don't want to be in trouble with my boss. I'm terribly conflicted right now.

**SPARKS:** Well, I know you will represent us well up there in Sacramento.

**SHAW:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you for joining us.

**SHAW:** I will text everyone.

**SPARKS:** Okay. All right, take care. All right, so this brings us—Nina, do we have any introductions?

**BOYD:** We do not.

**SPARKS:** I think at this point, if I'm in the correct order, we now have our general public comments.

**BOYD:** Correct.

**BARKE:** All right, first up is Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke, with Nancy Watkins on deck.

**STEPHANIE:** Good evening, Board. That was quite an assembly today. It was really cool to see so many different groups represented. My name is Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke and I am the director of advocacy and education at the LGBTQ Center OC. Last month I left the Board of Education meeting feeling incredibly discouraged after learning of your agreement and alignment with AB 1314, which was thankfully not set for a hearing at this time. As a member of this community and a former product of Capistrano Unified where I attended kindergarten through high school, I feel that it is essential for the Board of Education to take time to understand the unique challenges that Orange County LGBTQ students face and to ensure that their voices are heard. I'm interested in knowing if either of you have taken the steps to reach out to your LGBTQ student constituents and to listen to their concerns.

Policies such as the former AB 1314 are simply dangerous and jeopardize the safety and wellbeing of these students. Discussions on gender identity should happen between parents and their children at a time and place in which they feel is appropriate. It is not up to educators and school staff to out these students when they are unaware of the student's home environment. I believe that it is crucial for the Board to be proactive in reaching out to all constituents, which includes LGBTQ students to ensure that they are heard and that their needs are addressed.

Have you considered engaging with LGBTQ student groups, such as gender and sexuality alliance student clubs to understand their needs and to hear them out? I think these dialogues will help to inform your policy decisions and to ensure that they are inclusive and equitable for all students. At this point, I am unaware if either of you have reached out to any of these students. With that said, the LGBTQ Center OC is here to continue to extend its support and advocacy, and I'm also here if you would like to reach out as well. Thank you for your time.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Nancy Watkins, Linda Cone is on deck.

**NANCY:** Good evening. I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt appreciation in acknowledging and celebrating the accomplishments of students in the county schools. The Hammett Memorial Day Essay and Art Contest is a wonderful way to recognize the hardworking commitment that students show towards their education. As we approach Memorial Day, I'm compelled to express my gratitude. I am the spouse of a Navy veteran, and honoring the sacrifices made by our service members and their families is essential. I appreciate the Orange County Board and the Department's recognition of the important holiday and the significance to our nation's history.

Today, I do have concerns regarding recent actions taken by the Orange County Board of Education that seem to waste taxpayer money and perpetuate fear-mongering. It is disheartening to learn that the Orange County Board has authorized spending on lobbyists and unnecessary legal cases that don't serve the best interests of our students or our community. I'm disappointed by the confusion and the discord resulting from the dissemination of misinformation at board meetings, such as last month's video report about the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

which contained inaccurate information. When elected officials and school personnel from an independent school district are forced to defend their policies of falsehood and invited audience hecklers, it highlights a grave issue with the Board's purpose and values.

Second, recent agendas reveal that the Orange County Board supports legislation at the state level that has already been unsuccessful in Committee. Allocating resources to support this legislation by paying for lobbyists is inefficient, particularly when the legislation is unlikely to pass and is not going to benefit our public schools or community. The focus should be on advocating for legislation that enhances educational quality for all students and families and improves academics for everyone, not just those who have the means to choose differently.

The Board's recent actions raised several questions for me, are the Orange County Board's resolutions and action items benefiting individual board members? Are board members prioritizing their personal beliefs over their constituent values? Why are trustees generating chaos through fear mongering? What are the values that this board is promoting? The misuse of taxpayer money on policies is unacceptable and contradicts the values of transparency and accountability that we as a community expect from our elected officials. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** After Linda Cone, Lorrie Kaylor is on deck.

**LINDA:** Linda Cone. Sorry. I want to begin exactly where I ended on April the 12. I was challenging the assertion that AB 1314 legislation, or policy, threatens the safety of transitioning or non-binary minors and parents do not have the right or should not have the right to know, and that these parents are uncaring and abusive. Also on April the 12, I don't recall anyone representing the LGBTQ plus community saying that they had been abused or abandoned by parents. In fact, when a concerned grandparent followed the group outside and talked to them individually, she reported that they agreed that parents should play a critical role in the lives of their children. The sticking point for many of these LGBT people is that they don't want to be outed to their parents.

Of course not, because they know that the parents who care for them the most are not automatically going to affirm their decision. Parents will ask hard questions. Parents may even insist on a complete mental and physical evaluation before social transitioning begins. This is highly recommended by authorities and medical groups. To at least one person who spoke last month, this very questioning by parents and people like me is proof that we hate them. Because I do not immediately encourage and enable one's desire to transition, I am a hater. We were called a room full of haters. It is absolutely crucial that we challenge this belief. The challenge begins with kind and loving dialogue with anyone who will listen to us.

That has already been stated by the first speaker, but it doesn't stop there. We have to make the case as Erin Friday, author of AB 1314 made. I quote, "It is imperative that parents must be alerted. Removing parents who know their child's history, traumas and struggles will result in harm." I have specific evidence of this in my own community, where a child was suicidal and the parents were not told. Consider the number of detransitioners that grows every day. They cannot

be ignored. AB 1314 policies must be passed by every local school board. It is our job to make that happen. I'm enlisting your help in this effort. I will have a lot more information to share with you on June 1. Sacramento can kill this bill, but we can carry the heart and soul of 1314 to every single local school board who will listen and agree that parents do have a right. Children whose parents are not told, are threatened by their parents not knowing. Thank you for the time.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Lorrie Kaylor, followed by Terry Hodgins on deck please.

**LORRIE:** Lorrie Kaylor. Eighty to 95% of children with gender dysphoria grow out of it as long as they are allowed to go through natural puberty, rather than being affirmed in a transgender identity, according to the American College of Pediatricians. Puberty blockers and chemical castration drugs are the same thing. Drugs such as Lupron, Zoladex, Trolstar and others are commonly prescribed to confuse children as young as 10 years old. These are the same drugs which are given to chemically castrate, sexually violent males in prison. The list of long-term side effects and possible risks include osteoporosis, impaired glucose, depression, infertility, anemia, loss of muscle mass, weight gain, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, problems with thinking, concentration and memory. This is child abuse.

A recent study shows that the rise of transgender identity is brought on by social contagion; 250 families whose children developed symptoms of gender dysphoria during, or right after puberty were surveyed. Lisa Littman, a physician and professor of behavioral science at Brown University found that 80% of the parents in the study reported observing none of the early signs in their children to meet the diagnostic criteria for gender dysphoria. From the cases reviewed in her study, she concluded that what she terms rapid onset gender dysphoria appears to be a novel condition and emerges from cohort and contagion effects of novel social pressures. From this perspective, ROGD likely exhibits an etiology and epidemiology that is distinct from the classical ones of gender dysphoria documented in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

The prefrontal cortex is not fully developed until age 25. This is the last part of the brain to mature and it controls complex thinking, decision making, impulse control, and personality. The number of detransitioners is growing. I have personally heard heartbreaking testimonies of young people who deeply regret decisions which caused irreversible damage to their bodies. The suicide rate of individuals who have sex reassignment surgeries is extremely high, even in countries which are very trans-friendly. A 30-year study conducted in Sweden where this culture is strongly supportive of transgender identity individuals documents their lifelong mental unrest. The suicide rate of those who had undergone sex reassignment even 10 to 15 years after their surgery, rose 20 times that of comparable peers.

In the light of all these facts, why would a school affirm or even groom a child to transition their gender and keep this information from parents? This is causing harm. I urge this board, for the sake of our children, to require that schools notify parents or guardians of children identifying as a gender other than that which is on their birth certificate. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** After Terry, we have Robert Walters on deck.

**TERRY:** Good evening. I am here today to bring to your attention and to the staff, that in a recent newsletter that was circulated by the staff, included a reference by the World Economic Forum as the essence for educating our children to meet the future skill needs of this county. The underpinning of the newsletter in the discussion at that point was that the World Economic Forum has already predicted and established what the skill needs are of the world's population and that this was somehow underpinning the reason for going through SEL, the social/emotional learning. It was an article written by the coordinator of SEL within this school district and the Department.

I take great offense that you, going to the extent of bringing in an article from the World Economic Forum, and I beg to differ with that as a resource for you structuring anything in this county. It is a fascist organization. It does not represent the values of this country, much less this community. I take great offense at what was done or what is going on, with regards to that as a reference. We have academia in this country that have credentials that far exceed anybody that could be referenced in the World Economic Forum. You could choose any number of different academic-qualified individuals to base your SEL program on, much less put it out in a newsletter as an example of what you are teaching here, and I know that is not the fact.

SEL has been described as trash across the board. It should not be taught. It is really parenting, taking parents out of the picture of their child's education. It is a false doctrine. The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Not SEL, not CRT, not DEI, or the LGBTQXYZ, or the WEF. You will find the word wisdom is presented in the Bible 219 times, knowledge actually occurs 130 times, understanding is 110 times.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Your time is up sir.

**TERRY:** Perhaps you could read Proverbs.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Robert Walters is Frances Marshall.

**ROBERT:** Hello. I'm Robert Walters and I'm a resident of Anaheim Hills and long been involved with the Orange School District. I'm here tonight to talk about what is happening with the School Choice Initiative. I hope that this law might pass with the state, for the school choice; but if it doesn't, there is three different groups gearing up to have a re-hit on the initiative drive beginning next year. Now, to be successful, we have to look at why did the last one fail? We have identified that the three groups that you would expect to be supporting it, did not support it in fully; Homeschoolers Association, Charter School Organization, and the Catholic Church all opposed this initiative drive and did a lot to keep their members from helping pass the petition and being involved.



We have asked each of these groups since this past week, help us write what you think should be the wording so that you don't have to fear that with government money comes government control. If you have other issues that you are concerned with, put it in this constitutional amendment so we can get everybody's 100% support and go forward with it. Hopefully, that will happen in the coming 30/40 days. Then we will have an announcement for an initiative drive to start, assuming this law does not pass in the State Assembly and Senate, which I doubt if it will.

Anyway, the final thing I have is, I have got petitions here. I put them on the back table. I invite anybody to pick them up. This is about election integrity. It is put out by the Sheriff Don Barnes and it has to do with having voting in person one day, paper ballots, and elimination of electronic voting machines. Pass the petition. You got 30/40 days to get it sent in, and I appreciate you if you pick some up in the back table. Thank you very much.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Thank you. Following Frances Marshall, we have Twyla Hudgins.

**FRANCES:** Thank you, Board for allowing me to speak. My name is Frances Marshall. I'm with We the People Orange County, and also Eagle Forum OC. During 2020, I just wanted to share with you, we lost mom and dad within three days. I have three children that were vaccinated, one through the military, one because he got married, and one is fighting for his life from the Moderna shot, second stage heart failure. Each one of you are my brothers and sisters here. We are all created under one God. I'm here because I love you guys. I sincerely say that from the bottom of my heart. What I have seen happen with the children, with the CRT and grooming, and the Planned Parenthoods that they are pushing on the high schools, it grieves my soul. But not just that, but our creator in heaven.

In the Bible it says, my people perish because they lack knowledge, so I set out on a mission to find out what was going on with America. I am also five generations military, okay? I learned about the nih.gov on the current Biden Administration, 43 pages of the planned pandemic. I fought against AB 223. I have spoken at city council and spoken regarding the crimes against humanity, Executive Order 13818. You can all look it up. It is still effective. Executive Order 13848, it is still in effect, election integrity. Okay? It is not the Biden Administration that is pushing these and extending these orders. We all need to do our research.

I have gone back through the John Birch Society to learn my constitutional rights. I didn't know, and I'm five generations military, I'm taking leadership classes. I'm going to help empower my community. I don't know where you guys stand. I honestly don't care how you voted in the past; but I would like each one of you to go home tonight and think about what you are voting on. Crimes Against Humanity Executive Order 13818 is still in existence. Please look it up as well as Executive Order 13848. We don't know our constitutional rights. You may not know your constitutional oath that you took. But if we have been invaded by a foreign or domestic invasion and you took a sworn oath to your office, please look at these executive orders.

It says that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, okay? To the republic, not a democracy.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Your time is up.

**FRANCES:** Thank you for your time, for giving me time.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**FRANCES:** I appreciate it.

**SPARKS:** Thank you very much.

**BARKE:** Following Twyla, we have Marisa Charette on deck please.

**TWYLA:** Thank you for allowing me to speak; Twila Hudgins, Huntington Beach. I'm really focused on those words behind you and that is my focus in the comments. Where you sit tonight is really no accident. No, it is an appointment for such a time as this. You have been given a task and a purpose. Please hear these words with your heart. Psalm 14:1, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none that doeth good." Regarding our children. Matthew 18:6, "But whoever shall offend one of these little ones, which believe in me, it would be better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:10, "Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones. For I say unto you that in heaven, their angels do always behold the face of my Father, which is in heaven." Isaiah 5:20, "Whoa unto them that call evil good and good evil, that put darkness for light and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." Revelation 3:16, "So then because thou art lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth."

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son Jesus, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. He who has an ear to hear, let him hear." Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Marisa, we have Mary.

**MARISA:** I hope you can see me. But the important thing is, you can hear me.

**BARKE:** Maybe pull down the mic a little bit.

**MARISA:** My name is Marisa Charette and I live in Tustin. I have two grandchildren attending the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. The reason I'm here tonight is I searched your website regarding the Superintendent's lawsuit against the elected Board of Education. Specifically, I am interested in seeing all the legal bills that the Superintendent paid his attorney with taxpayer money. I was just curious why this was not available on the website. Is something being hidden from the public? The tax-paying public deserves transparency and has the right to know these

facts. These documents need to be made public immediately and we hope that we can find this on your website very soon. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Mary, we have Yan Killy on deck.

**MARY:** Good evening. My husband and I taught students and student teachers for a total of over 68 years in Orange County. We did real teaching and we worked for excellence in the classroom. We finally remember OCDE back in 2010 and before. They cared deeply about the children, the parents, the patriotism, and conservative values. Today we understand that OCDE is considering programs like the CRT, SEL, and the transgender studies, by these names or similar names. These programs divide and destroy. We realize the programs come with generous bonuses from the federal government and our own governor.

Regarding CRT, we know names of course, like Saul Alinsky and people like that, like the rules for radical. They believe in organizing for power, stirring descent, and discontent. It is a Marxist race dictum. They use race for the pretext, but power is their real goal. They don't want to solve problems like poverty. They use the problems to push a social agenda. They have no places in our schools. Social justice is a woke version, a bloated version of justice. It has nothing to do with justice. People like Herbert Marcuse and people like that were behind this. They believed in exploiting groups. They blamed the Christians, capitalism, and God was their ultimate oppressor.

CRT separates groups into oppressors and oppressed. The white have a guilt from the past and the present. It is endless retaliation. There is never any reconciliation. They teach moral relativism, which is the real reason for permanent underclass in our country. Regarding the sexualization of children, we have a program that is the new curriculum, comprehensive sex ed curriculum, it was supposedly created because of a noble cause. But the founders of these programs are Sikas, if you know who Sika is. Albert Kinsey, he was a pedophile and he worked with Planned Parenthood. These are programs that do not belong in the schools. These discussions need to be at the home. They need to be between the parents, not at the teachers, not at the schools, they need to be with the parents. They discriminate against the parents, they keep them uninvolved, and it is a total ridge of confidentiality between the home.

Hitler was the one who said, he who owns the youth gains the future. This is the type of a thing they did way back with Nazi Germany. They took the children and the parents and separated them. That is what these social programs do, the sexualization programs. When you have a child with an early debut in sexual education, they get increased depression, suicidal ideology and aggressiveness. They desensitize the children, they promote deviate behavior, which is just really a form of grooming. Okay. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Thank you. After Yan Killy, we have Lynne Riddle on deck.

**YAN:** My name is Yan Killy and thank you for letting me speak. I am from Villa Park, but a former Irvine resident of 36 years. My boss's daughters are a product of the public education, and that is where I dropped the ball and now I understand. But I have a grandchild, and that is why I'm here. I'm here because I wanted to come to a little more civil and friendlier meeting, because the ones that we attended in our district is a little bit more contentious and ruckus. What I really want to say is that you are doing a good job. Some people might disagree, some people agree, but in your heart, I know you are trying to do good. Education of the younger generation is the future of our country. If we are going to drop the ball, we will not have a country. We are getting very close to that, not having a country.

We can start talking about the alphabets. CRT, all of that does not belong in school. Concentrate on physics, science, art, civils. What I really would like to do if I can, I want every class in every school starting the day with the Pledge of Allegiance. Before lunchtime, have two minutes of quiet time. Okay? Call it what you want. You want to pray, you want to meditate, two minutes of quiet time. Let's do that. Let's give our children the education that they deserve, not indoctrination that they don't. Thank you.

**BARKE:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Following Lynne Riddle, we have Sandra Bensworth on deck please.

**LYNNE:** Before I begin, may I just ask if you have received, I have given you a one-page document with two parts to it. It will help you follow my comments. Thank you. Good evening, I'm Lynne Riddle. As I previously shared, following your hiring of Mr. Rolen, under Ed Code 1042 (d) to perform special services, you approved and paid Mr. Rolen some \$360,000 for his work exclusively for this board in 2022. Calling your attention to the chart I have just given you, you now paid Rolen some \$165,000 for the first three months of 2023. Should you continue to pay at that same rate, we taxpayers will be on the hook for some \$660,000 to Mr. Rolen for the year 2023, a \$300,000 increase from the prior year. I find that staggering. Taxpayers deserve an explicit explanation. Just how precisely do the children under your educational care benefit from those massive special fees?

On another topic, without publicly discussing or waiving it, you utterly ignored and violated your own policy 116 on both April the 12th and March 1, when you permitted the showing of Trustee William's slickly made, totally one-sided, politically-motivated videos. One lasted 18 minutes, one 15 minutes. Your Policy 116 max is six minutes per meeting. Worse, you ignored the procedural requirement about agendizing those special presentations, introducing the possibility in one meeting, obtaining the Board's consent, and then considering the matter at a subsequent meeting. Why? You strictly enforce rules, even reducing the time allowed to public speakers, and yet you ignore your own governance requirements for Trustee Williams. Are you, his colleagues, so afraid of his red faced, out of control, retribution and wrath that you completely throw out your regard for your very own policies, your rules, and the law? Is that your notion of role modeling transparency in governance?

On another matter, even worse, on April the 12th, at the meeting, you have sat with some tepid warnings as 10 to 20 LGBTQ community members, primarily transgender folks, were targeted

for over an hour with totally gratuitous, unthinkable cruelty by board-allied audience members being loudly called freaks, sinners, and worse. Those trans folks attended a meeting of their board of education to share their unique and deeply personal knowledge. They came here to help you understand their need. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you

**BARKE:** Sandra Bensworth, followed on deck by Diane Dunn. Good evening. My name is Sandra Bensworth. I also am wondering why the public has not seen the amount of money that the Superintendent has spent on his own attorneys at the taxpayer's expense, on the lawsuits against his own board that have been occurring over the last several years. Can we get the Superintendent's legal expenses made public people? People come in here and complain about the Board's expenses? What about the Superintendent's expenses? Are they audited? Where is the transparency? As a tax paying, community citizen, I would like to know. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** After Diane Dunn, we have Dorie Krepton on deck, please.

**DIANE:** Hi, my name is Diane Dunn and I'm here once again as a parent of an alumni of the Orange County School of the Arts. I want to thank the Board once again for your decision to authorize an investigation into the decades long allegations of sexual misconduct at the Orange County School of the Arts. I do want to emphasize that I support the request made by several alumni, parents, and community members that the investigation authorized by this board be a truly independent and third party investigation. Please consider the suggestions to create an oversight committee to conduct the investigation, to set the parameters of the investigation, and to help to select the party or the organization to conduct the investigation, or to ask the district or State Attorney General to investigate. Thank you very much.

**SPARKS:** Thank you,

**BARKE:** Dorie. Following Dorie, we will have Joyce McNabb on deck, please.

**DORIE:** Good evening, trustees and members of the audience. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to speak this evening. My name is Dorie Krepton and I'm a resident of Huntington Beach. I'm here to speak about the video. Trustee Williams produced and presented last month alleging that Newport-Mesa Unified School and some of its teachers are counseling and recruiting students to make gender transitions. Nothing is further from the truth. In Legislative Bill AB 1266, parental choice is the standard. Parents are the primary deciders and makers with respect to their child's health and sex education in several ways.

One, parents can review the health curriculum. It is state approved and can only be conducted by credentialed teachers. Secondly, parents can opt to have their child exempt from attending any class on sex education. Lastly, any discussion about gender does not equal gender recruitment or transition. Parent choice is the standard here. The video was a one-sided presentation feeding mistruths and lies about the Newport-Mesa School and its teachers.

If there are inappropriate behaviors occurring within a school, there are policies in place and proper channels to address them. This is not the place. The video was propaganda and the example of a trustee overstepping his position. Trustees should not be using these board meetings as a pulpit to promote private agendas or political views. Board members, I encourage you to use your time by supporting all of our schools and its teachers, rather than creating falsitivity and fiction. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Joyce McNabb, we have Kelly.

**JOYCE:** I'm Joyce McNabb and I live in Costa Mesa. I do want to thank you for the opportunity to just speak. I was hoping to have a chance to address the Sunburst Academy and it was so impressive to see that group and what they were doing. Even though my name is Joyce, I'm sometimes called Mama Joyce and sometimes called just grandma. I wanted to share with them a few life lessons, and now I find myself without that opportunity. But I do want to share with you my gratitude for having them here and for what you have done in support of that group. I hope all of Orange County is as grateful as I am. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Thank you. Following Kelly, is Deborah Pauly.

**KELLY:** Hi everyone. I'm here tonight for a couple of different points I wanted to make. I am also interested, like my colleagues who spoke before me, why we haven't seen the Superintendent's lawsuits and taxpayer money that he is spending on cases, why that is not transparent? We are well aware that you guys have legal expenses and that is transparent. I appreciate your transparency. I don't understand why you guys are getting criticized when in fact our Superintendent himself is not transparent.

As a parent, I want to see dollars that go to help our students. I'm concerned that the Superintendent is not being transparent with the public about his taxpayer and attorney expenses. As a parent, I would like to know where these dollars are going instead of what he is using it for. I wanted to see it in the classroom and going toward the students.

I appreciate your support of the bill that it is not going to pass right now, but hopefully next year it will. I also wanted to tell you guys that I do appreciate you using your voice as an elected official towards protecting our children. I don't know if you guys are aware, in Tustin where my kids go to school, we have a teacher who has recently been arrested for using video recording devices in the bathrooms. There are over a million images already captured through the FBI and the Irvine PD. He has already been arraigned and the case is still being investigated. There are predators everywhere and we need to be aware of them. We need to protect our kids. We cannot afford to have groomers and have gender identities muddying the waters and creating an environment that allows predators to have access to our children.

This is a top notch predator. Maybe there was nothing we were going to do, but we have to be well aware of it and we have to be the voices for our children.

I want to encourage all the parents, the teachers, and the students, the parent volunteers, and anybody who was visiting that school, to be well aware. This case is open and people are being identified. The more people that are being identified on these images, the longer this guy will get a sentence to stay in prison. We want to identify as many people as possible, so I encourage everybody to talk to Irvine PD for that. I appreciate your voice protecting all kids, protecting our schools, it is such a special environment and a special community. This is for us and I appreciate your time.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Deborah Pauly, we have John.

**DEBORAH:** Good evening, members of the board. My name is Deborah Pauly. I have been a constituent of Trustee Dr. Ken Williams for over 20 years now, maybe I shouldn't say that. As an Air Force veteran myself, I have to tell you, my heart just burst with pride at the patriotic presentation that occurred earlier on. But I am here to take this opportunity to bring something to your attention that has been troubling me for a very long time. It concerns the use of public resources to distribute the Orange County Board of Education Newsroom alerts that prominently feature the name of only one elected official that has oversight or executive authority here. I have received this Newsroom alert on a regular basis for many years, and there is really no particular reason that I should, so I'm surmising that these are generally distributed to the public. In fact, I received one today. I gave copies of just the front page to the clerk for each of you to remind you that this is an important issue.

At the top, it says Orange County Department of Education. Then it says, brought to you by Al Mijares Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools. Except it is not brought to you by Al Mijares, it is brought to you by our tax dollars. It is a happy newsletter. The this one talks about links to the Teacher of the Year announcement. It is right and proper for a government entity to keep the public informed about its activity, so I don't have a problem with that. The problem is, that it singles out only one elected officer by the manner in which his name is displayed at the top so prominently, and it seems as though he is controlling all the messaging coming officially out of the Orange County Board of Education.

This is improper. It offends the spirit of the Fair Political Practices Commission prohibitions against mass mailings at public expense that single out one elected official in this manner. There are five other elected officials here. The purpose of these prohibitions is to prevent electioneering at the public expense. The positive name ID and goodwill acquired through these repetitive happy news mass mailings is indisputable. Perhaps there is an exemption, perhaps. Perhaps there is an exemption under the law for emails such as this one, because it may not be considered a tangible item such as a hard copy newsletter or brochure. But there are other areas of the law where mass electronic mailings are viewed in substantially the same manner as tangible mailings, and more and more so as our society transitions to more electronic versus hard copy means of mass communications.

At any rate, what I believe is that this practice is worth examining by this board. The FPPC and other California regulations offer a minimum of four, for what is acceptable. That would not prevent this board from adopting a policy that closes a very clever gap that has been used to subvert the overall intent of the law. We can raise the floor here. A couple of solutions, real quickly, if I may wrap up, is to require that these mailings simply say from the Orange County Board of Education or require that these types of mailing include the names of all the other five elected officials that would more fully align with the commission guidance and published opinions that municipalities have followed for at least the past 15 years. Thank you for your time.

**SPARKS:** Your time is up. Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following John is Joette.

**DAWN:** I would like to make a correction. My name is Dawn, not John.

**BARKE:** Oh, I have J O H N.

**DAWN:** Yeah, that is incorrect.

**BARKE:** Okay, but you are 21?

**DAWN:** I'm Dawn, and I am a woman.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**DAWN:** I am here in the name of my father, son and Holy Spirit, Yeshua Hamashiach, also known as Yehuwah, Yahweh, by the power of the Holy Spirit, who is Hako'deshua . Thank you for allowing me to speak. It has come to my attention that Superintendent Al Mijares was and is implementing Newsom's trans and CRT agenda, which is grooming. We need to remember what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah. It no longer exists. How about that? As we go up, this nation goes down if we don't wake up and do what we are supposed to do. So I'm asking you to go home, think about what is going on, address Al and whatever is going. Al has disappeared. Why? Where is he and what are we going to do about it? Because something needs to be done now.

I thank you very much and I look forward to hearing the good news. I thank you for what you did at the last meeting. I thank you very much for what you did at the last meeting, showing the truth. I don't care if somebody calls it a pulpit. You brought the truth. The truth will set us free and our children free. That is what we need.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**DAWN:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** We have Joette, followed by Lisa.



**JOETTE:** Hi. It is my understanding that Superintendent Al Mijares has not been with us for five months or so. He is the only true link that we possess in finding out what is transacting in our schools. Al Mijares answers to State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, who is in lockstep with Governor Gavin Newsom. Those are not my words. Those are the words of the *New York Times*. Thurmond, Mijares's boss has promoted trans literature and porn in school libraries. He also issued a statement post *Roe v. Wade* supporting abortion rights and claimed that institutional racism over the George Floyd controversy. Thurmond edged out his opponent, a conservative Christian who railed amongst other things against Newsom, sex education, Critical Race Theory, masks, and abortion.

What was Thurmond's response? That this stance is articulating dangerous messages and that we need to prevent children from being infiltrated by these hateful messages, or how are we going to support the important work that needs to be done? What is that work? Education, math, reading, writing, no. We go from Newsom, to Thurmond, to Mijares. Follow the trail of the lies. Mijares has refused to work with the Board before when he refused to submit the Education Budget to the Board for approval. This refusal ended up costing the taxpayers \$3.2 million. Mijares blamed this on the Board. Mijares hasn't made an appearance, as I said, for five months. He blames this on his health.

Mijares, the man of the highest levels of integrity, performance, and professional ethics, that is on his website, who accused his opponent of satisfying his own political agendas and dangerously misguided ideological interests. He might as well have been referring to Newsom's misguided ideological interests. Do you mean like pushing Newsom's agenda here in Orange County, of imposing Critical Race Theory in the classrooms? What about trans adult sexual content books in the school libraries? You mean like those misguided ideological interests, Mijares? What about not informing parents about their children getting physically or hormonally altered? Can I just finish up please?

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**JOETTE:** Or having Planned Parenthood on their school campuses, like in El Modena. You mean those misguided illogical interests?

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Your time is up.

**JOETTE:** The ones that the parents don't want and never voted for.

**SPARKS:** Thank you so much.

**BARKE:** Following Lisa, we have Beth on deck.

**LISA:** Hi, I'm Lisa from San Clemente. Honorable Trustees, I am here to implore you to prohibit SEL immediately from being taught or interwoven at the schools which are under your authority. Further, I hope to inspire you as OCBE to write a letter to the California legislator of your choice demanding that a bill be introduced in Sacramento that will prohibit SEL at all levels of public school education in California. I am confident a letter written with your board's authority,

integrity, and expertise, will not be ignored. Iowa has introduced such a bill and I believe other states are also pursuing this as we speak. CASTLE is the collaboration for academic, social, and emotional learning. It has lectures on SEL as a lever for equity and social justice. They train teachers in how to dismantle inequities, assess power dynamics, and how to confront issues of class and race across different settings.

Those of us speaking tonight are not making an uninformed jump on saying that SEL is a Trojan horse for CRT. It absolutely is, as well as the multiple genders, social justice, diversity, equity in all of the cultural Marxist objectives that seek to cut ties with the nuclear family, ignore God, and enslave a generation as their foot soldiers. They want EQ, emotional quotient testing. These test scores will dictate which colleges kids go to, where they can work, and everything. What is a high EQ actually? It just signifies the degree to which a student has bought into the propaganda.

Per Jordan Peterson, a psychology professor, I'm sure you know, he says emphatically, there is no such thing as EQ. IQ is a different story, and he goes on. It is the most well validated concept in social science, and it does tell you whether or not someone has general life skills and social predictors. It is the greatest trait for things such as conscientiousness. There is no better thing than we can do for our kids than give them a high IQ. Why aren't the schools doing that? Because they are creating a generation of psychological slaves. Free our children. Free our future. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Beth, we have Debra Kamm.

**BETH:** Good evening. Thank you for listening to us all, appreciate it. I'm here because the facts are pretty clear in regards to social emotional learning and the CRT curriculums that have been introduced. I'm here pleading with you. Please, you have done the right thing in the past. Please go forward and do the right thing in our kids' futures. The facts are in. *Psychology Today*, Ana Nogales wrote, for psychological slavery to occur, research studies have found that four typical situations arise. Its perception of a threat, physical or psychological, and the conviction that misinformation can really occur; appreciation of small acts of kindness by the abuser towards the victim; the other thing is isolation from others; conviction that one is unable to escape the situation. Instead of a technical sounding speech, I would just like to affirm to the Board the commitment to educate our kids, our children, to compete in and contribute to the marketplace and to our community. As well as respecting families to instill values, please let the moms and dads do that.

Also, thank you for your pursuit. In these principalities and in these principles that are in the future, please leave parenting to kids and let's get back to reading, writing, and arithmetic and getting out there and promoting America. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Debra, we have Eileen McDermott on deck, please.

**DEBRA:** Hi, my name is Debra Kamm. I'm a longtime resident of Orange County and I have been an advocate for children with disabilities for over 20 years. I would like to inform you about what is going on at Irvine Unified School District. I would like to see if it is sanctioned by the Superintendent's Legal Services Division because I understand that that division provides legal services to school districts. I spoke for the first time at an Irvine Unified School Board meeting a year ago regarding a discrimination complaint regarding a child with a disability. One week later, I received a notification that the staff were blocking all of my emails and I could only communicate to two attorneys at two private law firms. All of my emails to board members and staff bounced, even though I have a child in the district. I continued to speak at a few more board meetings, reading factual information about the special education director and my concerns. The president of the board threatened summary termination of my right to speak at the board meetings. The ACLU got involved and admonished Irvine Unified and actually threatened to sue Irvine Unified for having an unconstitutional policy that prohibited criticism of any employee by a member of the public.

This ban on my communication has continued for over a year. Attorneys respond to almost all of my emails, and an attorney comes to the IEP meetings, even though I do not have an attorney, and the U.S. Department of Ed frowns upon attorneys attending IEP meetings anyway. At least 10 other parents at Irvine Unified School District have been put on the so-called communication plan based solely on unfounded allegations with no due process, no way to defend yourself, and these bans can continue indefinitely. This is a war on parents and it is here in Orange County and definitely at Irvine Unified School District.

Now, what is interesting is when I asked for public records of all the parents who have been put on these plans, interestingly, they don't keep track. They said they were only giving me the 10 that they could remember offhand. In addition, the Superintendent's Office has copied and pasted information I posted on a private Facebook group, obviously surveilling me, and put that quote in a public record. Now, the quote was completely benign, actually. I said, happy anniversary, because it has been a year since you have been blocking my emails. But they put that in a public record. Now, I just received the invoices of the two law firms that have been tracking me, \$44,648 of your tax dollars have gone to surveilling my emails and tracking me at meetings. I'm sorry, but I'm not that exciting; \$44,000 wasted. Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Following Eileen McDermott, we have Linda Martinez, please.

**EILEEN:** Hi, good evening. My name is Eileen McDermott. I'm from San Juan Capistrano and I come here with a different viewpoint. I come in opposition to Governor Newsom's and Al Mijares's CRT and transgender agenda. I worked in the medical field as a PA for Kaiser. I was there for 23 years and I had worked in the medical field for 30. I also was a religious education teacher, so I worked with a lot of different kind of patients and medicine. I worked in endocrinology besides the doctor that did the transgendering of our people. I always looked at my patients with love no matter who they were, what they were, they were images of God. I know that God created man and a woman. A man could never have a child.

I looked at my patients and I did diabetes, but I saw and took care of some of the other, the transgender patients through family practice and as they came through. What I saw was a very, very sad situation. I saw them very sad. A lot of them had mental health issues. Many of them had major depression after they had transitioned. They were on medications and they were miserable. When I did the religious education with the students, I found that with everything in the world going on, I found that these students, these young students from fourth grade to ninth grade, were so confused. I just think that what we are doing to our children, we are going to pay a big price for it. We need to bring God back into schools and we need to bring the Pledge of Allegiance every day.

I can't tell you my experience has been just humongous. Seeing these people who, many commit suicide because they have transitioned. What are we doing to these children? Does anybody even care about our children anymore? They are confused. To give them a surgery that makes them not themselves. They are in this crossroad and they need support and love, mostly love. They need love and we all need to love them.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** After Linda, we have Mo Consuelo Gutierrez.

**LINDA:** Thank you so much for this opportunity of speaking before you. I appreciate your leadership and everything that you do for our students. This is my first time here, even though I am an advocate for education for more than 20 years. It saddens my heart that I had to come here because we need to find solutions to what is happening at Anaheim Union High School District at Sycamore Junior High. Like I said, I have been involved and been an advocate for so many years. I'm currently a school site council member at Sycamore Junior High, along with three other parents, we have been advocating for safety. I know that many of you are probably aware that our principal was assaulted at the front of our school. Unfortunately, it took that long for somebody to take action. It seemed to me that our children's lives didn't matter until she was assaulted physically.

I'm here because there is four things that I want to talk to you about, which is safety, drugs, marijuana smoking inside the classrooms, vaping inside the classrooms, physical assault and sexual assaults in the school grounds. I have filed a report with Anaheim PD because my child was assaulted at that school. The lack of safety at Sycamore Junior High made me feel encouraged to become a volunteer at Sycamore Junior High because I did not trust what was going on on that campus. During that time, I have seen so much negligence to our students. Parents have been silenced at what they see. Students' voices have been silenced as well. We need to restore the safety of our campus and we are requesting that a more experienced principal who can lead the school to success is in place. We request that our Superintendent Michael Matsuda is more responsive and give us answers to the situation we face. If he cannot be able to do so, to be removed because the safety of our students is not to be bargained or negotiated with. It should be the best interest of our children that we take a look at and that we protect.

We feel that we have no one that we can go to for answers. Our board is not responsive to us and we cannot continue without accountability from the school principal and AUHSD's

superintendent. I urge the Board to please help us parents with this situation. I trust that with your leadership and guidance, we will restore the trust that we have lost and help future students at Sycamore have a better experience than the one that we have had this year. All we ask is protection for our students, transparency. Like always, I say, in God, we trust.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**LINDA:** Thank you so much.

**BARKE:** Following Mo Consuelo Gutierrez, we have Florita Sheldon.

**CONSUELO:** Gracias. [Consuelo speaks in Spanish.]

**TRANSLATOR FOR CONSUELO:** Thank you. My name is Consuelo Gutierrez. I have a son in the school Sycamore. I am here because my son has been assaulted several times at the school Sycamore in the classroom. I reported this to the committee in the school and the principal said that that is not the place to report that. I have reported that also in the coffee with principal and they said that that is not the proper place to do that either. I also did it in a focus group and they said that it is not the proper place to do that. I'm here to find out what is the proper place to do that? I'm here to find out where is the proper place to do that?

I am a medical assistant and I volunteered at the school in 2020 because I didn't want to see my son, they left a black eye on him. I saw several students in the school that they were walking ( the way she was doing it) I was taught to look at the way the students are acting. The first day I didn't put a report because it was something big. The second day, I got another student that approached me and he said, blah, blah, blah. I said, oh, he is asking for help. I went up to the security and I said, this student is acting like this. He said, does he look weird? I said, yes. The principal got upset because I reported that and then I continued reporting what was happening.

I am not welcome as a parent at the school. The principal hates me. I saw a lot of students touching each other sexually and sitting on top of each other going like that. I apologize for doing those body movements. Yesterday, I saw how a student had a huge rock like this and he was going to drop it on my son's face. My son didn't realize what was happening because he was laying down on a bench and he had a sweater on him. He didn't see what was happening, but I saw because I was there. Security came running. The child who had the rock just let the rock like five centimeters away from my son's head.

**SPARKS:** Gracias. Your time is up.

**TRANSLATOR FOR CONSUELO:** Thank you for listening.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** After Florita Sheldon, we have our last speaker, who is Portia Fischer.

**FLORITA:** Hello, my name is Florita Sheldon. I have a junior in El Modena High School. I would like to present this to the Board. This is a letter that I wrote to the principal of El Modena as well as the local board there. This has to do with Planned Parenthood showing up at my daughter's school last week. I was surprised because this had nothing to do with any kind of class event. I was shocked because first of all, in the corporate world, in order for any kind of third party to be affiliated with your organization, they have to align with a very high ethical standard. So I'm really shocked that Planned Parenthood was allowed as a third party, based on their ethical record in the school.

I requested information from the principal as to what funding supported Planned Parenthood to be on campus, as well as any kind of program that allowed that to occur. I did receive a message from the principal last week. Actually, it was a call to my daughter's dad, a text message in which the principal had mentioned that this event was hosted by a student committee, the Democratic Committee and had no funding aligned to it. Supposedly, that was acceptable. I know that to be untrue. Because as a parent, I know at El Modena if you have a child that is involved in an extracurricular event and you want to provide a ride to your child, or may be somebody else within the band or sports team to another event, you do have to have permission from the district after a background check. I don't believe that Planned Parenthood just out of the blue, out of their hearts, decided to show up at El Modena.

I did go ahead and explain to El Modena the history of my daughter, who actually graduated from El Modena in 2018. As part of GSA, she had a meeting that occurred at Planned Parenthood. I didn't know what that was. I didn't understand until I read a book about two years after she graduated in which it explained that Planned Parenthood is there to go ahead and support gene therapy. Afterwards, my daughter at age 19, she had a mastectomy. She also, after graduating the top 20 of her class, she dropped out of college.

I want to ask you, is that the kind of quality of lifestyle we are promoting within our educational system? I have a request to the Board to please provide answers to my questions. I would like to submit this for the Board to review if possible. Thank you very much for your time.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Last speaker, Portia.

**PORTIA:** Hi, my name is actually Portia.

**BARKE:** Oh, sorry.

**PORTIA:** No worries, everybody does it. I apologize. I want to say, bless your heart to that mama back there. I can't imagine. I have been an educator for 30 years. I have taught in public schools. I now actually teach homeschool students. I apologize, I wasn't prepared to speak either. I just was planning to come. But I think everyone in here can hopefully agree that we are in a massive battle between good and evil. Not hear or any of the people here, just because we don't necessarily agree doesn't mean that some of us are evil and some of us are good. But, the agenda behind all that is going on is definitely a war and a battle between good and evil.

In the early 1900s, Rockefeller was very clear about his plans for America. He coined the term “quackery” for naturopathic medicine and pushed everyone toward allopathic medicine because it uses pharmaceuticals. He maintained a naturopath till the day he died, but he convinced everyone else that they were quacks. He also wrote some very disturbing and troubling words about public education. His goals ultimately were that the schools would be the place where children got all they needed, taking away the need for the parents.

I think that everything everyone has said tonight goes to that root of taking the parents out of the equation. For years, we have seen that they have tried to take the parents out of the home by encouraging everyone to work full-time. There is no one there in the afternoons when our sweet kids are home; and, by doing Common Core math curriculum that parents can't understand so that kids can only get their knowledge from the teachers. Believe me, there are a lot of really good teachers and there are a lot of teachers that don't agree with these very, very evil agendas. But like with everything, there are some. If we parents don't have the opportunity completely, fully, to be involved, and I know it seems like parents have the option to opt out. When my kids were in school, you had to opt in. Now they make it very difficult for parents to opt out.

I just hope that everyone here knows that this real battle is not with us, it is with the powers above that want us to be divided.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**PORTIA:** Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Thank you all so much for your public comment. We are listening with open ears. At this point, let's take a 10-minute break and then we will be back at 7:25 to resume the last bit of the meeting. Thank you all so much.

[The Orange County Board of Education exercises a recess.]

**SPARKS:** Beautiful audience, we are going to go ahead and get started. Thank you all. All right, we are on item number 12. Nina, do we have any charter submissions?

**BOYD:** We do.

**SPARKS:** We have charter submissions.

**BOYD:** We had one charter submission.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BOYD:** Wait a minute.

**SPARKS:** Lovely audience, if you are going to stay, stay and zip your lip. If you are going to go, go. Thank you. Bye.

**BOYD:** We had one charter submission, Sycamore Creek Community Charter School II, Countywide Petition was submitted on May 1.

**SPARKS:** Okay, wonderful. Thank you so much. This will bring us to item 13 and 14. I will call Renee Hendrick to the podium.

**HENDRICK:** Good evening, President Sparks and members of the Board. Thank you for allowing the Superintendent to conduct this hearing for public input to the CSEA Proposal to the Superintendent for the 2023-24 school year. You have the copies in front of you I believe. At this time, I would like to open the public hearing and ask if we have any public comments regarding this item?

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

**HENDRICK:** Hearing no comments, this hearing is now closed.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Thank you for your patience.

**HENDRICK:** One more.

**SPARKS:** Oh, one more. Okay.

**HENDRICK:** Good evening, President Sparks, members of the Board. Thank you for letting the Superintendent to conduct this hearing for public input into the Superintendent's Proposal to CSEA for the 2023-24 school year. At this time, do we have any public comments on this item?

**BOYD:** There are no public comments on this item.

**HENDRICK:** Hearing no comments, this hearing is now closed.

**SPARKS:** Thank you very much. Okay. Yes. This brings us to communication information/discussion. Do we have any comments related to communication or information from any board members?

**WILLIAMS:** I have a couple things to say.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** I would like, with the anonymous consent of our board, to recognize Mr. Scott Glabb. Mr. Scott Glabb is a 30-year teacher and wrestling coach from the Santa Ana Unified School District. I think AI actually knows Mr. Glabb. Scott is a patient of mine and he wrote a book, he is a very passionate man, about his input and effect upon the young men and women in Santa Ana. It is called, "A Saint in the City." He actually made a curriculum, a social content curriculum that was approved actually by Tony Thurmond in the California Department of Education. The book comes from Liberty House Publishing and I think it may be a potential good resource for our staff. I will give it to you, the good doctor there.



It tells about the stories of the wrestlers and the lives that he changed in the Santa Ana School District, the kids who were gang members and who he encouraged to get involved in the wrestling team. He gives all these stories about their lives and it is truly a wonderful book, enlightening, and refreshing about how lives were changed. But it is approved by the state Curriculum Committee. If we can, by unanimous consent, have him recognized by certificate so we can give it to him at the next meeting. His story is quite remarkable, Scott.

**BARKE:** I will second it if that is a—

**SPARKS:** Is that a motion?

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** I will—

**WILLIAMS:** Let's make it an official motion then.

**BOYD:** You don't need to because it is not on the agenda.

**BARKE:** Oh, okay.

**BOYD:** It is just a consensus item that he is asking.

**BARKE:** Oh, I see. Okay.

**BOYD:** If there is support, then we will add that to the agenda.

**BARKE:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Yeah. I would like to give this to our good doctor here. I think it is inspirational to see the lives of this individual. Oh, here is the teacher's guide to go along with it, sir.

**MIRAMONTES:** I will get that.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Yeah. I think it is inspirational because it is local. It happened here in Orange County and he is quite a human being. I would like to recognize his efforts. I don't think anyone has recognized his efforts as a school teacher here in Orange County. I would like this board to recognize him. Just a couple thoughts, just from public comments, I would like to comment on—

**SPARKS:** You want to wait until board comments?

**WILLIAMS:** Oh, we can wait. Yeah.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Just hold that thought.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**SPARKS:** That would be awesome. Before we get to board comments, which we are almost there, do we have any announcements from the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent?

**BOYD:** Just a reminder that your next board meeting is June 7 and we have two board meetings in June, so June 7 and the 21st. Submission deadline for the seventh is May 24, and board packets will be delivered to each of you on June 2. In your red folders, you have some communications that were received in the Board email and we wanted to make sure you got those, as well as the Esplanade Quarterly Report. There is no report on that at this meeting. Renee will do updates throughout the year. But we wanted to give you some written communication and we included some on the back table for the public.

**SPARKS:** Okay. Perfect. That brings us to legislative updates, which we do have an update, actually, from the most recent efforts in Washington, D.C. I will sort of start to describe what kind of hard work and all the various meetings that we have engaged in in the last week or so. By way of background, if you recall that we hired David Turch and Associates. They invited us to the nation's capital to meet with legislatures and determine Board priorities. I essentially told them that we are a very pro-public, school-choice board. We really recognize how charter schools can be a vehicle to address all sorts of issues, particularly social ills. They really lift up students who may have certain preferences for charter schools, maybe it is a learning environment that suits them better than their local district school.

I explained, we have a lot of problems to address in California, which all of the elected officials are trying to address in various ways. But the Board's primary responsibilities, as I explained, are the budget, approval of the budget, expulsion and interdistrict transfers and expulsion appeals, and of course, authorizing high-quality charter schools. I felt like we have a niche here of opportunity. This is the space where we can really make a difference, so we wanted to use the Board's jurisdiction in the best way possible, based in large part on testimony that we had received at our board meetings. I developed a notion that there should be a charter school exclusively devoted to foster youth and those who are housing insecure, and other insecure/food insecurities, et cetera.

The legislators that I met thought that it was a pretty good idea. I explained how we can't solve all of California's problems, but this is a niche area where we really can stop a potential pattern. Most of the families that are at our charter schools, and the particular one that we focused on to obtain funding, parents have become homeless not for any fault of their own. They are often working double jobs. Maybe their rent was raised and they got kicked out of their apartment. They are just in a tight spot and need that extra help. I explained this basic idea and was very encouraged.

I started working with DTA. As well as, Greg Rolen from Haight, Brown & Bonesteel just sort of sharpened the focus around this idea. How do we help these students who need their safety and security needs met? They need a place to lay their head at night. They need to know that they

have food on the table so that they can learn and have a chance and a pathway to maybe college, maybe trade school, but to that next step to be employed and not fall into a step that they may have found their parents in. As you know, one of the charters that we authorized, Scholarship Prep, has been a very unique success story. As I really examined the various charters, we thought this might be a really good place to start. They are 88% free and reduced lunch and over 50% are either foster youth or homeless. Despite those challenges in 2018, they were in the top 1% in Orange County, not only in language arts and English, but in math. That is just a remarkable achievement.

Then in 2020, they were awarded a California Distinguished School. Scholarship Prep has dedicated already \$4 million to acquire land and develop a residential dormitory to house students and families on campus. We have proof of concept that this model of fulfilling the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs can really help achieve higher learning outcomes. Samueli Academy is one of those examples. They have a lot of private funders supporting the similar arrangements and have resulted in dramatically improved test scores; from D's and F's, to A's and B's, mostly A's. When our basic needs can be met, then we have opportunity to open up the possibility of learning and higher learning outcomes, so it is just an idea that makes sense.

As an academic and researcher, this just sort of came to me. This is an area where we can make a difference. So I vetted it across various legislatures. I'm going to list all the meetings and people that I had talked to. The pitch was basically, the Board submitted a request, several requests, actually, for an additional \$1 million of funding to close the gap on this initiative and help Scholarship Prep with wraparound services to help these foster and homeless youth. Give these families that kind of boost that they need to overcome this spot that they find themselves in that is not permanent, but a temporary spot; and, make sure that these kids can learn and have a pathway to college and/or trade school.

So what does this mean? These wraparound services would be things like moving toward security, rather than insecurity, along food and shelter; staffing; life skills training, playgrounds, which they don't have; basically, adding the icing on the cake to what the good and responsible funds that have been saved and set aside by Scholarship Prep to give them that extra million to complete the project. I can't be more excited about how this idea has been received and the programs and the progress that we have made. At this point, I will introduce Mr. Rolen to kind of go a little bit deeper dive on the progress that indeed we made last week and that I was able to do through the various meetings that I had. Mr. Rolen.

**ROLEN:** Thank you, President Sparks. As you recall, at the last meeting, we brought Washington D.C. to Orange County. Last month we returned the favor. As you recall, in March 2023, through David Turch & Associates, the Board had congressionally directed funding requests on behalf of Scholarship Prep to the following offices, Senator Dianne Feinstein; Senator Alex Padilla; Representative Lou Correa, where Scholarship Prep is located in his district; Representative Mike Levin; Representative Young Kim. These requests were—

**SPARKS:** And Michelle Steel as well.

**ROLEN:** And Michelle Steel's office as well. I apologize. These requests included letters of support from local elected officials, including but not limited to, Chairman Don Wagner, Assembly Members Lori Davies, Kate Sanchez, and Tri Ta. And of course, Congresswoman Kim. Senator Feinstein's office showed the most immediate interest. She moved so quickly that on March 24, President Sparks, myself, and Elaine Temple had a meeting with Senator Feinstein's office and Kristen, her local legislative aid.

That went so well, she came out and did an onsite visit at Scholarship Prep with the aforementioned principals, as well as the executive director of Scholarship Prep, Jason Watts. We reported on that meeting at our last board meeting. That prompted invitations from federal officials to come to Washington and explain the project and the priorities. From April 24-26, President Sparks and I met with both senators, both California senators, and the entire Orange County Congressional Delegation. As you might imagine, on Monday, we met with a representative with Correa's office first. The representative had not yet returned from California, so we met with his legislative correspondent, Elizabeth Barrie. President Sparks explained the virtue of having this pilot project in his district. Ms. Barrie said she would carry the project to the representative, I should say, and offer letters of support.

Monday afternoon, we had one of our most interesting and productive meetings. We went to the Department of Justice and met with the Office on Community Oriented Policing Services, otherwise known as COPS. If you see security in the movies, that is what this was like. We went through multiple levels of security, one on the outside/inside, two levels of security. They found metal in my body I didn't know was there.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, we couldn't get him through.

**ROLEN:** I couldn't get through. But more importantly, President Spark shared the project. They responded by talking about several grants and micro grants that would be available to us through, not only the Board, but also local law enforcement. We have a law enforcement officer on our board, so Orange County Deputy Sheriff Ken Williams figured prominently in those discussions. But based in large part on those meetings, just today, we submitted an additional request through the COPS School Violence Prevention Program for school hardening assistance, such as security cameras and metal detectors; 80% of life is just showing up.

The following morning we met with Congresswoman Young Kim. She could not have been more welcoming. She could not have been more well informed. She knew about the project and she took about an hour of her schedule to talk, not only about our project, but also other charter school homeless initiatives, a very productive meeting. We went directly from that meeting to meet with Taylor DuBard of Senator Feinstein's office. She was intelligent, supportive, energetic, and she was very familiar with the charter school movement as she was a graduate from High Tech High in Chula Vista. She had a special place in her heart for the charter school movement, as does the senator. She said she would shepherd the project through, bring it through appropriations, and report back to us on the appropriation process. Nothing has been posted yet.

Then we went from Senator Feinstein's office to Senator Padilla's office. We met with a charming young gentleman named Julian Garcia. He was Senator Padilla's legislative

correspondent. Because he was the son of a public school teacher, he told us his mother would make sure he followed up on this. So, so far, so good. Next morning we went directly to Congresswoman Katie Porter's office. It was a flurry of activity, as one might imagine, but we met with her Legislative Assistant Emily Hopkins, who was given to us because she has a background in child development. She assured us that the project was novel, necessary, and she would bring it to the congresswoman's attention personally.

We followed that meeting with Congressman Mike Levin from the 49th District. Again, he was well informed, transparent, and he had a very disciplined approach to appropriations. He sat us down and said, this is exactly how I do my appropriations. It was very impressive. He offered to work with Congressman Correa on the project. He offered a letter of support and he also gave his personal cell phone number to our board president, so he does appear interested. Then that afternoon we ended the day with a meeting with Michelle Steele from the 45th District. Again, we are gratified she took time out of her busy schedule, because she had 16 meetings that day. We met with her Executive Assistant Ken Vander Mullin. Again, she offered to carry the letter of support and shepherd it through the Congress.

So, all in all, the collective wisdom was that the meetings went very well. But as they say, but wait, there is more. We met with Gregory McGinity of the California Charter Schools Association, and President Sparks was interviewed for a nationally syndicated radio show, right outside the Rayburn Building. She talked about our project, our board, and our community. That was really great fun to watch her stand there in the rain and talk. With that, I can answer any questions the Board may have.

**WILLIAMS:** I do have some comments.

**BOYD:** Ken, can you get closer to the mic?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes. We have been criticized for reaching out and lobbying, taking up tax payers funds. But I think what you just presented, both of you, is foundational to what we are doing here and that is helping this community. This particular project is phenomenal. It is your brainchild. It is your baby that you are birthing. Congratulations on that. I know that you have a great amount of passion. I thank you for the extra time that you have done, because what you are doing is making this county good and better. You make us look good, so thank you for that.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**BARKE:** Yes, I would say well done.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**VALDES:** President Sparks, I want to sincerely congratulate you on all of your efforts. I toured Scholarship Prep myself. I met with Jason Watts. The idea is fantastic. It needs to be expanded. And quite frankly, with respect to Greg and his time, I wonder if the people criticizing the bills that we continue to authorize, are listening to the efforts that we are making on behalf of homeless children in Orange County.

**SPARKS:** Thank you.

**ROLEN:** May I just stay up here and do the report out?

**SPARKS:** Yes, why don't you do your report out? Yes.

**ROLEN:** It is a long way back to that seat. This is the report out for the closed session on May 3, 2023. As to closed session item number one, the Board offered direction to counsel. The Board was unanimous in their vote. We took a roll call in closed session. Trustees' Sparks, Shaw, Williams, Valdes, and Barke all voted in the affirmative to give counsel direction on a matter of existing litigation. With regard to closed session matters two through five, the Board received information from counsel and no action was taken. As to closed session item number six, there was nothing done with regard to closed session item number six. There was no action, no information provided. As Jonathan Brenner says, and that is the report out from closed session.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Thank you so much, and thanks for the details on the legislative update. Okay, any committee reports from anyone? All right, that brings us to board member comments. I know that Trustee Williams had a few comments to make.

**BARKE:** I'm just brief when he is finished.

**SPARKS:** Okay. You want to briefly go first?

**BARKE:** No, no, I'm fine.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**VALDES:** I do, but let—

**SPARKS:** All right, Williams, you are up.

**WILLIAMS:** Okay. To the commentary about my red face, I'm not angry. I'm actually very happy. I have a medical condition called rosacea. It is red because of photosensitization of a medication that I use for my cholesterol, so let's set the record straight. Let's also set the record straight because there is no confusion about what we do here. Right? Unlike what the politics are being brought in for a campaign that hasn't begun yet, we are voices for quite a few things. Number one, the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children and advancing public charter schools and parental choice. We oppose woke curriculum and related curriculum like CRT.

We support back to basics and imparting critical thinking skills to our children. We ultimately and truly believe in protecting the innocence of children, unlike some people out there who want to destroy the innocence of children. We care about our children's emotions. We care about the wellbeing of our communities and we do not hate people who may differ with us on culture, on religious faith. We may disagree on public policy and governance, but that is pretty bad when we

get called haters and that we are advancing hate and mongering. I don't think that is a good public discourse. And of course, as we saw today, we advance the concept of patriotism and love for this country.

One last thing, as I shared, I am actually very happy. I am a happy person. But I'm especially overjoyed because as I first shared with the public—boy back in August, the pregnancy of my wife after five years of infertility in IVF, we had a child. You will love it. The story gets better. We have a child. She is pregnant, her first pregnancy. But then she has cervical incompetence and delivers a 23-week-old baby. A 23-week-old baby that the world would say, the pro abortions would say, he doesn't deserve to live, and they don't care if they die.

My son was born prematurely at 23 weeks. He should not have been born until just last week actually. But he survived the trauma and the parents survived the trauma of a neonatal intensive care unit, and that baby is with me today. I will be more than happy to show you pictures. I don't know where he is going to go in life or if there is any developmental delays, but he is a big fat baby. He is 8.5 pounds and we are taking him home next week.

I'm extremely happy. I'm extremely happy. God has blessed me and has performed a miracle with his child because he was not supposed to live. He was supposed to have cerebral palsy. He was supposed to have autism. He was supposed to be ventilator dependent. He was supposed to have a trach. Mom and dad sat there traumatized for almost five months now. But I'm happy to tell everybody here that my son, Kenny is his name, he will be coming home in another week or so. That is it.

**SPARKS:** Wow. We should have ended on that note, but we have a few more comments.

**BARKE:** I will be much shorter.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**BARKE:** I will start by thanking, Ken for everything he did for today because that is his baby, the Jack Hammett. We appreciate that. I know you go to a lot of work, so thank you for that. Then I was just going to mention that I recently went to NOVA Academy down in Santa Ana, right near the courthouse and did exit interviews. That is always fun. I think it is my fourth year going down there, along with the very fun mayor of Santa Ana and the person in charge of Student Services at Santa Ana College. We all three got awards, Soaring Eagle Awards, so it was more fun than expected. Monday I will be at Garden Grove District Dinner, I suppose. Something like that, so that is all I have to report.

**SPARKS:** Thank you. Trustee Valdes?

**VALDES:** Boy, I have to say the public comments today were pretty good. There was a lot to comment on. There was a comment about us reaching out to our transgender community. In response to that, I want to say that I have joined in a request to Dr. Mijares that the Board be able to hire a staff member under our direction to assist us with that. This is a very part-time position. Having someone to assist with emails and communications I think is essential to our cause and

the things that we are trying to do in this community, so I clearly heard that. As far as the legal cases that we support that don't serve the public interest, I reject that entirely. Every case is important. I have reviewed them personally myself. What we are doing here most certainly serves the public interest.

As far as Dr. Mijares's legal bills, interesting requests. I would like to see them. I did not know that they were not public. As far as our lobbying efforts, we have our position. I'm sure Dr. Mijares has his and he has his own lobbyist. I don't understand why we are being criticized for having ours. As far as, Mr. Rolen's legal bills, I want to remind the public that the \$360,000 we spent last year, of the \$420 million budget of this Department, represents 0.00085% of this Department's budget. I continue to believe that what we are doing very much serves a public interest and that percentage is warranted.

There was a comment about controlling the messaging coming from the Department. I'm not sure it is appropriate for us to control Dr. Mijares's messaging. He can have his own messaging. I would like to have ours. We live in a free country. He can send out whatever messages he feels are appropriate and I think we should be able to send out our own. There was some negative comments today about Dr. Mijares. While perhaps myself and some of the other board members, we may not agree with Dr. Mijares on every issue, I really would urge everyone, ad hominem attacks against our Superintendent are just not appropriate. They are not appropriate here. They are not appropriate anywhere else. He is an honorable person. We disagree on some fundamental issues, but we need to do that in an honorable way that serves the public discourse. Attacks on Dr. Mijares are just simply not warranted. That is all I have.

**SPARKS:** Thank you, Jorge. I have just one additional comment for my board comments. It is regarding the questions about the OCSA investigation. I wanted to address the Superintendent as well as, Nina, you can carry the message. But I can understand why you may not want to report on an ongoing investigation, as you had mentioned at our prior meeting; however, we asked you all to initiate this investigation so that, we want to be absolutely positive, and I think I speak for the Board, but you guys jump in. We want to be absolutely positive that no students at the Orange County School of the Arts are in any danger whatsoever. This is very, very important to us. You know that safety in the schools is a number one priority for me and I believe for my board members as well. We need parents and students to know, right here, right now, that their students are safe at OCSA.

**BOYD:** I would comment that the Superintendent and this office also support that same idea that all students deserve to be safe and should be safe. Just as you all mentioned at previous board meetings, that if for any reason there is a suspicion of abuse of any type, shape, form that they should be contacting law enforcement. We continue to stress that. I know that the Superintendent has reached out to local law enforcement to see if anything has been reported. We continue to do that, so we want to make sure that the Board is aware that that continues to be something that is monitored as well. We only know what we know, just as this board does. But due diligence is being done.

**SPARKS:** Yeah, noted. All of us need parents and students to know that if you do witness a crime, or believe a crime has occurred, you should report it to the Santa Ana Police Department.



On behalf of the Board, I'm going to direct our board counsel, if I may, Mr. Rolen to also contact law enforcement officials to determine whether there has been any criminal complaints with regard to these public comments so they know we are hearing them and doing all we can as well as a board. I just wanted to make those comments and put that out there. Yes, Trustee Williams?

**WILLIAMS:** I have one more comment, Madam President. Since the issue of Mr. Rolen's legal bills have come up, can we agendaize at the next meeting a little report out to the public so they understand how we got to this place?

**SPARKS:** Yeah, absolutely.

**WILLIAMS:** I would like to place it on the next agenda.

**SPARKS:** Okay.

**WILLIAMS:** If you can do that? Thank you.

**SPARKS:** Absolutely. Thank you. Any other comments? Yes.

**BOYD:** Just a request, or comment, I guess. If you are in fact generalizing that to discuss, I think the public also deserves to know that when you are in current litigation, that those bills are not public. Because that is part of the challenge with the dialogue. Because the Board's lawsuit against the Superintendent, people have on both sides asked for the Board's litigation bills. They have asked for the Superintendent's litigation bills. I think that is something that maybe counsel could have some conversation to craft whatever the messaging would be. But I think that that is one of the things that is confusing to the public as well.

**WILLIAMS:** Well, aren't redacted bills available to the public during active litigation, Mr. Rolen? I thought they were. The unredacted I know are not, could you help us understand that?

**ROLEN:** I'm going to try. The bills that we have in our litigation against the Superintendent and the Superintendent's bills that he incurred in the litigation against us, they are private. They are not on any board agenda because it is existing. It is ongoing litigation. Maybe we could get them now, but that is a legal discussion to be had. What is different with my bills is that the Board passed a policy to have redacted legal bills available to the public. The Board didn't have to do that. No other board in the state of California has their lawyer's bills on a public agenda, but the Board had that policy. I readily agreed to that policy. And of course, it is exposed to some criticism, but so be it. This is the decision the Board made.

The public requests for the Superintendent's legal bills were coming from the public. They weren't coming from us. We understand that certain bills are confidential. Before I say more—

**WILLIAMS:** So bills in litigation are not public documents?

**ROLEN:** Correct. The theory behind it is attorney-client privilege and attorney work-product privilege. If you are seeing what is being done on the bill, all they would have to do is read Mr. Brenner's bills and go, oh my God, look what they are going to do.

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**ROLEN:** It demonstrates attorney work-product and attorney-client privilege and several people (inaudible).

**WILLIAMS:** That is for active litigation.

**ROLEN:** Active litigation.

**WILLIAMS:** But if the litigation is over, like the one we finished off with the general counsel, is that public?

**ROLEN:** I don't think so, but I haven't researched that in a little while. But the question is, is completed litigation, are those bills public? I'm guessing the amounts may be, but not the billing entries.

**SPARKS:** I think the amounts would be, you know, that would address what the public is asking for. But I think your idea to have a report out at the next meeting—

**WILLIAMS:** Yeah, I would like to know more about that.

**SPARKS:** Yeah. Okay.

**ROLEN:** Before I say more.

**SPARKS:** Then I think it is wrap, unless anybody else has anything else?

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

**SPARKS:** Motion to adjourn. Second. Third.

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**SPARKS:** Adjourned. All right, see you next month.