

Transcript of the September 6, 2023, Orange County Board of Education Meeting

SHAW: Welcome. Good afternoon, everybody. For the benefit of the record, this regular meeting of the Orange County Board of Education is called to order at 3:32 pm. Darou, will you please call roll?

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Present.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams? Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Just barely here.

SHAW: All right. Do I hear a motion to adopt the agenda?

BARKE: So moved.

SPARKS: Second.

SHAW: All in favor?

BARKE, SPARKS, SHAW, VALDES: Aye.

SHAW: Any opposed? Passes 4-0. Our Minutes of regular meeting of August 2, 2023.

SPARKS: I just have one edit there under item 14. You misspelled my name. You added an E in there for some reason. Sparke is under item 14.

BARKE: She thought you were Sparke.

SPARKS: Sparke, Sparkes.

BARKE: Close.

SPARKS: Just take away the E and I think we are good.

BOYD: In the second sentence.

SPARKS: Yeah, in the second sentence.

SHAW: Oh, yeah. Good catch.

SPARKS: With that edit, I approve the minutes.

BARKE: Second.

SHAW: All in favor?

BARKE, SPARKS, SHAW, VALDES: Aye.

SHAW: Passes unanimously. We will go to public comments. Nina, are there comments regarding any closed session item?

BOYD: There are none.

SHAW: Very well. The Board will go into closed session to conduct a student appeal hearing, followed by these closed session items. Item one: interdistrict appeal, Huntington Beach City School District to Newport-Mesa Unified School District. This is an open hearing, is that right?

DUNN: Correct.

SHAW: Very good.

DUNN: Good afternoon, President Shaw, members of the Board, Deputy Superintendent Nina Boyd, and Associate Superintendent Renee Hendrick. My name is Terrance Dunn, Coordinator, Student Services in the Integrated Supports and Services Unit. This is an interdistrict appeal hearing for Aidyn Bronfeld who is in the fifth grade in the 23-24 school year. The date is Wednesday, September 6, 2023. The time is 3:34 PM. This is an open hearing. The circumstances of the appeal are as follows. On July 21, 2023, the Newport-Mesa Unified upheld the denial of the interdistrict transfer request for Aidyn Bronfeld to attend Sonora Elementary School, a school in Newport-Mesa Unified. The homeschool for Aidyn Bronfeld is Moffitt Elementary in the Huntington Beach City School District.

The reason for the inter-district requests are in your materials. Also, the procedures have been provided to all parties; therefore, we will waive the reading of the procedures since all parties have had a chance to review them. At this time I would like to introduce the participants of the hearing. Representing the family: Joni Bronfeld, parent; Kenny Bronfeld, parent; and Aidyn Bronfeld, student. Representing the denying school district is Sarah Coley, Administrative Director I, Student Services, Newport-Mesa Unified. Also in attendance, Jeff Riel, General Counsel, Orange County Department of Education; Darou Sisavath, Executive Secretary of the Board; and, Maggie Villegas, Senior Administrative Assistant, Integrated Supports and Services Unit; and the Media team, who will be facilitating the virtual platform and recording today's hearing.

The County Board has thoroughly reviewed the packet of documentation that the parent and the district submitted. Each party has the procedures in front of them and the allotted timeframes for

each party to speak. The light timer being utilized is located in the front of Ms. Sisavath on the dias. The green light means you may begin speaking. Yellow light means you have one minute remaining. The red light means you should finish your sentence, as your time for speaking has ended. Representing the student, the Bronfelds, you may address the Board for up to three minutes. Thank you. You may begin.

JONI: Hi. Thank you guys for taking the time for us. I just want to start out with telling our backstory. I'm sure you have read it. But my mother-in-law passed away quickly in December. My father-in-law has dementia and he had to move in with us. We had to move him from New Jersey. He has some needs. We had to find a ground for a house with a walk-in shower, things like that that he basically needed. We had to move quickly. It wasn't our desire to ever move from Costa Mesa, ever. As you can tell, it was an uprooting for Aidyn. A lot of change has happened in the last few months. He is a trooper, and we love Sonora. We have been there since he was in TK. I'm on the PTA there. We just love being there.

I think for his mental wellbeing right now and his stability of everything else he has gone through in the last few months, that being with his friends and the people he is comfortable with at Sonora and the staff that loves him so much if we could just stay there—sorry. I'm so emotional about this—just be where he is comfortable right now.

KENNY: Okay. Take a deep breath.

JONI: Sorry.

KENNY: Aidyn has been through an enormous amount of stress since his grandmother died.

JONI: Sorry. Thank you.

KENNY: My father is the one that has dementia who he is now living with. We live in a four bedroom in Huntington Beach. We got a great deal through a friend/realtor, and that is why we took the property. Our biggest concern is that—we have discussed with him and he has kept in touch with these kids, and we don't want to give him any more stress on his life. He lives with his grandfather and his maternal grandmother who is a caregiver for my father as well. As you can imagine, it is a bit of a circus in our house sometimes. Aidyn has been a real trooper and he is dealing really well with it. Do you have anything you want to say, son?

AIDYN: I'm good.

KENNY: Okay. He is good.

BARKE: I missed that. What was it?

KENNY: He said he is good. I know we are almost out of time, but we are fighting for him. We just really, we don't mind making the 10 or 12-minute commute to Costa Mesa. He is going to thrive. Thank you.

DUNN: Thank you. Representing Newport-Mesa Unified, Sarah Coley, you may address the Board for up to three minutes.

COLEY: Wonderful. Thank you. Good afternoon. As you are aware, the district is a basic aid district and does not receive apportionment funding based on the students enrolled; thus, the district carefully follows its interdistrict transfer policies. The district denied the student's request based on its Board Policy 5117 and Administrative Regulation 5117. Pursuant to these policies, the district generally approves interdistrict transfer attendance permits for students in only three limited circumstances: to allow the student to remain until the next natural school break when the student's parent or guardian has moved out of the district during that year; to consider allowing the student to remain with a graduating class that year from an elementary, junior, or senior high school; or to allow a high school senior to attend the same school the student attended as a junior, even if the student's family has moved out of the district during their junior year.

In the current situation, the student does not meet any of the above criteria. The student lives in Huntington Beach within the Huntington Beach City School District, almost five miles from Sonora Elementary, the school selected by his parents. The student currently lives less than a mile away from their school of residence. The student has attended Sonora Elementary since transitional kindergarten, or TK, but recently moved out of the area. As stated, the district denied the request based on its Board Policy 5117 and Administrative Regulation 5117. At this time, the student should be enrolled in their district of residency for the 23-24 school year. In light of this, the district respectfully requests the governing board to uphold the denial of the student's interdistrict transfer request and deny the student's appeal. Thank you.

DUNN: Thank you. The Bronfelds, you have up to two minutes for your closing statement.

JONI: I just want to say I know all of the rules. I worked at Sonora for three years.

BOYD: Can you pull the mic closer to you, just because we record?

JONI: Oh, okay. Sorry. I just want to say that I worked at the school for three years. I know all of those rules, and I get it. We are asking a lot. But we still give back to that school so much. I am vice president of that PTA, and I'm there every week doing something. We do give back to this community a lot, and we still will continue to do that. I know all of those rules. I'm sorry that I'm making you do this, but please.

KENNY: If it makes it any easier, I do work in the district. I work within the school district for Paul Mitchell Schools, so I know there is an Allen clause, or law, or—

JONI: I don't know.

KENNY: Something that I looked up. That, if I'm working in the district, then he might be able to stay in the district. That is what I'm hoping for.

DUNN: Thank you.

KENNY: Thank you.

DUNN: That concludes the presentation for the student. Sarah Coley, you have two minutes for your closing statement.

COLEY: Sure, thank you. As I shared with the family in the interdistrict transfer appeal, this is by no means personal to them or their situation. It is just according to our district policy that we have to deny, and we deny fairly and equally to all families who are in the unfortunate position that they have to go through the process. I have reviewed Aidyn's file and have talked to the principal. He is a great kid and a wonderful student. Should it be approved, we would be glad to continue supporting him at Sonora as a wonderful student there. Thank you.

DUNN: Thank you. That concludes the presentation for both parties and completes this portion of the hearing. President Shaw, you are now in charge of the hearing.

SHAW: Thank you. See if we have any questions from our trustees. Maybe I will start to my right. Trustee Valdes, any questions?

VALDES: Bronfeld family, you did great. Ms. Coley.

COLEY: Hi.

VALDES: We meet again. I know I have mentioned this to you perhaps several times before, but it kind of occurs to me that this family hasn't heard this. I'm just wondering. In the last year with the same letter and the same arguments that you have made here, have you ever succeeded on your end of an appeal here?

COLEY: I will say there was one time. It was for a student in the Adult Transition Program, which is difficult because I'm very competitive. But yes, we have succeeded one time. But that has been it.

VALDES: One time in the last year out of 20, or 15.

COLEY: I would say in the last two years, maybe out of 20, so, yeah.

VALDES: Okay. I'm hoping you guys are listening, particularly the PTA mom. One more question for you, Ms. Coley. The Board Policy 5117 and your June 23 letter—I was going to ask Greg Rolen this question here today, but he is not here. I'm just wondering. Do you think it implicates the school to have a policy and then to write down in a letter that, irrespective of the policy you are just going to deny it and not consider the policy? I don't know the answer to that. I was going to ask Greg that.

COLEY: Sure. Which page? I'm sorry, which page are you looking at?

VALDES: It is the June 23 letter.

COLEY: Okay.

VALDES: It says you have a policy and irrespective of the policy—

SPARKS: Page nine.

COLEY: Page nine. Thank you.

VALDES: Page nine—irrespective of having the policy, you are just simply going to deny it anyway.

COLEY: We are obligated to review every interdistrict transfer request that we have. We have our policy that states very clearly when we can or cannot. But we do have an obligation to review every interdistrict transfer, so we will look at them and review them. Then, typically, unless it falls under one of those three criteria, they are denied. I know the family mentioned the Allen Bill. As a basic aid district, we don't fall under the Allen Bill, needing to follow those requirements. But we do look at every interdistrict transfer request that is sent our way, and then I personally meet with every appeal.

VALDES: I'm just saying that—

COLEY: Yeah.

VALDES: The letter seems to indicate to me that you have a policy and irrespective of having the policy, you are just simply going to deny it.

COLEY: I think that we could reword it.

VALDES: Did I get that wrong?

COLEY: No, I think you are reading the part, right, where it says there is a process for the interdistrict transfer request. Is that the part you are referring to?

VALDES: It says, “Newport-Mesa Unified School District is not accepting any interdistrict requests at this time. While there is a process for interdistrict transfer requests,” that is where the sentence starts.

COLEY: Sure. I think that is just a clarification that we can make in future letters. There is a process. It is not our process. It is the Ed. Code process that we have to review those transfers, but we can certainly clarify that and cite that in there so that it is more clear to the families. Absolutely.

SPARKS: Yeah, I think that is a good catch.

COLEY: Yeah.

SPARKS: I think that would be helpful.

COLEY: Thank you

SHAW: Dr. Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes. Family, thank you for advocating for your child. The thing that is great about—that Newport-Mesa follows their 5017. They follow that every single time. For two years, they have only had one success. But we also have this wonderful appeal process. You guys can come in front of us and we can hear your case.

JONI: Thank you.

SPARKS: I appreciate you kind of going up to bat and bringing it to us.

JONI: Thank you.

SPARKS: I will hear from my other board members, but I would like to move for a motion in favor of the family.

JONI: Thank you.

BARKE: Well, first I—

SHAW: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes. I will definitely second her motion in favor of the family.

JONI: Thank you.

BARKE: I do want to thank you for coming. I think it is so important, because you are the best advocates for Aidyn. Aidyn, I appreciate you coming. I know it is kind of stressful not knowing where you are going to be next week. I can tell how emotionally hard it is on you, mom, so thanks for coming. Thanks for being Aidyn's advocate.

JONI: Thank you.

BARKE: And we wish you lots of success in your years of education.

JONI: Thank you.

KENNY: Thank you.

SHAW: Aidyn, I wanted to tell you in case you didn't know. My oldest son is in high school. We live in La Habra. His high school is called Sonora High School. Did you know there was a Sonora High School?

AIDYN: No.

SHAW: No. Now you have learned something. It is up in La Habra where we live. But I want to also ask you, what is your favorite subject?

AIDYN: Math.

SHAW: Oh, good move. That is not a lot of kids' favorite subjects. But if you can learn math good, you will be well on your way. Stay up on your math. That is a good thing to know.

SPARKS: I just want to add one thing to the mom, Joni. Thank you for your service to the school.

JONI: Thank you.

SPARKS: The school should just be embracing you, but I know they have to follow their 5117.

JONI: No, I know. I loved working at Sonora. Unfortunately, I had to leave and take a full-time job because of everything else. But I loved working there. It was the best three years of my life.

SPARKS: A lot of times we don't get to tell parents in person, thank you for your service.

JONI: Thank you.

SPARKS: And volunteer work to help the system and help the teachers.

JONI: Thank you. I appreciate that.

SPARKS: That is just amazing. Thank you for doing that.

JONI: Thank you.

SHAW: I think I heard a motion from Dr. Sparks, and it was seconded by Trustee Barke.

BARKE: Yes.

SHAW: All in favor?

BARKE, SPARKS, SHAW, VALDES: Aye.

SHAW: Any opposed? Four-0-1.

DUNN: Okay. To repeat, Bronfeld family, the decision of the Board is to grant your appeal. Congratulations. Thank you to the parents, to Newport-Mesa Unified, and to the county board for your time. This concludes the appeal hearing for the family. Thank you.

JONI: Thank you guys.

SPARKS: Congratulations.

BARKE: Thanks for coming in.

JONI: Thank you.

SHAW: The Board will now convene into a closed session. Am I supposed to read all these? No. All right, we will come back to open session at 5:00 PM.

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

SHAW: Good evening, everybody. Welcome. Good to have so many of you here with us this evening. We are going to go ahead and get started. Come back to open session. The Board did meet in closed session. But we are back coming back to open session and glad you could join us. To get us rolling, we will start with an invocation. I would like to call forward the honorable Dennis Cole. Amongst the many hats he is wearing, he is the chairman of Doula for the Sheriff Advisory Council and Director of District Partnership and Operations for us here at the Orange County Department of Education.

COLE: All right. Thank you very much, President Shaw. Would you join me in prayer, according to the manner of your custom? Our gracious heavenly Father, we thank you so much for this time to gather. Thank you for everyone in this room who has a heart to serve our students across Orange County and to serve our communities to make it a better place for all of our families. We thank you that you are the one who gives us every good thing, that our work and our relationships all come from you. We are so grateful to have a good God who loves us and who gives us this work to do. We pray you bless this time as we talk. Give us hearts to listen to each other and ears to hear what you would want us to do. Help us to make wise decisions. We just pray this in your name. Amen.

SHAW: Great. We will proceed now to Pledge of Allegiance. We are honored to have with us the former mayor of Monterey Park, the honorable Betty Tom Chu to lead us.

BETTY: Thank you so much. Will all of us please place our right hand over our wonderful American hearts. We can all say together. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you to the Board for one of the few boards that start their meetings with the invocation. Thank you.

SHAW: We are going to have fun tonight. I can tell already. Yes. Before we jump into the agenda, I would like to call forward our attorney, Mr. Brenner, to report out on closed session.

BRENNER: Good evening, members of the Board, Mr. President, and staff. Good to be with you. This is the report out for closed session items one through four at today's meeting. At 4 o'clock there were four trustees present for the closed session. At 4:10, Trustee Williams joined

as the remaining fifth member for the duration of the closed session. The Board had a discussion and receipt with and received an update from counsel regarding all four closed session items and took no action with respect to those items, with the following exception: The Board approved EBG's invoices as follows, 1124707 through 4709, and 1127740 through 7743. That concludes the report out for tonight's closed session. Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you, Mr. Brenner. We will go to introductions. Nina, are there any introductions this evening?

BOYD: There are no introductions at this meeting.

SHAW: Very well. That takes us to public comments. Looks like we have a number of public comments, which is great. I think what we will do is have two minutes.

SPARKS: We have one general comment and then the 19 are for item 10. We could do them in this time slot, or we could move them too, or we could split them. What is the will of the Board?

SHAW: Why don't take the comments about item 10 when we get to item 10? Does that sound okay?

SPARKS: Okay.

SHAW: All right, so we only have one general comment?

SPARKS: That is right. So, Len Beckman, you are up.

SHAW: Yeah, we got a mic for you back there.

SPARKS: Right over here.

LEN: Thank you, Board, for listening. Testing. There we go. Very briefly, the famous author and educator, G. K. Chesterton once said, "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." Evidence you live in fantasy is why you are ignoring against the infiltration of foreign adversaries like the chi-coms subjects, we will talk about that another time, and domestic ideologues. Because you are more transfixed, our culture is, with mutilating teen breasts and penises, and teaching nine-year-old males to perform oral sex on same age kids. I guess training for pubescent ejaculations a couple of years later, unless blockers were used to destroy adolescence.

Three decades ago, I fought with the Santa Ana Unified about turning the school over to Planned Parenthood porn (inaudible) and their despicable comprehensive sex ed. You and I folks, and the kids, we all lost. John Dunn and Planned Parenthood won. It really is time for all of you to look in the mirror and see what we all see out here. You don't own the kids, please. The good news is you are gifted kids in local parentis, in place of the parents. For 1,080 hours per year over 180 days. Teaching core subjects is really the only purpose. But we have become the lap dogs for the

Queen and King Tuts. That is the teacher's union thugs, or basically BLM's UTLA president, precisely.

We have great teachers. Guys, we have great teachers in this county and throughout. But public ed got \$119 billion last year, while our kids got a 25% dropout rate. The other 75% graduated at 35% proficiency. Not in Orange County, but that was the second largest district in USA. Our kids don't need to be groomed by woke peer pressuring sex spots. The transmutation activists influencing teachers, assistants, and teachers themselves. We don't need you to increase suicide rates by 20 times, this anti-God, sex change ops ideology from hell.

As of today, a judge blocked parents, yet again, being notified if their male or female child is talking to avatar generals for a lifetime of misery.

SPARKS: Thank you.

LEN: Kids don't need their sex organs chain sawed off.

SPARKS: Thank you, sir, your time is up.

LEN: I'm sorry. Is that three minutes?

SHAW, SPARKS: Yes. Yes.

SPARKS: Two minutes.

LEN: The was the fastest three minutes in history.

SPARKS: Two, we are giving two.

LEN: Point of the matter is we need school choice.

SPARKS: Thank you.

LEN: Fifteen thousand bucks a head. That still leaves ten grand each for you guys.

SPARKS: Thank you, sir. Thank you. We have one more general comment that popped up. Stephen Smith. Is Stephen Smith here? No? Okay. All right.

SHAW: No, Mr. Smith? Going once, going twice. Okay. All right, he went to Washington. I would like to call forward, Dr. Sonia Llamas to the podium for our special presentation.

LLAMAS: Good evening, Board President Shaw, members of the Orange County Board of Education. I would like to recognize that Red Ribbon Week—sorry, the tongue twister—is a tribute to DEA Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who tragically lost his life in February of 1985 while battling drug cartels to create safer communities. This week-long Red Ribbon event was initiated by students in Kiki Camarena’s hometown of Calexico, California. Where they wore red

ribbons and pledged to remain drug-free in honor of Kiki and all those who have made sacrifices to make our communities healthier. We appreciate the commitment of law enforcement to support substance-free communities and substance use prevention efforts among our youth. Special recognition is due to the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council for their unwavering support in helping youth make healthy choices and highlighting substance use awareness by providing wristbands for all OC students during Red Ribbon Week.

We greatly value the partnership between OCDE and the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council. Thank you to the Orange County School Board for their continued support of Red Ribbon Week and the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council initiative to distribute wristbands to every OC student. OCDE commends school districts and local community organizations for their dedication to supporting substance use prevention efforts in our schools, reflecting our shared commitment to a safer, healthier community. We are pleased to recognize the collaboration between local businesses and the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council to provide incentives to students wearing wristbands during Red Ribbon Week. Heightening even further community support for substance use awareness. Lastly, we celebrate the efforts of our schools in offering vital substance use prevention programs and activities to students using Red Ribbon Week as a starting point for year round substance use prevention measures and initiatives.

In conclusion, let's collectively honor Agent Kiki Camarena's memory and the legacy of all those who have made sacrifices by participating wholeheartedly in Red Ribbon Week activities. At this moment, I would like members of the OC Sheriff's Advisory Council to please stand and be recognized: Maribel Marroquin-Waldram, Executive Director; Dennis Cole, member of the Board of Education; Marilyn MacDougall, member of the Board of Education; and Sergeant Brian Gunsolley. Thank you.

SHAW: Terrific. I would just add one comment. I once heard Agent Camarena's son speak at a breakfast I was at. It was really quite moving. I believe he is a judge down in the San Diego area. He was just a young boy. Obviously, his father was killed, and it was really touching to hear him. He had a tape of President Reagan calling his family and offering his condolences. It was really quite a deal, but really glad we are doing this. I just remember when I was a kid growing up, we talked a lot about "Just Say No to Drugs." I appreciate everything we can do to share that message. I don't know if anyone else had any comments?

SPARKS: Thank you for the ribbons.

SHAW: Yeah.

SPARKS: Or the wristbands.

SHAW: All right, so we need to formally adopt the resolution here, item number three.

BARKE: I will make a motion to formally adopt.

SPARKS: I will second that.

SHAW: Wonderful. All in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? Thank you folks for your great work. Appreciate you.

[The Orange County Board of Education conducts a meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation.]

SHAW: Okay, we will now recess the regular meeting of our Board of Education meeting to a meeting of the Orange County Department of Education Facilities Corporation. For the benefit of the record, the meeting of the Facilities Corporation is called to order at 5:16 PM. Will, Darou, please call roll?

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Present.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Here.

SHAW: Thank you. May I have a motion to adopt the agenda?

BARKE: So moved.

WILLIAMS: Second.

SHAW: Moved by Trustee Barke; seconded by Trustee Williams. All in favor?

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

SHAW: Can I hear a motion to approve the minutes?

SPARKS: So moved.

BARKE: Second.

SHAW: Did you get that? All in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? Seeing none, do we have any public comments for this meeting?

BOYD: We do not.

SHAW: Very well, so we will now adjourn the meeting of the Facilities Corporation and reopen the normal meeting of the Orange County Board of Education.

[The meeting of the Facilities Corporation ends, and the Orange County Board of Education meeting reopens.

SHAW: We will proceed to the consent calendar items four through six.

WILLIAMS: I make a motion for the consent calendar.

BARKE: Second.

SHAW: Thank you. Moved by Dr. Williams, second by Trustee Barke. All in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? Passes unanimously. Item number seven, charter submissions.

SPARKS: Oh, there is one edit.

SHAW: Oh, I'm sorry.

SPARKS: I'm sorry. One edit. On page 17, you have the flip. You have me as board president and Tim as vice president. It should be Tim as president and myself as vice president, currently, on page 17.

SHAW: Oh, you are right.

SPARKS: Yep.

SHAW: There it is.

SPARKS: The rest of it looked correct, but I did catch that.

SHAW: Thank you, Lisa. Okay, that was item—. Okay. Nina, are there any charter submissions this evening?

BOYD: There was one charter submission submitted. California Republic Leadership Academy submitted their appeal. Placentia-Yorba Linda School District denied them, and board members received that petition in their board materials last Friday. That petition will be heard by this board at the next meeting in October.

SHAW: The October meeting. Very good. Are they looking to open that school then, I assume next year, or when?

BARKE: Yes. I believe. Yeah.

SHAW: Next school year. So, we got time. All right.

BOYD: You have some time.

SHAW: All right. Very good. Thank you.

BOYD: It will come October, and then you will take a vote in December. It would be December timeframe in terms of approval or denial.

SHAW: Very good. Okay, so let's proceed to item number eight.

VALDES: Did we skip over six, President Shaw?

SPARKS: We did the consent calendar, so we approved all three of them.

SHAW: Yeah. The approval of the format for the end panelists for the September 20 special meeting of our board that we have scheduled. Let's go to that. Dr. Sparks, have we received all the panelists bios?

SPARKS: I just got a couple of them in from the time I needed to turn this in for the packet, so I am making a couple of adjustments, and adding a couple of bios, and confirming our two tentative. I believe we will be dropping our final speaker there, because I have not gotten that final confirmation. I'm getting new title recommendations coming in. If we could approve with the minor edits that the speakers are sending me for the final-final brochure, that would be preferable.

WILLIAMS: Perfect. You want me to make a motion?

SPARKS: Please.

WILLIAMS: Sure, I will make that motion.

BARKE: I will second.

SHAW: Very good. Before we vote, can we, just for the benefit of the audience, maybe just read out—

SPARKS: Sure.

SHAW: —the names of the people/the panelists?

SPARKS: Absolutely. I would be happy to do that. You can read publicly online the overview of the panel. But the idea is to have a Savvy Safety in Public Schools Forum in response to many of the public comments that we have gotten over the last, I don't know, several months, even years. As you all know, safety in the schools is number one importance to all of us, parents, teachers, students, everyone. We are going to have a forum and have, hopefully, a very fruitful discussion along those lines. Every board member suggested a name of someone they wanted to bring forth, and I was the main organizer of the forum. I will be serving as the sort of moderator of the forum. The speakers that we have been able to secure are really pretty impressive. We have Tory Torres, a special agent of Homeland Security Investigations talking about internet safety tips from here in Santa Ana. We have Sergeant Brian Gunsolley. He just left. Brian Gunsolley, who is going to come here from the Sheriff's Department talking about the signs, symptoms, and dangers of fentanyl.

We have Matt Friedman and Jack Britton who are going to give a joint presentation on digital privacy and new risk factors, and digital privacy of children and knowing what those exploitation techniques, and the things that we should be looking out for in terms of current risks. They are coming from Arizona and Texas. They have specialty in those areas, and founder of the company Avertere. We have honorable Assemblyman Bill Essayli, who is going to talk about—I'm still waiting to get his final title. He is going to be talking about things related to sexual assault, human trafficking, signs and symptoms, and things related to the forum. We have Supervisor Don Wagner joining us to talk about fentanyl across Orange County, strategies for keeping our school safe. Then, Brenda Lebsack, former Orange Unified School Board Trustee and SAUSD educator will be talking about corrupt national suicide hotlines.

Then, our cleanup of the evening is a very special person who has a really interesting story to tell for parents, that I think parents and teachers and all of us will really get a lot out of. Her name is Toni McKinley. She is the Executive Director of Magdalene House out of Austin, Texas. I have heard her speak, and she is amazing. She will talk about the dangers of fentanyl, how trauma affects and leads people to substances, and the connection to a lot of the trafficking that we do see, and how those struggling find ways to overcome that trauma. It should be a really interesting forum, shedding light on fentanyl, sexual assault, human trafficking, surveillance, social media, cybersecurity issues, and all sorts of things that potentially put our students at risk that are at the forefront of our minds, all of the time. How is that?

SHAW: That was terrific. Thank you, Dr. Sparks, for your hard work in making this happen and getting it organized. I appreciate all that you have been doing. I think it was a motion by Dr. Williams, seconded by Trustee Barke to approve this format. Any other comments?

WILLIAMS: I would like to thank, Lisa, for the hard work to do something like this. It takes a lot of time and efforts, focus, and discipline to do it. Thank you for taking that lead for us and that burden.

SPARKS: Thank you. Happy to do it.

WILLIAMS: It is going to be a great evening. I look forward to it.

SPARKS: Yeah. It is important stuff.

SHAW: Great. Please all come back for that, and tell your friends. We are going to be making—it will be online as well, right? People can participate I suppose that way.

BOYD: Can I ask a couple of logistic questions? Are any of these planning to use PowerPoint?

SPARKS: A few of them will, yes.

BOYD: Okay, so we want to get those in.

SPARKS: Just give me the deadline. I do have some of them already that I can send you.

BOYD: Okay. Perfect.

SPARKS: If you give me a deadline, I will be sure to push that out.

BOYD: Okay. We just want to make sure formatting and so forth.

SPARKS: Yeah.

BOYD: That Media has a chance to make sure that—

SPARKS: Yeah. Absolutely.

BOYD: Also in terms of, again, if they are presenting PowerPoint, will they use the podium and the microphone here, or are you wanting it set up similar to the previous forums where they are all sitting at table facing the Board?

SPARKS: That is a good question. I mean in terms of the Media folks might weigh in on that, but it might be better from a camera angle to have them at the podium if they are using PowerPoint.

BOYD: Right. They are the ones who asked the question, so that is why I'm bringing it up.

SPARKS: Oh, okay.

BOYD: From the standpoint that also because you have so many speakers. In the previous formats, there were not as many speakers. We just want to make sure, microphones, that we can adjust. We can certainly talk offline.

SPARKS: Yeah.

BOYD: But I just wanted to make sure within the next couple of days, they just want to make sure that they have the appropriate—

SPARKS: Absolutely. Yeah. We can talk offline.

BOYD: Okay.

SPARKS: And sort that out if you all are okay with that?

SHAW: Yeah.

SPARKS: The Board. If we have approval for that, then I'm good to go.

BOYD: Okay. Thank you.

SHAW: Very good. All in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? Thank you. Related to that item is item number nine, the approval of travel and hotel accommodations for the panelists presenting at the September 20, 2023, special meeting.

SPARKS: I would just add that not everyone is going to need that, but a few of them are going to need that approval. In discussions with the staff, the Executive Committee discussed, we thought this was an okay amount to go up to approval. We don't anticipate that we will be using the total amount for each person, at all, but that gives the flexibility for the amount that we have here.

SHAW: Okay, so did I hear a motion?

SPARKS: Oh.

SHAW: I think we have—

SPARKS: Sure. I can give a motion to approve item number nine.

VALDES: I second.

BARKE: I will second. Oh, go ahead.

SHAW: Seconded by Trustee Valdes. All in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? Passes unanimously. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: We will proceed now to item number 10. I know many of you are here for Resolution on HR 1146, brought to us by Dr. Williams. Doctor, would you like to take the public comment and then speak to it, or how would you like to go?

WILLIAMS: Public comments would be fine.

SHAW: Public comments.

SHAW, SPARKS: Okay.

SHAW: There is a number of you.

SPARKS: We have I think 19 or 20 public comments if I counted correctly. We are going to give two minutes each. We will start with John Gee and then we will have Betty Chu on deck.

JOHN: He was pointing to someone else. Can you hear me? Okay. Honorable, Board, Orange County Board of Education. I'm John Gee. I'm an inmate of the retirement community of Laguna Woods in the city of Laguna Woods. I'm short, so I will be brief. As a Chinese-American, I urge you to approve your honorable board's resolution to support HR 1146, to protect K-12 education from communist China using the Confucius Institute as a hostile intrusion into American life, culture, and education. Oh, I forgot to tell you. I'm here representing the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Lodge of Orange County. It is part of a national organization formed in 1895, and it is the oldest civil rights organization in the nation.

I will proceed. Personally, I find that the Confucius Institute having Confucianism contradicts Confucius teaching of personal responsibility, government's responsibility to foster national harmony and welfare of their subjects. Respect for the truth. Remember, communism is founded on class struggle and conflict, collectivism, eliminating personal responsibility. Supremacy of the communist party over rule of law. Supremacy of the communist party over the welfare of the people. Dominance of the communist party over the rule of law and governing through tyranny. Communism seeks to destroy freedom of speech, thought, public property, and the free market economy. I urge you to approve your resolution as soon as possible.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you, sir. Betty Chu and Yan Killy is on deck.

BETTY: President Shaw, members of the Board, of whom I am so proud of. As a representative of the Chinese-American Citizens Alliance, the greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge, we support Resolution 1146, sponsored by Congresswoman Michelle Steel. By far the most outspoken elected and probably one of the very, very few elected Asians protecting this nation from the Chinese Communist Party and its controlled government. We also, with most enthusiasm, support Dr. Williams' resolution that goes beyond HR 1146 and applies to California K-12 schools. The Confucius classroom books, lessons, programs, and events are completely controlled by the Chinese governmental entities under the communist contracts. This resolution, Dr. Williams, will expose the infiltration of the communist Chinese government in our K-12 schools, over 500 of them in this nation. It will expose it through the Confucius classroom programs. This is a necessary protection for all of our young vulnerable students to protect them from communist indoctrination and propaganda.

This is particularly and extremely important timing since many of you are aware of the news that China has accelerated its threatening actions in America to achieve its declared goal to become the world's leader. For disclosure purposes, you heard what John Gee said about the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the national organization. We have been strong advocates of Proposition 209, the constitutional protection against racial preferences, as well as other civil rights issues. Thank you, the Board of Education of Orange County for being consistent over the years on the issues—

SPARKS: Thank you.

BETTY: —of parental and student rights' protection.

SPARKS: Thank you, Betty.

SHAW: Thank you, Betty.

BETTY: And for encouraging academic education—

SPARKS: Thank you, Betty. Your time is up.

BETTY: —over controversial indoctrination.

SPARKS: Thank you. Yan Killy and Michelle O'Brien is on deck.

YAN: Hello, distinguished members of the Board. My name is Yan Killy. You can probably tell that I'm not part of the American Chinese, but I do have something to say about the communism. I was born and raised in former USSR. I know I'm going to give you a little bit perspective of where it started. If you all want to go to YouTube and look at the defector in 1985 of KGB, Yuri Bezmenov. You will understand how it all started. It started with Khrushchev in UN (inaudible) and said, "We will destroy you from within." This is when it started, really. It started in 1965, and now we see the true labor. The Chinese were so smart. They took it, that mental after the Soviet Union disintegrated. They continue to destroy us from within.

If you look at the 12-minute interview on YouTube, you will find out that not only are trying to destroy our education but you will see the beginning of DEI, CRT. It is all there. They devised a six-point plan and introduced it into the universities. They said that it takes about 15 to 25 years to indoctrinate a couple of generations. Now we see the fruits of that labor, and the Chinese Communist Party with the Confucius in our now K-1 through K-12, including the colleges and universities, continuing to destroy us from within.

So, thank you, Mr. Williams for introducing this very important 1146. I hope that everybody will support it, and we should stop it at any means necessary. This is not the America that I came here as a refugee in 1977. I do not recognize it anymore, so please help us fight it. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. Michelle O'Brien and on deck is Sean.

MICHELLE: Good evening, President Shaw and distinguished Board members. My name is Michelle O'Brien. I'm a mom, a grandma, and a taxpayer. I'm here in support of the resolution to request that the state conduct a study to determine the extent of the CCP, its government, and others that have infiltrated our K-12. This subject is near and dear to my heart. I have quite a few friends who have escaped communist countries for a better life in America. They have been sounding the alarm, that communists have been going after our kids for years. Finally, parents, grandparents, and guardians too are awake. This must be addressed and stopped. My dad risked his life for 22 years, every single day to defend America. He fought in World War II, Vietnam, and Korean communist wars.

Millions of men and women lost their lives just for us. It is time we stand and say, enough. We are not, nor will we ever become a socialist or communist country. We must protect this and future generations. If you haven't read, "The Great Parent Revolt" by Lance Izumi, I highly recommend it. It talks about Critical Race Theory in the classroom, experiences from African-Americans, a Muslim woman, and many more. It is time to take action. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. Sean is up. Sean from Villa Park, and then Mey S.

SEAN: Good evening, Board Members, Orange County Board of Education. My name is Sean. I now call this country my home. I was not born here. I became American, so I call this my home. I'm American first, Chinese second. That is how I call it. I don't call myself Chinese American. I call American first, Chinese second. I want to quote something here. At one point, Abraham Lincoln was asked, "At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected?" He answered this, "I answered, if it ever reaches us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from a board." What I'm saying is—I'm supporting the Board, Ken Williams for the resolution, basically. What I'm saying is, why not let our kids just be free-minded Americans? Where we focus on education. Let not we confuse our minds with foreign ideology. We embrace Chinese culture, but I came here to adapt. I'm not expecting that the Americans should adapt to Chinese culture. I came here so I can adapt with American culture. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. May S., and Sue Y. is on deck.

MAY: Hi, thank you so much all the Board. Thank you so much for your time. My name is May. I'm here to support the Resolution 1146. The reason I do that is because my grandparents' risked his life to protect his family from the communist party. They brought their very young kids, a boy that came, which is my own father. I don't think many people here understand. A lot of young people, or people in this country understand how bad it is, the situation where my grandparents were willing to risk their life. I have my own children. I have my three kids. I will not go anywhere, risk myself if there is not something that is really bad. I believe why my grandfathers did that is because the communist party is really bad.

I'm not going to talk about further anything else. But I encourage that probably in the school education, teach real history. Right now I see the history of this country has been changing. If they are not experienced the way we are experienced, or my grandparents experience, I think it is great if we teach our children to know how to read, research, and have a free mind and not be controlled by changing the history, or by giving all the communism, and also for the social life. Once again, thank you so much for bringing this issue. I want Resolution 1146 to be passed ASAP. Thank you so much.

SPARKS: Thank you. Sue Y., followed by Honey Hash.

SUE: Hi, my name is Sue. I support Resolution 1146.

SPARKS: Thank you. Honey, followed by Grace Lucido.

HONEY: Can I just say, for the first time I have been to a board meeting for a school, that I don't have to be angry. It is actually a breath of fresh air to know that you guys are working with us and not against us. Of course, now I can't remember what I want to say. Other than, I'm in support of the resolution that you guys are submitting. Please do it quickly. We all can see what is happening to this country. It should scare every single one of us just a little bit. If there is anything that we can do to stop it, it definitely starts with every single person in this room and then some. I can't even imagine what this country would be like if it goes down that route. Can any of you?

I mean, have you guys drawn that line in your mind of what it is going to take for you guys to stand up and do something? Because we are there. Thank you for standing up for the kids and for looking out for the education they are receiving and being pro-America. I walk in front of too many boards and they are so anti-America. It is disgusting. I really do appreciate you guys doing this and putting this forth, because they are not going to get our kids, not with us in the room. It won't happen. You guys have a good day.

SPARKS: Thank you. Grace, and then followed by Lorrie Kaylor.

GRACE: Yes, I want to recognize the honorable board members. I'm very grateful to be standing up in front of a podium and a microphone for the first time at one of these meetings. This lady here gave me the courage and encouragement to stand here. I have been asking God for the fortitude to do this. I don't have much to say. But I know that the biggest power word that I want to share with you is support. I want to support Dr. Williams and the Resolution 1146 over

the Confucius confusion that is going on in the classrooms and the debacle. I'm a person of a lot of words, but yet tonight I'm just asking and presenting my support. I thank you for your support in doing what we are all doing. I'm grateful to be standing here to have the courage to speak to you tonight. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. Lorrie Kaylor, followed by Nate Angka.

LORRIE: I'm going to make this short and sweet. I support Dr. Williams Resolution on HR 1146. I too have a grandfather who fought for the freedoms of this country. In God we trust. This is our country under the Constitution. We need to protect our kids, our citizens, our freedoms. Thank you, Board for being here and standing up for those rights. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. Nate Angka, followed by Mike Tardif.

NATE: Yes, hi, my name is Nate. Today I'm going to identify myself as Big Mike. It is coming out. It is going to be in the news. I just came from Wuhan. You guys are being so fooled, so stupid. The new drugs, the new disease that is coming out is called BS 24/7. Be ready. BS 24/7. I'm so surprised. It is the first time I don't have any Antifa outside, and none of you board members are wearing a diaper mask.

You know Karen. The only time I see Karen is someone who is in the car wearing diapers. Yes, I just came from Wuhan. No joke, you guys are being fooled. You know what is funny? The lady who is speaking about Red Ribbon Week, our own government is the one who is doing the drug cartel. Red Ribbon Week is just another money to spend out for you guys. I wonder. It says, "In God We Trust." How many of you board members believe in God? I hope it means something. I'm surprised. I don't see any flag LGBT barbecues in here. That is how I say it, LGBT barbecue. I might be Big Mike today. Tomorrow, I don't know. I don't know what kind of sex I have. But you guys have a book at the school, **** suck ****. I don't know what it means. But I'm sure you do because the book is at the library. This is no joke.

I was at the Huntington Beach City School District yesterday. They got all paid, the bus. The people that come in. The whole thing. It is all paid by George Soros. To come to a meeting, I'm so proud of you, school district. Because none of you guys are that. You are the people here. You are actually here. They are paid and paid for by George Soros to come and talk when they don't even live there, but pretend to be living in Huntington Beach. None of them are here. I'm pretty impressed. Either nobody tell them what to do, I don't know what. But this is pretty impressive. But anyway, Big Mike.

SPARKS: Thank you.

NATE: It is coming out. Big Mike coming to town.

SPARKS: Thank you.

NATE: I have a **** today. I might have vagina tomorrow, so just let me know.

SPARKS: Mike Tardif is up, followed by Janice Copple.

MIKE: Good evening, Board President and Board Members. My name is Mike Tardif. I'm a longtime resident of Orange County. I'm here in support of Dr. Williams' resolution for 1146 HR. I would like to read you a little excerpt from a news report from *News Nation*. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are launching a probe after a report revealed public schools across the U.S. have received more than 17 million in funding from the Chinese Communist Party through culture and language programs. This news report came out just a couple of weeks ago. Parents defending education calls them little red classrooms. It says the Chinese Communist Party funds them through Confucius Institutes, over the past 14 years. These institutes say it is their goal to teach language and culture, but parents defending education claims their purpose is to further the communist party's global influence.

Xi Jinping believes that China will not be stopped from imposing its will and ideology onto American citizens. Former Intelligence Officer Matt Shoemaker said it provides an opportunity for the teachers or those who work with them to spot who might be a good candidate down the road or who might be sympathetic to their cause and try and shape the next generation that way. I want to thank you board members of Orange County. Hopefully you will vote to support Dr. Williams' resolution, also in support of HR 1146. Thank you.

SPARKS: Okay, thank you. We have Janice Copple followed by Rosie Avila.

JANICE: Hi, my name is Janice Copple. Actually, I used to be a teacher in Saddleback Valley School District. I do want to say to all of you, Board of Trustees. You have always advocated for the children, and you have always supported we teachers. I really appreciate that. Really happy to see that Dr. Williams put out HR 1146. Thank you for doing that. Thank you for protecting our children from the curriculum. I know that you do watch over our curriculum and you are watching over what is happening in our schools. Thank you so much, and I do hope you approve this resolution.

SHAW: Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: But before you speak, we do have a decorum policy. May I ask you to not hold up papers while others are speaking or create any distraction? We are going to have the speaker be the focus of attention for that time. Thank you.

SPARKS: Rosie, followed by Pat Micone, it looks like, on deck. Yeah.

ROSIE: I want to thank all of you board members for the opportunity to address you and for all your good work that you have done through the years. Thank you, everybody, and for this opportunity to speak to you. I come here as a school board member for 17 years in Santa Ana Unified. But really, I come here because I'm a mother of five, a grandmother of 12. We cannot be too careful what our children are taught. What we teach them, the influences we bring to them is what produces the type of person that we have. I'm just so supportive of this resolution. Finally

there is some people investigating what is happening in our schools. For years and years people just all go with the flow and it is okay. But it is no longer okay because we have seen more and more pieces of the picture of what is happening to our country. We do have to be very, very diligent as to what is happening.

We have seen all of our children grow up to become socialist advocates. Socialism is a wonderful thing. Except that it is so contrary to who we are that it has to be enforced with the strong arm of communism, which imprisons everybody, silences everybody. That is the only way. People don't want to live under a socialist, communist system. It is very tyrannical. I was born in Guatemala. When Guatemala was becoming communist, my dad started speaking out. He had come from Europe, and he had known about communism. We came here. But he had just become a Christian through missionaries. Then he sent my oldest brother to school in Guatemala. Is that a stop? Okay.

SPARKS: Your time is up.

ROSIE: I just want to tell. My oldest brother was taught in school to pray for bread because God said, pray for your daily bread. Then the teacher said, "Open your eyes. Do you see any bread? I don't see any bread on the table. That means there is no God." We have to make sure they don't lie to our children. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you so much. Pat is up, followed by Debbie Ayres.

PAT: Good evening, honorable school board of Orange County. We are very proud of you. My name is Pat Micone. I'm a mother of two, a grandmother of five, and just a passionate person who wants to keep our country free and keep our country free. We are in a Marxist revolution in our country. I think we all know it. I just want to say I totally, I'm grateful to Dr. Ken Williams for bringing up this Resolution 1146. I hope you will pass it tonight. Vote on it and pass it. I just want to say I'm just so grateful to all the people before me who spoke for me, spoke from their heart about their histories, especially the people who are from other countries who came from communist countries. Things are happening pretty fast. They started out slow 60 years ago and now we are coming to a crescendo.

Let's all be vigilant and in God we trust. I thank you. I thank you for everything you do, and I'm grateful for everybody who came tonight to show their support.

SPARKS: Thank you, Pat. Debbie Ayres is up followed by Jayville Kearn.

DEBBIE: Hi. I do want to thank all the people that are naturalized citizens that came from countries that were under a communist government. I think that says it all. I wish there were high school and grade school kids here to hear all this. Anyway, I mean, I was going to say that we shouldn't allow any of this kind of curriculum. I think too, this should be investigated on how the Chinese are warming their way into our educational system. I do believe this is a great reminder to all of us who have grown up in freedom to be grateful and to defend our God-given rights as American citizens. I think it should be more emphasized in our classroom. Anyway, thank you very much.

SPARKS: Thank you. Jayville, followed by Pam Battaglia.

JAYVILLE: Yeah. Hello, everybody, and thanks for allowing me to speak. I'm not ashamed to say that God is good. God is great. This is the greatest country on the face of the planet. I think everybody in this room loves this country. We have come here for different reasons. One hundred and fifty years ago, my forefathers, my great great grandfather came here because of a lack of potatoes in Ireland. We all come here for different reasons. I'm a married guy, five kids. In fact, my wife is from the Middle East. I have two son-in-laws, one from Vietnam and one from Japan. I'm happy to say that we are representing here.

What is beautiful about America, we all adopt. We all get along. We have got our unique culture and experiences that we bring here, and we celebrate it. Again, we celebrate freedom and the ability to think individually and to think for the greater good. I wholeheartedly, without a doubt do support this resolution to support Congressman Steels' bill. I support Mr. Williams' bill. Without a doubt, God bless America. Let's stand for freedom.

We are at a crossroads here in America. We have a choice. Are we going here, or are we going there? The line has clearly been drawn. Unless you people wake up, we are going to lose our country. God bless America all the time.

SPARKS: Thank you. Pam, followed by Linda Cone.

PAM: My name is Pam. I'm a wife, mother, grandmother of two activists and patriotic citizens—thank you—of this great county and country of ours. I'm here this evening to speak in favor of Dr. Ken Williams' Resolution, HR 1146. Thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. Linda Cone, and on deck is Cecilia Iglesias.

LINDA: I'm also here to speak in favor of this resolution. Thank, Dr. Williams for it. I strongly support HR 1146 as well. I just want to echo some of the comments that I have heard. I was born one month after Pearl Harbor in 1942. Do the math on that. I, too, like another speaker said, do not recognize my country. I never imagined that I would be saying something like this. But I think it must be said because we are living in truly unique, troubling, and dark times. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren to never give up. It is our prerogative to make the choices as to whether or not we are going to do everything in our power to turn this country around for the sake of those who follow us, or let it fall victim to totalitarianism.

I think what bothers me the most here is—actually, I probably should say it this way. I think what scares me the most, and I'm not a fearful person, because I know God is in charge. I think what scares me the most is how many of our citizens are coming to accept totalitarianism, as almost like the new norm. I'm saying to everybody in this room and I'm saying to everybody outside this room who may hear my voice, today and in the remaining days that I have, stand up. Stand up. Fight back. We have a country to save. We truly do have a country to save. The country we are trying to save once was the greatest nation on this planet. God bless America.

SPARKS: Thank you. Ceci, followed by Ghia Dheeh.

CECILIA: Good evening, board members. My name is Cecilia Iglesias. President Shaw, congratulations. I am here in support of House Resolution 1146, sponsored by Congresswoman Michelle Steel. I am too a former school board member from Santa Unified School District. I saw the injustices that they were doing to our kids and the indoctrinations that were happening in the classrooms. That is why I stand up for those parents that are not able to be here. I know that they would want me to speak for them, because they don't want things to repeat from the countries that they have been coming from. I support Dr. Williams resolution that applies to California's K-12 schools.

This is a necessary protection for all of our young students from communist indoctrination and propaganda. This is extremely important since the news has been telling us that China has accelerated its threatening actions in America and towards America. I also want to thank Dr. Williams for always being consistent over the years on advocating for parental rights and students' protection. Thank you very much. Like everybody says, may God bless America. We all are in this together.

SPARKS: Thank you. Ghia, followed by Patty.

GHIA: Hi. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I totally support and hope that you pass HR 1146. I was born in the Philippines. My father was a lifer in the United States Navy, very proudly. When I became a U.S. naturalized citizen, it was a great, great honor. This country is a melting pot, where we can come from all over the world and assimilate and be proud. We can still celebrate our culture, but also be proud Americans. That is what I love about this country. This country is the beacon of light on the hill that all the other people in the world want to come here. Because they know that this is a country of opportunity and freedom where they can pursue their happiness. Except for the leaders of other countries that are communists and tyrants, they are a little bit jealous. They can't enslave their people in communism and tyrannical domination if they keep escaping to America. This country, we have to protect it. This is the beacon of light. We love our country. In God we trust, as we all said.

In 1938, Mao Zedong had a 100-year plan to take down this country. They couldn't defeat it economically or militarily, but he could defeat it from inside. It is enemies within. They infiltrated schools, the churches, government and the universities, the professors, et cetera. We have to take this country back. We have to stand on our feet. We have to rise up. All of the people, the God-fearing people have to rise up as proud patriots. I have nine nieces and nephews and I fear their future. I fear for their future, because I want them to love this country. I want them to have the freedoms. I want them to know what it is like to be absolutely free to pursue their dreams and their opportunities.

When we are choked by tyrants and communism by the CCP, all that freedom is gone. All we will have in this country is darkness, and that is not us. We are God-fearing people. God is our love and light inside of us. We must be the ones who shine that light all around us.

SHAW: Your time is up.

SPARKS: Thank you.

GHIA: We must rise up all of us.

SPARKS: Thank you.

GHIA: Rise up and fight for this country

SHAW: Thank you.

GHIA: The families and for the children.

SPARKS: Thank you.

GHIA: They are after the children, and we all know this.

SPARKS: Thank you.

JESSE: Obviously my name is not Patty. My name is Jesse by the way. If the famous coach Vince Lombardi was alive today, he would say his famous line. "What the hell is going on out here?" Communism. I have experienced communism. Twenty years ago I went to Cuba. A friend of mine bugged me to go, to go. I go: no. It is communist. It is communism. I finally said, okay. Let's go. I went there. We got off the plane. I'm like, oh, okay. Let's see. I was a little leery, communist country. We went to a hotel. We went out that night. Do you know what communism does to women? This is what I found out, what communism does to women. Everywhere I walked, I couldn't walk 20 feet without some lady coming up to me. Young lady at that time, 18/20. Coming up to me and say, (speaks in Spanish). That means, I invite you to make love to me. Only \$100. That is all. Only \$100. I'm looking at them. What? No thanks.

I have met the guys there. Talking to the men there, I asked them, so tell me about communism. What is it? What they told me there, I asked, "Do you work?" Yeah. Okay. "How much do you make a month or how do you get paid?" He goes, I make \$15 a month. How are you going to live on \$15 a month? Now you know why communism makes whores out of women. When we would walk in the streets, I had to walk six feet behind him. Does that sound familiar? I had to walk six feet behind him. One day he was next to me. A cop saw us. He goes like this. Obviously, I didn't look Cuban. He goes like this. He asked me where I was from. I said, U.S. He asked my friend. He goes: I'm Cuban. He arrested him because he was talking to me. Because I was an American, from the U.S.A. I had to call his girlfriend. Hey, they arrested Josiah. We had to wait three hours to release him.

I have experienced communism. It is not good. Also, I asked him, "How do you guys eat? How do you make money to eat?" He goes, well, we have to stand in long lines to get our food. It is free, but we have to wait like three-four hours for us to get our food.

SPARKS: Thank you. Thank you so much.

JESSIE: Don't Cuba my U.S.A.

SPARKS: Thank you. Patty is up, followed by Wia Zhu. Patty is up first. Where is Patty? Then, Wia. Patty are you? Oh, okay. Okay.

PATTY: Good evening, Board. I just wanted to say thank you to Dr. Ken Williams for always doing what is right for his community. Thank you to the Board for doing the same every time you sit there. I don't know what communism is like because I'm born and raised here. Anything that I have learned from it has been from people that I have met at different meetings, many friends here. From what they tell me, it sounds like one of the scariest things that I would never want to experience. I'm grateful that you want to support Michelle Steel in this. Many of us don't know what communism will do to this country. There is too many people fighting to not allow it to come in here. Those that have fled, that have taken time out of their day to come here to share their personal stories. I just wanted to say thank you.

SPARKS: Thank you. Wia, you are up. That will be our last speaker.

WIA: Honorable, Orange County Board of Education members. I am Wia Zhu. That is my real Chinese name pronunciation. I was born in Shanghai. You guys never have any idea how horrible the communist country is. You never, never feel safe. You never know if the police will knock on the door. Anytime they can take your family members away and send them somewhere. You never know. No trial. No trace, just one person disappeared. That happened in 2019. Chinese, I say the troop arrested more than 1,000 Hong Kong students. Those students right now, no one knows where are they. I make some script. I just want to give you guys a big picture for what happened in this world and not just in a little, little, kind of, like a point of view. We need to see a big picture.

Data provided by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the military expenditure, China announced yearly, 2022 is \$229.6 billion U.S. dollars; and 2023 is \$224.8 billion U.S. dollars. China keeps increasing defense budget as announced two digits of their annual GTP. In past 23 years, China just joined the WTO on year 2000.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: Your time is up time is up.

WIA: What? No, I just started.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: It does go fast.

SPARKS: Yes. Thank you.

SHAW: Yeah, it is amazing how fast time goes when you are at the mic. Well, thank you all so much for your comments. All right, I think that was all of our comments for this item. I do want to thank you. It was very inspiring to hear so many of you. Dr. Williams, you brought this item.

WILLIAMS: Yes, I would like to—

SHAW: I will turn this time over to you.

WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. President. I would like to make the formal motion for adoption of the resolution and hopefully get a second. Then I have some more words to say.

BARKE: I will make a second so we can continue.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Well, first of all, I want to thank all 23 public speakers who came here. Your passion for liberty and freedom in this country is absolutely meaningful and incredible. This is a historical moment I think in our culture and our nation here. We are seeing an attack upon normalcy, an attack upon Judeo-Christian values, the system that made this country great. An attack upon those fundamental laws, and bills of rights that gave us the constitutional right for the ability to speak and to have free speech. We are seeing cancel culture. We are seeing this woke ideology in our youth. They are being taught these things in high school and college.

I think Congresswoman Michelle Steel's bill, which is HR 1146, speaks to a lot of the troubles that we see in our country, and a lot of the cultural divide. We see all these pedagogical theories that are being brought from the college university level. Now they are coming down in the high school. They are coming down to where the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children are being attacked and taken away. We looked at what happened in Maryland. The state court there said that parents don't have the right to direct the upbringing of their children. Unlike what has been said previously in many Supreme Court rulings in the past. That will come.

I think we live in a time and an age where there is this rise of Marxism. We have seen it in the Orange Unified School District recall. We have seen that they actually came there and announced themselves. They are recalling two good trustees. The lies, and mistruths, and misrepresentation by the union thugs there is just overwhelming. By the way, that is an issue that we all need to be involved in. What they are trying to do is silence parents, take away their rights. In part a new right, gender rights, sexual rights to kids. That is absolutely incredible. New rights for children, taking away the rights of parents. That is absolutely wrong.

This resolution, if I can address to my dear colleagues up here, I worked with Michelle Steels' office on this. It is amazing. I was actually dumbfounded with what is happening with these Confucius Institutes within our country. Large university institutions are taking millions and millions of dollars and promoting the CCP, which is, for those who don't know what that is, the Chinese Communist Party. The CCP is now coming into the K-12 classrooms. The whole purpose of these Confucius classrooms are to silence and distract the critics of communism and communist China. We have had, again, 23 speakers that are here today that spoke to that.

The teachers in these Confucius classrooms take discussions away from the real true issues of China, which is the rights of Taiwan to be independent and have their own government and democracy. We know that CCP stands trouncing their foot upon the Tibet community. They will not allow the discussion of Tiananmen Square and the lives that were lost there for those students

who were trying to fight for their liberties and freedoms. They won't talk about what happened to the great city of Hong Kong, which stood as a beacon of freedom and light for over a century. Now that light has gone out because of the CCP.

We look at the military industrial complex of what is happening in China with the South China Sea that China is claiming. Even worse is the human rights abuse to the Uyghur Muslim communities where they are basically becoming slaves, and their work is being exploited. This resolution talks about a lot, and it is really deep. I had to really edit out and reduce a lot of the language. I welcome you to read it in its entirety, the actual bill by Michelle Steel. It is called Stop Higher Education Espionage and Theft Act of 2023. Michelle Steel, along with Ms. Stefanik, and Mr. Crenshaw are the ones that introduced this there in Washington D.C.

But this resolution, besides endorsing Congressman Steels' bill, it is making a recommendation to the state. This is where it may take some time. But I'm going to recommend that on our letterhead, signed by our board president, we make this resolution request for the State Commission, looking at what is happening here with these Confucius classrooms. It goes to all the people here in California such as Mr. Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as well as the Educational Chairs in both the Assembly and the Senate, the State Board of Education, the CSBA, our own County Boards of Education. Perhaps we could engage Mr. Tom Sheehy to help us get this word out and to create a commission that will look at the Confucius classrooms.

I do have a question to our respectable, Dr. Miramontes. Do we know if there are any of these Confucius classrooms and the theory being taught in any of our classrooms?

MIRAMONTES: Not that I'm aware of.

WILLIAMS: Not that you are aware of.

BOYD: Excuse me. Could you use the mic?

MIRAMONTES: Thank you, Mrs. Boyd. I know that our ACCESS schools and our Special Schools, which we are responsible for, there are none. I don't believe there are any in the county either.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

MIRAMONTES: But I can find out for you.

WILLIAMS: That would be wonderful.

MIRAMONTES: I meet with the superintendents this Friday, so I can ask the superintendents.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

MIRAMONTES: Sure.

WILLIAMS: You are very honorable. The words that were shared by the people talking today, I want to direct your kind words to me, but it is everybody here. It is not me. It is all five of us here who believe in the same values that you all believe in. We so deeply appreciate and are moved by your presence that you would take from your personal time to be here. Thank you very much. We are about protecting our children. We are about protecting their innocence and opposing anybody that would take away that innocence. That is a shared vision by my board. With that, I will yield.

SHAW: Thank you, Dr. Williams. I would echo many of the comments. We all know where Dr. Williams stands, and I'm proud to stand with you. Trustee Barke, do you have any comments? You seconded this motion.

BARKE: No. I would just like to thank Dr. Williams and the whole board for their support and everyone here showing your support. We appreciate it when the community comes out. It tells us that we are being public servants and serving you. We appreciate you coming out.

SHAW: Thank you. Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: I just want to say I was particularly moved by 23 people all siding on the same issue tonight, which is rare at board meetings like this. I was particularly persuaded by the Chinese American or American Chinese constituency that came down to speak tonight. That was very moving. My father was a Cuban refugee in 1959, who fled before Castro took over, while Batista was still the president of Cuba. I certainly heard a lot of stories. I have obviously never lived in a communist country, although my wife lived in communist Poland before she immigrated here. Even though Dr. Miramontes has said that these Confucius Institute classrooms are not in Orange County, I still think the resolution is important because we don't want them in Orange County.

SHAW: Thank you for those comments. Dr. Sparks?

SPARKS: Yeah, I have a few things to say on this. I have more experience with this than you might think on the surface, as an academic myself. I'm sort of in the underbelly of the beast every day. Right? About a year ago, there was an article that came out via VOA talking about the controversial Confucius Institutes returning to the U.S. schools under new names. That is something that people need to be aware of. Confucius Institutes or the controversial Beijing backed language and Cultural Learning Centers, most of which were closed throughout the United States after being designated a foreign mission by the State Department are rebranding and reopening, according to a report by the National Association of Scholars.

Of the 118 Confucius Institutes that once existed in the United States, 104 were closed as of June 21, about a year ago. Four more were in the process of shutting down. Of those, at least 28 have replaced their Confucius Institute with a similar program. At least 58 have maintained close relationships with their former Confucius Institute partner. How many have been shut? How many are rebranding with new names? I see this happen all the time in the academic world.

I want you to know my personal understanding and experience with these Confucius Institutes and the ways that they use academic malware and language to inject into the university system of higher ed. I have seen it at many different institutions. In 1987, I had my first experience as a student studying abroad. I spent spring break, in then communist Russia. I was a photographer. I took pictures. I was a 20-year-old student taking pictures. People stole my film out of my hotel room. I was just taking pictures as a kid, you know. That is just one of many stories that I have from that time. That opened my eyes way back then in 1987. Fast forward, I have taken travel courses to communist Cuba.

I have exposed our undergraduate students at Chapman University to the messaging that goes on, the propaganda that goes on in the communist system. I gave them an activity where I gave them 20 of the convertible pesos to go into a government run store and see how much food they could get. Because that was the amount that a family would get to eat on for a week. They came back to the bus with one head of lettuce. One of them brought me some flowers of course, right. But, very little they would come back to the bus with that assignment that I gave them. It really opened their eyes. There are some students that are getting an education. Not all professors are fitting your stereotype. Many of us are trying to really bring a balanced approach to education.

In terms of K-12, I don't know exactly what is going on in K-12. I do know some professors that I actually know and/or staff members who worked in Confucius Institutes at my former institution of George Mason University. I also think that back then in 2004 when these were first springing up, I think a lot of universities didn't know and weren't aware that it was the government, the Chinese government, infiltrating at the time. Now, at some point they probably did. I do not know, but I do want to throw that out. Then, to the point about academic freedom, which I'm very much in favor of academic freedom. These institutes actually are doing the opposite because they are actually not telling the real story and repressing a lot of the information for students that are exposed to their curriculum. Those are other things that I think we need to be aware of.

I am pro-academic freedom in all things, particularly more so in higher ed than in K-12 where it is a prescribed curriculum. Nonetheless, I think we all need to be sort of aware that we don't want government entities coming into our institutes of K-12, as well as higher education. I just wanted to share that, because I have a lot more experience with this than people may have thought on the surface. Thank you.

SHAW: Well, thank you, Lisa.

WILLIAMS: Can I say one more thing?

SHAW: Oh, sure. Dr. Williams.

WILLIAMS: Just one more thing that I would like to share. Rosie, where are you? Rosie Avila? Rosie, my dear friend. As I have shared many times in the past, you are my mentor, my dear friend. When I came on the school board in 1996, she served as that individual guiding me and giving me insight. Thank you so very much.

SHAW: Thank you. Yeah. My only comment, as everyone was speaking, I teach a political science class part time. I have a section on the Cold War. I show my students a video, the building of the Berlin Wall. It always strikes me when you are watching that. When a government has to put a wall on the border with guns pointed in, to keep the people in. It kind of tells you everything you probably need to know about communist governments. People are doing everything they could to get out of there. Everyone was leaving. They have to put a wall up and put the guns in to keep people in. What a commentary that is.

Thank you again for all your comments and from my colleagues. I think we heard a motion from Dr. Williams and seconded by Trustee Barke.

SPARKS: I just have one little edit that I noticed on page 43, on point number three at the very end. It says, recommended high education, I would say, higher education institutions. Then I would take out the word “and.” After it says, “K-12, school districts scrutinize foreign funding of curricula” I would just take out the word “and” to have a complete sentence there.

WILLIAMS: It is a friendly amendment. Accepted.

SHAW: Very good.

SPARKS: Okay.

SHAW: With those edits, all in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? Passes unanimously. Thank you. All right, so before we go into item number 11, this will be teed up actually by a video from our attorney Greg Rolen, who cannot be with us this evening. I think hopefully we are ready to roll on this. It is just a short video.

[Video is presented.]

VOICE OF ROLEN: Honorable Trustees, members of the public, and Superintendents’ staff. I’m sorry that it cannot be with you this evening. But I cannot miss an opportunity to share a success story. The success of the Board, the success for county boards throughout the state of California, and a success for the democratic process. As you might recall, on June 7, we took an opposition position to AB 764. A bill authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan entitled the Fair Maps Act. We publicly took issue with the bill, primarily because it created a private right of action against local bodies for anyone displeased with a redistricting process, or any election involving a local redistricting.

We were deeply concerned that the bill could conceivably compromise consideration of communities of interest in counties where the board of supervisors and the board of education had the same number of members. In early July, Sheehy Strategy Group, on behalf of the Board, formally filed an opposition letter and began advocacy efforts in Sacramento. We engaged in discussions with Ethan Jones of Assemblymember Brians’ staff. Shortly thereafter, the bill was

amended to place reasonable restrictions on the private right of action. But our work was not done. On July 20, we contacted the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) and requested the email addresses of every county superintendent. The very next day, every county superintendent received our opposition letter, an analysis of AB 764, contact information, and a legislative schedule.

Later that week we proposed amendments that we believed would protect communities of interest and county board of education autonomy. This is important. It is easy to identify a problem, but we proposed a solution. We proposed an alternative. The bills' author was receptive, but they needed an answer. The Board Executive Committee was forced to act decisively and assert that we would remove our opposition in exchange for the amendments.

On August 22, we heard from Assemblymember Brians' office who wrote, "For a variety of reasons, we concluded that changing the word 'shall' to 'may' as you suggested in the last email, was going to create complications and ambiguities in section 1002 of the Education Code. That being the case, to address the concern your client raised without creating those ambiguities, we decided to delete subdivisions (e) and (f) of Section 1002 entirely.

We received this directly from the author's office and we are waiting to see the amendments in print. That is what you call a win-win. That is a win for Orange County. It is a win for county boards of education and more importantly, it is a win for the democratic process. That is how government is supposed to work. That is what happens when a highly motivated group of citizens makes their voices heard. That is what happens when people listen to those voices.

We thank Assemblymember Brians' office and his staff for the good work and deep consideration of the Board's concerns. We thank Sheehy Strategy Group for their tireless efforts, and we are thankful the government can still work for the common good of all Californians. With that, upon verification of the amendments in print, I recommend the Orange County Board of Education formally withdraw its opposition to AB 764. Thank you.

[Video ends.]

SHAW: On the advice of our advocate in Sacramento, Mr. Sheehy, and our attorney, Mr. Rolen, the Executive Committee did place this position on Assembly Bill 764 on the agenda. Since the author has accepted the amendments that we suggested, as you heard Mr. Rolen suggest, his recommendation is that we formally withdraw our opposition to the bill.

SPARKS: Is that a motion?

SHAW: I will make that motion.

SPARKS: I will second it.

SHAW: Okay. Thank you, Dr. Sparks. Any questions or comments from anybody? All in favor of that motion?

BARKE, SHAW, SPARKS, VALDES: Aye.

SHAW: Any opposed? Very good. It passes unanimously. We will send that letter tomorrow. Mr. Sheehy has prepared a letter that we will send in immediately, tomorrow morning. That is great. We will proceed to item number 12, adopt Resolution #18-23, identifying the Gann actual appropriations limit for 2022-23 and the Gann estimated appropriations limit for 2023-2024. Did the staff have anything to present on this? A whole lot of nothing? All right. Do I hear a motion?

WILLIAMS: I will make a motion.

SHAW: Moved by Dr. Williams. I will second. All in favor?

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

SHAW: Any opposed? All right, we will proceed to information items, communication information discussion. Is there a budget update, Renee?

HENDRICK: I just wanted to give you a quick update, since the Governor had finally signed the budget, if there was any changes, significant changes. I'm trying to find my notes as we speak. One of the things, as we close the year, we actually were up by 38 ADA. We are just happy we are up and not down. We are optimistic that we will continue meeting our ADA projections for this next year. I think we had talked about in our budget meeting that there was some additional funding for county offices. That did get passed in the final resolution with the Governor, so county offices will receive additional funding for juvenile court schools, the court appointed or probation referred students. That will get an additional \$400,000 and an additional, close to \$3,000 per student. That is a significant increase for those students.

I want to thank Dean West and Patty Banuelos from my office. They worked very hard with our state groups to actually show the impact of not receiving the same funding increases as school districts. We were able to show that. Specifically, our ACCESS program was deficit spending by quite a bit just trying to meet the state regulations. Then, we hadn't been funded adequately, so that was very instrumental in the state taking the proposal. This doesn't get us all the way to even. But it is a good start, so we are very appreciative of that.

With it comes some additional requirements though, and a lot more accountability. We actually have to show how those dollars are used to support student enrichment opportunities, and expanding our A-G courses, and college and career transition and counseling. That is what we will use those dollars for.

SPARKS: Can you explain the A-G again, quickly?

BOYD: It is contagious.

HENDRICK: It is contagious, yeah. Wow. The A-G are the classes that are qualified for higher education. That is to make sure our students are ready for college, basically. They have specific criteria to do that. A lot of our students necessarily, it is hard for incarcerated youth to get CTE

classes. But that is something that Vern and Dr. Miramontes are working on very hard, to make sure that all these students get some type of access to that. Those funds are very specific for that, and I know that Vern is working really hard on trying to figure out ways that we can really increase our student services.

We talked a little about the Arts and Music Block Grant that was going to go away. We have got to cut it. They did cut it, but by only a small amount. Within the next few months you will be seeing a plan come in front of the Board for those dollars. We have to have a complete plan before we spend the dollars, but it basically ends up being about \$2.2 million to be spent over two years. They did cut the Learning Recovery Block Grant, but only by a small amount. That was already in the budget for 22-23, but we didn't receive the cut we anticipated.

Then we have the new Prop 28 Arts and Music Program that will be ongoing from now on, and that is about \$350,000 a year. Those are the major updates that we have. We will be bringing you more on a monthly basis.

SHAW: If I might, I want to make sure I understood you correctly. You said, “We are up 38 students.”

HENDRICK: From our projections.

SHAW: When we say “we,” we are talking about—

HENDRICK: The Department.

SHAW: The students served directly by the Department?

HENDRICK: Yes.

SHAW: Okay.

HENDRICK: If you remember, from 19—well, we were down in total between the two years, 21-22 and 22-23. We were down 792 students.

SHAW: What is the actual number then, we have?

HENDRICK: The actual number is 4,140.

SHAW: Okay. Do you happen to know—I'm always curious how we are doing as a countywide? I believe we are still declining, overall.

HENDRICK: We are still declining, overall. Probably in a couple of weeks we will get our enrollment numbers for the start of school. Irvine is still growing, one of the few districts that is still growing. But even that has not been as significant as we have seen. I believe that Brea had shown a little bit of growth also. When I say little, I mean less than 50. We have a few of those schools. We have a couple school districts that are showing some growth due to the TK

programs. That is actually increasing, what they are doing. But we will definitely get those numbers for the next meeting to be able to show the fifth and sixth day enrollment. All districts are suffering though, the same as we are, with the attendance. Chronic absenteeism continues to be a real issue for us and for all of our school districts.

SHAW: Yeah.

HENDRICK: Okay.

SHAW: Any questions from the Board? Thank you, Renee, for that update. Okay, let's see, parent communication, board/staff.

VALDES: I think this was the proposal that I put up last month, right? This is a continuation of that?

BOYD: That is correct. In your red folders, there is a draft flyer that was developed by Media that we would like you to take a look at.

VALDES: Oh, wow.

BOYD: I think it captures all of the information that you all had discussed in terms of providing information related to the Board's interdistrict policy. It would notify parents of their rights thereby. They would click on the link, and this would be posted to your website. There was also a comment made for the charter schools that had been approved by the Board to be included. There would also be a link so that from this posting and flyer—

VALDES: Looking at—

SPARKS: Is all of the—I'm sorry. Go ahead.

VALDES: Looking at this for the first time, I think this is a really good start. If we are going to send this to every parent in Orange County, I would like to see something on the back. I just think that that is a lot of wasted space.

BOYD: Well, that is part of the discussion. You all talked about sending electronic, you talked about posting, mailing is very expensive. We don't mail a whole lot of documents anymore.

VALDES: I think where we settled in, and my concern was, Nina, that I have a percentage of my constituency that does not have internet. They don't have computers, so emailing might not get to them. But handing something to their child, which will go in their folder and which will go home, that is going to get to them.

BOYD: We don't have a methodology to do that, other than we can certainly contact the district, send the information to them.

VALDES: That is where we were at.

BOYD: Right.

VALDES: That is what you said. That we were going to send it to the districts and ask them to distribute it. None of us felt that that effort would get thwarted in any way. Everyone thought that the districts would be receptive because it is coming from the Orange County Department of Ed.

BOYD: Well, it is coming from the—we are doing it on behalf of the Board.

VALDES: Okay.

BOYD: It is the Board's document.

VALDES: Looking at this, I would like to see a section that talks about intradistrict transfers.

BOYD: The Board doesn't do intra. I guess that is where we were struggling, because we did have a conversation internally. Because districts have their own policy related to intra, because that is internal.

VALDES: Can we use it sort of in a generic way? You have the option of asking your school district for researching their policies and what their options are. I don't want to leave that out.

BOYD: Okay. If I could just ask each of you to send me some bullets in terms of your areas of interest so that I can make sure that? That way it is not delaying this coming back in another board meeting and so forth.

VALDES: No, I appreciate that. Dr. Miramontes could you take the podium and maybe help us with this? What do you think is the appropriate language? Because every school district has an intradistrict policy.

MIRAMONTES: Correct.

VALDES: And we can't put that all on one flyer.

MIRAMONTES: Correct. There are 28 different districts. I will guarantee you, 28 have different procedures for—

VALDES: So how do we communicate that option to parents on a form that is coming from us?

MIRAMONTES: I think a bullet, as Nina pointed out, that would state, please go to your district's website to look at the interdistrict form, or policy, and protocols that you need to follow.

SPARKS: How about on the second page? You could have a list of the 28 districts with a link that clicks to each description?

MIRAMONTES: I think that is what Nina is asking.

BOYD: Yeah. I just need consensus from all of you.

MIRAMONTES: Right.

BOYD: I mean certainly—

VALDES: You got my consensus.

SPARKS: Yeah, I'm consenting.

BARKE: You got my consensus.

SHAW: That sounds like a fun idea. Putting you know—

SPARKS: Yeah.

SHAW: —like that, have that as a resource. My other little suggestion, since we have a blank page back here. I find people like maps, especially they don't know - who is my trustee on the Board of Education. I think having a map of Orange County, maybe with our trustee area map. It might be fun to put back there so they can get a sense of that. I don't know. I have always found people like that.

BOYD: You would not be able to get both of those on there.

SHAW: Oh.

BOYD: If you are going to go with 28 districts, then we would not be able to put the map on there with the way that you are describing.

SHAW: Yeah.

BOYD: But certainly, and again, that is why I think it is important to hear all of the ideas that you all have.

VALDES: Looking at this flyer, I know what non-sectarian means. I don't think a lot of people are going to know what that means. I would use another way to describe a non-religious school.

SPARKS: Yeah. You mentioned that the list of Orange County charter schools can be found. Just the ones under ours, or all of them?

BOYD: The request was the Board-approved charters. That is what this links to because that is what is on your page already.

SPARKS: But don't you think that?

BOYD: We don't have all of them.

SPARKS: Don't you think that students should know all of the options, not just ours?

VALDES: Yeah, let's put them all on there.

SHAW: Well, I think what she is saying is it is linking to our website. That is what they are going to find when they get there, is the schools that we have chartered.

BOYD: Right. The other charters are listed under the school districts, so that is already on the directory page. Those charters are there. I mean as well as the charters that are authorized by this board. This was just duplicative information that you all wanted, in addition to the placement of where it already exists. For those charters that are either approved from a local school district, they have that captured under their district.

SPARKS: Right. I understand. I just think a list of all of them would be better than limiting the list.

SHAW: Yeah.

VALDES: I would like to see all of them. I know we are not authorizing them. But that is a public school option, so I would like to communicate all of them. Open discussion you guys.

BARKE: Yeah. No.

VALDES: I mean, just chime in whenever you want.

BARKE: I think the more information we can provide, the better. Because they won't understand.

SPARKS: Yeah.

BARKE: That there is more than we authorize.

SPARKS: Yeah. They don't know.

BOYD: All I'm saying is it is not all found in one place. In terms of trying to link it—

SPARKS: Well, let's either have two links, or let's have a new link with all of them in one place.

BOYD: You want to add all of the charters that exist in Orange County on your website? If we add those to your, and then we just have those that are approved by the Board, and then other charters that are, then that is still going to the link.

SPARKS: Yeah.

BOYD: We would be potentially—

BARKE: Yeah.

SPARKS: I have no problem with that.

BARKE: Yeah, that is good.

BOYD: Okay.

BARKE: Charters under the Board, other charters available in Orange County.

SPARKS: Yeah.

SHAW: You will just make it clear on the page.

SPARKS: Yeah.

SHAW: Which district has chartered that, I assume. Well, what? When you go to the charter school page, you will have the ones that we have chartered.

BOYD: Let me work with Media.

SHAW: Is that—?

BOYD: And we will come up with what is doable.

SHAW: Okay.

BOYD: Because again, I don't know. I mean, I'm taking the information. How much space there is, that is the only concern in terms of how to do that. I think it is doable to certainly add the other charters. I know how we have posted that on your webpage already. Then, we do have the other charter schools that have been authorized in the county in our Charter Schools Unit. We will be able to get that. I'm just not sure if it is mapped to who approved them, so that would just take some additional time. We will check that out.

VALDES: I would like to see the language in the interdistrict transfer box to be a little bit more direct to a parent. You have the option of requesting an interdistrict transfer to a different school, something that is more direct towards, like a notice to a parent. You have the option, under the charter school heading, you have the option to send your child to a charter school of your choice, subject to a lottery, or whatever language is appropriate. I mean this is really a good start. I would just want to direct it right to the reader. The language should be directed towards the reader.

For the intradistrict, again, sorry for just chiming in. I'm just sort of thinking out loud here. You have the right to request an intradistrict transfer. For that, you will need to look at your school district's board policies, something like that.

SHAW: Now, there is a page already on the Department's website that lists all the charter schools and who authorized them.

SPARKS: Yeah, that is what I thought.

BOYD: Yeah.

SHAW: Not just us. That that is not on the Board's page. That is on the Departments.

BOYD: Right.

BOYD: That is where I think we could just take that information—

SHAW: Yeah.

BOYD: —and add to the Boards also.

SHAW: Terrific. Well, I think that is, like Jorge said, we are off to a great start with this. This is going to be really, really nice to have and informative. Thank you for doing that.

VALDES: Can we keep this as an agenda item for next month so that hopefully we can see the finished product?

SHAW: Bring it back.

SPARKS: Yeah, let's do it.

SHAW: Thank you.

SPARKS: Do you like the color scheme?

VALDES: Yeah, I'm fine with it.

SPARKS: Okay.

VALDES: Do you want to change it?

SPARKS: It is just a little dark. Don't we want something a little more light?

SHAW: Don't ask a guy to pick colors. I learned that at a wedding.

VALDES: Too dark?

SPARKS: I just think—

VALDES: What would you guys want to see?

SPARKS: More vibrant.

BOYD: It would stand out though.

SPARKS: Like yellows.

BOYD: Because most of the papers are white.

BARKE: I'm thinking yellow.

VALDES: Yellow?

BARKE: I'm thinking yellow.

SPARKS: Yellow.

BARKE: I love pink. But not everybody does, so I will go with the yellow.

SPARKS: Red, yellows. I don't know, blues and yellows. Blues and yellows are kind of nice.

BARKE: Yeah, I think yellow pops.

SPARKS: Yellow pop. We want some pop in there.

BARKE: But I do like yellow and blue.

BOYD: This is supposed to be a board conversation.

SHAW: All right, we have completely lost control in here.

SPARKS: Okay. Sorry.

SHAW: Thank you.

SPARKS: Color schemes.

SHAW: Let's proceed to announcements from the Superintendent. Deputy Superintendent?

BOYD: Yes. Just as a reminder, special board meeting on September 20. You all approved this evening for it to start at 5:30 PM. We will talk details in terms of setup. Your next regularly scheduled board meeting would be October 4 at 5 o'clock. Submission deadline is the same day as your special board meeting on September 20. I want to make sure I bring that to your attention. Also in your red folder, because the Board has had a couple of opportunities where they have invited individuals and we have tried to figure out ways to communicate the Department's policy related to travel reimbursements and so forth. We developed a one-page document that we think will be easier in terms of you all communicating with individuals that are

traveling on behalf of the Board and have been approved. I just wanted to make sure. We had sent this to the Executive Committee, but we wanted the full board to have the information. I just wanted to draw your attention to that. It follows the same policy that we utilize for staff here at the Department, as well as when the Board is traveling. We were able to put it in a document that would make it easy if we need to send something to someone so that they can get reimbursed.

SPARKS: That is great. I appreciate that.

BOYD: I think that is all I have for you. There is a calendar of events, I'm sorry, also, in your folder just reminding you of dates for the Orange County School Board's Association meetings this year. President Shaw was on a board of director's Zoom meeting the other evening this week. But in terms of, they have several seminars scheduled, which typically are legislative updates a couple of times a year; then, the joint dinner meetings with Administrators Association scheduled twice this year. They will be coming out shortly with their speaker for the October date and then they will be lining up someone for the March date as well. We will get that information communicated to you like we normally do, in terms of who is able to make those dinner meetings.

SHAW: Terrific. Okay. Next we have legislative updates. Does anyone have any comments there? Seeing none, we will go to committee reports. Anyone have a committee report? You have one more comment? Okay. We will go to board member comments. I think I started on my right last time. Trustee Barke, any board member comments?

BARKE: I don't have any comments this evening other than to thank our wonderful audience for spending their evening with us.

SHAW: Terrific. Dr. Williams?

BARKE: And our staff as well.

WILLIAMS: Yes. Nina, I have received a few comments that the people who are watching on YouTube video, our meeting, would like to see the speakers. Is there any way that we could get a video on them when they are speaking?

BOYD: We will talk with Media about moving cameras, see what we can do to pick that up.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

BOYD: Since we have moved the podium, we want to make sure—thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you. That is all.

SHAW: Terrific. Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: I just want to say this month I had a really good meeting with multiple LGBTQ groups here. Trustee Shaw was with me. As I recall, it was August 22. I thought the meeting was

very cordial. It was very warm on both sides. I thought Mr. Shaw and I were greeted very well by all the groups. I felt that there was a lot more common ground there than there was opposition to anything Trustee Shaw or I have done on the dias. We definitely agreed on the issues of anti-bullying. I think we definitely agreed on the issue of not wanting to out a student who is privately seeking counseling. They were not able to convince Trustee Shaw and myself to rescind our endorsement of Bill Essaylis' bill. But I thought overall it was a good meeting. I welcome another one, should they ask for another one. I don't know, Tim, whatever you want to say about it. But I thought it was a very warm and good meeting.

SHAW: I agree with you. I grew in my appreciation for the perspective they are bringing. I hope they gained an appreciation for my perspective as well, which is what happens when you have a friendly conversation with one another. You may not agree on everything, but at least you can understand. I feel when we have heated debates sometimes, and it is when you start attacking the motives of the person you might be disagreeing with that it gets really unfortunate. Because I don't think most people are motivated by an insincere belief. I think, like in that conversation, we were all trying to think about what is the best way to serve the LGBTQ youth of the county. We just might approach it differently, but I think everyone is well intentioned. That was part of that conversation, so that would be my comment. But it was a warm and engaging conversation for sure.

SPARKS: Just adding to that, I would just put out a reminder to that point. The purpose of the Savvy Safety in Public Schools Forum is to shed light on major risks, signs, symptoms for all of our students and families in terms of fentanyl exposure, use, potential abuse, signs and symptoms of sexual assault in schools and outside of schools for school-aged children, human trafficking, potential trafficking rings in our community, and understanding what those look like or potentially look like, increased understanding of potential surveillance, social media and cyber safety measures in an effort to better inform parents on what to look for, and what to potentially adopt in their own homes and school settings. Tell everyone you know. Please spread the word.

We are going to have a flyer soon. We are going to have a link to the website very soon with this information about the Savvy Safety in Public Schools Forum on September 20, which is, I believe a Wednesday if I'm not mistaken, Wednesday, September 20. We will be here at 5:30. It will start at 5:30. Before that we intend to have some press. We are going to send out a press release, from 5:30 to 7:30, then we will have 30 minutes for public comment for anyone who would like to provide public comment related to the issues of the forum. Hopefully it is going to be very informative. Please help spread the word. We want to get as many community members, parents, students, teachers here as possible. Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you, Lisa. My comment, I wanted to bring this forward. I have a friend on the Capistrano Unified Board, Lisa Davis. She sent me a link to some survey apparently that is being sent out to the students in Capistrano Unified. I'm just trying to figure this out. It is called PBIS Assessment. You get this link, and it asks you a series of questions. What is your gender or gender identity? Female, male, non-binary, transgender or other, or I prefer not to answer. Then the next, which of the following best describes you? Heterosexual, gay or lesbian, bisexual, I prefer not to answer. What is your ethnicity? What is your race? It goes down like this. Do you

have an IEP? What grade are you in? Sixth grade through 12th. Our parents are saying, why are you asking my sixth grader if they are gay?

At the bottom of this I see, it says the University of Oregon on it. But according to Lisa, the Capistrano District is not sending this out. Of course, we all know how the internet works. It is the Orange County Department of Education that is asking this question. According to Dr. Boyd, that is not the case. I know people aren't saying somehow that the county is sending the survey around. I don't know who is doing this and what they are doing with the answers they get. But this is sort of the weird stuff that—

VALDES: Are they making it look like it is a school district sending it out?

SHAW: Yes. Educational and Community Supports is at the bottom here, University of Oregon College of Education.

SPARKS: Maybe it is a research grant and they are doing research. There is a research project that is funded through the Department of Ed at the University of Oregon, and they are blasting it out to whatever school districts will send it out.

SHAW: So I just wanted to—

BARKE: Do you know where it is going, where it is going back to?

SPARKS: Probably back to the University of Oregon, to the researchers.

SHAW: Probably to the University of Oregon. But the internet is a blaze with the idea that it is the County Department of Education doing this survey.

BOYD: We have gone on record that that did not come from our team out to students, parents.

SPARKS: Yeah. It sounds like it is a research grant that is funded potentially by the Department of Ed, or foundation, or something, through the University of Oregon Department of Education, some professors/researchers there. They are blasting it out to school districts. Whatever school districts decide to send it out to their students, that is how that usually works.

WILLIAMS: Question. Do we know the emails of each one of our students in our ACCESS programs?

BOYD: If they have provided an email.

WILLIAMS: If they provided it.

BOYD: Yes.

WILLIAMS: But how many would you say have provided an email?

BOYD: Vern, do you want to go to the podium, please?

WILLIAMS: I find this fascinating, this information.

BOYD: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: How are kids without parental notice and consent getting these surveys, which are illegal, as I understand it, to the Education Codes?

BURTON: To answer your question, it is not something we ask for from students. We have ways to communicate with them, school-based ways. We don't ask for an email. We may ask for a parent's email as a way of communicating with them if the student doesn't show up. But it is not a regularly asked question. But offhand, I don't know. Just thinking, top of my head, I would say maybe 5% we would have. But again, that may be in lieu of, the parent may not have an email, so the student will provide an email that the parent has access to. But it is not something we would actively pursue.

WILLIAMS: Right. Because, Vern, tell me if I'm wrong. I think I'm right. The Education Code is clear in that the surveys have to be approved by the parents. Correct?

BURTON: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: Right.

BURTON: There is always an option for the parents to opt out of the survey.

WILLIAMS: To opt out.

BURTON: They would get it, and then they can opt out.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Interesting situation. Wow.

SPARKS: That should be the case. I mean with the institutional review boards, the approval processes that you have to go through, that should be the case. The people who are getting that survey have opted in. The parents should be getting something to have a link to be able to do that. But that should be investigated, I think.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

SHAW: Okay.

WILLIAMS: That is important, Nina. Thank you for saying it is not from us.

VALDES: It sounds like a class action.

SHAW: All right.

SPARKS: Thank you.

SHAW: Well, that was it for our board member comments. We did receive a—

SPARKS: Yes. We have one, I think, final public comment, Stephen McNally.

SHAW: Two Stephens.

SPARKS: Maybe he is the one that was missing in the beginning.

BOYD: Oh, the one from earlier. There was one from earlier. Right.

SPARKS: Okay. Go ahead, sir.

SHAW: Go ahead, Stephen.

STEPHEN: Two minutes? Three minutes?

SPARKS: Two minutes.

STEPHEN M.: Okay. Hi, my name is Stephen McNally. I live in Costa Mesa. That would be the Newport-Mesa District. I am on an Orange County Behavioral Health Advisory board. I originally came to hear the information about Red Ribbon Week, because September is recovery and suicide prevention. Then I saw that you did have a fentanyl resolution back in December. I just want to let you know there is lots of Narcan in the county being distributed and given away for free. A lot of school districts aren't asking for it, even though they can get it. CalOptima has purchased 250,000 doses of clocks, the eight milligram version, which they will be giving out.

As I listened to everyone tonight, I was amazed at, I don't know where the clock is here. Denial works as a coping strategy until it doesn't. Your kids don't wake up and all of a sudden something is wrong. What I did like about what you were talking about, going into the schools, was teaching families how easy it is to control their destiny at public meetings and educating them because families don't know they are not healthy until it is too late. It is very easy. If you do figure out how to distribute through all the schools, I would love to note about that. Also, if the superintendents ever meet as a group publicly when the public can meet with them, that would be helpful. Because everything is sort of done bureaucracy to bureaucracy in our county.

It is not an easy county to work in relative to other counties in the state. I visit other county meetings. If you have any interest in behavioral health, mental health, substance use disorder, I will give someone my card. I will finish up, it is completely citizen board with one supervisor. It is different than most county boards, which are staff, funders, providers, all together.

SPARKS: Thank you. We have the other Stephen, who, I think maybe you walked out of the room when we called your name last time. Go ahead.

STEPHEN: I don't think so, but I came a little late.

SPARKS: We called your name, but we didn't see you.

STEPHEN: I'm like number 22, so I'm probably at the end of the list.

SPARKS: Oh, okay.

STEPHEN: It is okay. Real quick. I came to talk about the budget, actually. I came once before to talk about the budget. Then we got on some other subject and ended up talking about that. You manage, or you oversee, or you approve, a \$340 million budget. Right? I think Renee does an admirable job, but I don't know how you understood the changes she was talking about just now. It seems to me we spent more time on 1146 than we did talking about the budget in June. I'm concerned. There was an article in the *Wall Street Journal* today, and I know Trustee Barke reads the *Wall Street Journal*, about the government trying to put internet services in rural areas. They have something like \$60 billion that they can spend on it. It is incredible the difference in what they are spending in some areas versus others. Differences like, average of \$13,000 in some areas and \$1,700 in other areas.

Anyway, when the *Wall Street Journal* puts your name, or your business, or your government business, on its cover, on the front page, you know you are in trouble because everybody is going to start asking a lot of questions. It got me thinking about the budget and how much time you spend asking questions about how that money is spent. The services provided to the school districts, are they good/bad? What is the service level? What is the cost? Could an outside service provide better service in payroll processing than you can provide here at the county? Those are questions, I think in managing a \$340 million budget, you should be asking to see how good a job they are doing and how they can improve. Budgets are about doing, not just money, about doing.

Second comment, 1146. Really? Really? There are no successful communist countries in the world and never have been. Communism simply doesn't work. Free market, capitalism works. You don't need to be worried about China. China right now is suffering. She is trying to control the economy, and they are suffering. They are either staying the same or going backwards. Lastly, this issue right now—

SPARKS: Thank you.

STEPHEN: About the survey.

SPARKS: Your time is up. Thank you.

STEPHEN: About the survey.

SPARKS: Thank you.

STEPHEN: Why don't we just call the University of Oregon and find out what is going on?

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

STEPHEN: Thank you.

SHAW: Well, thank you for those comments and for everyone's participation. With that, I think we will stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

SPARKS: September 20.

BOYD: September 20.

SHAW: Sorry.

SPARKS: September 20.

SHAW: I started reading this.

SPARKS: 5:30.

SHAW: September 20 at our special meeting. We will see you then.