

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

SHAW: Good afternoon. I would like to call the order the meeting of the Orange County Board of Education. Let the record show it is 3:40 PM. Vice President Lisa Sparks and Trustee Mari Barke are out of town. Actually, trustee Barke will not be joining us for the beginning of the meeting with the inter district transfer that we'll be hearing, but Vice President Sparks is joining us from the fine and wonderful country of Italy. So welcome. Darou will you please call roll?

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Present.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Here.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Here.

SISAVATH: And Trustee Barke's absent?

SHAW: Yes.

SHAW: Okay. The agenda. Adopt the regular meeting of July 3rd, 2024.

WILLIAMS: I'll make the motion.

VALDES: Second.

SHAW: We'll call by roll. Go ahead Darou.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Aye.

SHAW: Passes four to zero. The minutes from the regular meeting of June 5th, 2024.

WILLIAMS: Make motion.

VALDES: Second.

SHAW: Moved and seconded. Darou please call roll.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SHAW: Passes four to zero. Are there any public comments related to closed session? Seeing none, the board will go into closed session to conduct a student appeal hearing followed by closed session items. We will now go to a closed session for Inter-District Appeal hearing.

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

SHAW: Hello everybody. We want to get started again. Apologize for our late start. We were having technical difficulties. We have two trustees out of town and we were trying to get them participating and technology was not helpful. Forgive us for our late start, but we will now come back into open session. We're going to be led this evening in an invocation by Pastor Gale Oliver.

GALE: All right, greetings, and let's give God a good hand clap of praise real quick. Let's show some gratitude. Amen. I'm just a little bit excited, so forgive me. Father, we come before you to say thank you for your love, your mercy and your grace. We thank you God almighty for being our father. We thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins was buried and rose in third day. We thank you for calling us out of the darkness into your marvelous light. We thank you Lord God for giving us traveling grace tonight, Lord God, allowing us to make here safely. Oh, heavenly Father, we thank you Lord for my goodness. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, thank you, thank you Lord. We thank you for the trustees. Oh, heavenly Father, brother Valdes, sister Sparks, sister Barke, brother Williams, brother Shaw and brother Stefan Bean. We thank you Lord God for the team. Thank you. Father, you're good. We thank you for hearing our prayers and answering our prayers according to your will. We pray now that you'll pour out your spirit in a mighty and a powerful way. Lord God, we pray that you'll bless us in a mighty and a powerful way that you'll order our steps, direct our steps and we thank you Father. We pray for an evangelism explosion, Lord God, a revival greater than the Azusa revival. We pray for every parent, every teacher, every child or heavenly Father. We pray especially for the children, Lord God and thank you Father for this board and the superintendent who are protecting the children oh heavenly Father, thank you Father for Orange County, what you're doing right here in Orange County and Father, we know because you are present. There's going to be a Holy Ghost party and ain't no party like a Holy Ghost party because the Holy Ghost party don't stop in the name of Jesus. Let all the God show the same. Amen.

SHAW: An impossible act to follow. I want to call on one of my dear friends, a trustee from the La Habra City School District, Dr. Susan Pritchard, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUSAN: Please stand and put your right hand over your heart. Ready begin. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

SHAW: Thank you Dr. P. Item two this evening, A special presentation for Dr. Al Mijares. We have a few things here. Item one for him is a declaration from Congressman Lou Correa and I think we have that queued up.

LOU: Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of my very good friend retiring Orange County Superintendent, Dr. Al Mijares. Dr. Mijares was first appointed as Orange County Superintendent of Schools in 2012 and before that he was Santa Ana Unified school district's Superintendent. Al is a man that truly cares about our children and their wellbeing. Dr. Mijares has a vision to assure that each one of our children is prepared to succeed in life. Dr. Mijares, thank you for your friendship and thank you for caring. Thank you for lifelong career of caring for our children in our public school system. We as a community are praying for your recovery. We love you sir. Madam speaker, I yield.

SHAW: Congresswoman Young, excuse me. No, this was Congresswoman Michelle Steel also introduced into the congressional record a statement about Dr. Mijares and we're going to have the official congressional record where it talks about him and this will all be delivered to Dr. Mijares as well. Thank you to Congresswoman Michelle Steel. And a special surprise, I don't know what this is. I think we have another tape ready to go for Dr. Mijares.

AL: My vision is for Orange County to lead the nation in college and career readiness because the lives of our students and the future of our country depend on it. I think these are very exciting times in education and I feel very energized as an educator, as a leader, as one who is working with so many outstanding men and women in this county who care about education, but we're also driven by the notion that we must be thinking about all of the students in the county and helping our districts. When it comes to naming a person, who has made the greatest contribution to your life, next to perhaps a parent or a sibling, a spouse, a close friend, it is often a teacher and this occurs universally. It isn't just here in America. Teachers as I mentioned, tonight is your night and we will extol and honor you for the contributions that you have made in our lives and the lives of our children.

In its most simplest terms, it gets back to how do we best help our students? That's the only thing that matters. It should not be an adult centric world. It should be a student-centered world so that everything we do is intended to help the individual student in that classroom. Kindness is the bedrock of character and character is so essential in the school setting. 1 billion acts of kindness. Why not? People think it's an enormous number and it is and it seems for some to be impossible, but I think it's very doable. It has the capacity to transform our society.

Education and the schoolhouse is nothing less than a lighthouse, so much more than that, but it is imperative in our community and our society today that our education system be fortified, be strong.

We're standing here on this soil and soon there will be a monument here to pay tribute to the Mendez family and not only to the Mendez family, but to four other families that fought with Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez. And we intend to connect the monument itself to learning, teaching and learning so the instructional process will be enriched. Set the bar as high as you can and then put the right kind of mechanism in place to accomplish this vision and it can be done. I'm not saying it's going to be easy, it's going to require a lot of labor, a lot of effort. We have to persevere, but you know what? All of that stuff pays off and I think we can get to the point where when people are sitting around just having ordinary conversation and it gets to the matter of education, bing, the light bulb goes on and they think Orange County.

We're going to double down on learning strategies and support that we know are good for students. We're going to celebrate our successes and meet new challenges head on with courage, conviction, and compassion. And we're going to continue to

find passion and purpose in the work we do in service of students. I say all of this with confidence that comes from knowing. We've assembled the greatest team of educators and support staff I've ever had the privilege of working with and I believe the best is yet to come for OCDE. Once again, thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our vision, mission, and values. There will always be new challenges awaiting us. The goal is to not let those challenges drag us down or impact how we treat others where we can't control everything that happens in life, but we can stay true to ourselves and choose to be kind. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "be the change that you wish to see in the world. The future starts with you and it starts now."

SHAW: All right, our best wishes to Dr. Mijares and his retirement. Renee, do we have any introductions this evening?

HENDRICK: We have none at this meeting.

SHAW: Okay, let's proceed then to the oath of office. We'll start with Dr. Stefan Bean to be sworn in as the Orange County Superintendent of schools by Mr. Donald Geisinger. Geisinger. Sorry, Geisinger, sorry.

DONALD: Before I get to the oath of office, since I have the stage here, I'm going to say a few things about Stefan and his family because the three most important things to Stefan are God, his family and quality education. That's always been the most important things to him. I've been a friend of Stefan for 43 years. When he first walked into my sixth grade classroom, he has met every challenge that he's ever faced with great courage. My wife was a special needs teacher at the school where I was teaching and so she worked with him with learning his English and I worked with him to learn everything else. He was a joy to have and an inspiration. The kids in the sixth grade classroom, they loved him. He was a president of the class. He would show up in the morning and our classroom was on the second floor. A whole flight of concrete steps. The guys in the classroom took turns, they would wait for him to come and then two of them would grab his chair and they would carry him up the stairs. We went to sixth grade camp Pine Valley and we went to old mine. We went over hills and boulders and you name it, and he went everywhere that we went. Where the wheelchair wouldn't make it they carried the wheelchair and I have seen him grow as a man. I've always seen the courage, but I have seen the integrity that he brings to the office of superintendent of schools. And as I watched the video of the previous superintendent caring about the kids, Stefan does.

And he cares about the parents and he has a heart's desire to see that the parents have primary responsibility for the education of their children. Parents should have a choice. Public school, charter school, private school, whatever school is best for their children and that is the same thing that Stefan feels about it as well. I'm going to quit talking now, but I want God to talk for a moment and so I'm going to share some scriptures with you and especially with Stefan. These are words from a man who came from a large family like you did. There were 12 kids in the Bean family.

This Bean family only has four, but this man had a big family and he also had a big job. He was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. His name is James. He's a brother of Jesus and these are some words of wisdom from James.

James Chapter four, verse 10, "humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up." James three 17," The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all, pure then peace, loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." James two 18, "someone will say, you have faith, I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by my deeds." He has done that for 24 years in education as a teacher, as a principal, as a superintendent, whatever role he took on as a father in the home as well. He showed his faith by his deeds, his loving care of his wife, Janet and of his four beautiful children. Stefan and Janet, when they named their children, they were very specific about the names they gave them. Sophia means wisdom. Amelia means industrious and hardworking. Samuel means God has heard. I can relate to that because my parents before I was born, they weren't sure they could have children and so they prayed Hannah's prayer, Samuel's mother and God gave Hannah a child, Samuel. God heard her prayer. And then Gabriela, God is my strength. As I was reading through the biography of Stefan and the words that he had to say about his family, he said that his family motto is in God we trust.

And that's why I wanted to read scripture because we can trust God. These words of James, the brother of Jesus are inspired words and so take them to heart. Now we finally get to the reason we came here. All right, Stefan, repeat after me. I, Stefan Bean.

BEAN: I Stefan Bean,

DONALD: Do solemnly swear,

BEAN: Do solemnly swear,

DONALD: That I will support and defend,

BEAN: That I will support and defend,

DONALD: The Constitution of the United States,

BEAN: The Constitution of the United States,

DONALD: And the Constitution,

BEAN: And the Constitution,

DONALD: Of the state of California,

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

BEAN: Of the state of California,
DONALD: Against all enemies,
BEAN: Against all enemies,
DONALD: Foreign and domestic,
BEAN: Foreign and domestic,
DONALD: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,
BEAN: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,
DONALD: To the Constitution of the United States,
BEAN: To the Constitution of the United States,
DONALD: And the Constitution of California,
BEAN: And the Constitution of California,
DONALD: That I take this obligation freely,
BEAN: That I take this obligation freely,
DONALD: Without any mental reservation,
BEAN: Without any mental reservation,
DONALD: Or purpose of evasion,
BEAN: Or purpose of evasion,
DONALD: And I will well and faithfully,
BEAN: And I will well and faithfully,
DONALD: Discharge the duties,
BEAN: Discharge the duties,
DONALD: Upon which I am about to enter,
BEAN: Upon which I'm about to enter,

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

DONALD: Amen.

BEAN: Amen. Thank You. Thank you, brother.

SHAW: All right, well congratulations. We'll move on to the oath of office to be administered to trustee Jorge Valdes representing the first area we have with us to do that. The wonderful mayor of the city of Tustin, Mayor Austin Lombard.

AUSTIN: Just in case I mess it up. That's probably a good idea. Jorge, on behalf of the city that you live in, the city that I'm the mayor of, city of Tustin, we're very proud of you for your accomplishments obviously being appointed to the board and now elected and we wish you the best of luck. I can't preach like Gale and I'm not your sixth grade teacher, so we're just going to get down to it. You need to raise your right hand, sir. I Jorge Valdes.

VALDES: I Jorge Valdes,

AUSTIN: Do solemnly swear,

VALDES: Do solemnly swear,

AUSTIN: That I will support and defend,

VALDES: That I will support and defend,

AUSTIN: The Constitution of the United States,

VALDES: The Constitution of the United States,

AUSTIN: And the Constitution of the state of California,

VALDES: And the Constitution of the state of California,

AUSTIN: Against all enemies,

VALDES: Against all enemies,

AUSTIN: Foreign and domestic,

VALDES: Foreign and domestic,

AUSTIN: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,

VALDES: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,

AUSTIN: To the Constitution of the United States,

VALDES: To the Constitution of the United States,

AUSTIN: And the Constitution of California,

VALDES: And the Constitution of California,

AUSTIN: That I take this obligation freely,

VALDES: That I take this obligation freely,

AUSTIN: Without any mental reservation,

VALDES: Without any mental reservation,

AUSTIN: Or purpose of evasion,

VALDES: Or purpose of evasion,

AUSTIN: And I will well and faithfully,

VALDES: And I will well and faithfully,

AUSTIN: Discharge the duties,

VALDES: Discharge the duties,

AUSTIN: Upon which I'm about to enter,

VALDES: Upon which I am about to enter,

AUSTIN: So help me God.

VALDES: So help me God.

AUSTIN: Congratulations.

VALDES: Before I take a picture with my beautiful family, I just wanted to tell all of you that it has been a distinct honor in my life to represent the citizens of Orange County over the last two years. Every vote, every consideration I have has been and always will be putting parents and children first. And I promise sincerely to all of the people in this room and anyone watching on YouTube that I will do that for the next four years.

SHAW: Wonderful. We'll proceed to the administration of office for Dr. Ken Williams of the third District. The oath will be read by former state senator, the one and only Gloria Romero.

GLORIA: Thank you so much and congratulations as well to all of you and especially our beloved Dr. Bean. So thank you. If I can just say a few words as well, I just want us to think for a moment about this very special day during this week and the big celebration that we will have as an American people tomorrow. I mean values of independence, of liberty, of freedom. And Dr. Williams, for all the years that I have known him, he embodies the spirit of the founding of our nation. He understands that schools the access to education, it's not only the key to the American dream, but it's basically the foundation, the rock upon which a great republic can operate and be defended by all of us. He knows what it means for an American society to have pillars of education that stand for great education, equality and really justice for all.

And I have witnessed him and this wonderful board that you hear about in the news every once in a while that has long had the courage to precisely cherish these values, to stand up for liberty, whether it's for the employees and staff, to stand up for into parents, especially for parents in independence, choosing the school of their choice and really freedom to have true exchange of ideas and really to cherish that even when we may disagree, it's important to have the conversation and to move forward. Dr. Williams, for standing up for our kids, our parents, our families, our nation's state. I want to thank you and it is my honor to stand with you today. Let's swear you in. I Dr. Williams, do solemnly swear,

WILLIAMS: I Dr. Ken Williams, do solemnly swear,

GLORIA: That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States,

WILLIAMS: That will support and defend the Constitution of the United States,

GLORIA: And the Constitution of the state of California,

WILLIAMS: And the Constitution of the state of California,

GLORIA: Against all enemies foreign and domestic,

WILLIAMS: Against all enemies foreign and domestic,

GLORIA: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,

WILLIAMS: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,

GLORIA: To the Constitution of the United States,

WILLIAMS: To the Constitution of the United States,

GLORIA: And the Constitution of California,

WILLIAMS: And the Constitution of California,

GLORIA: That I take this obligation freely,

WILLIAMS: That I take this obligation freely,

GLORIA: Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion,

WILLIAMS: Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion,

GLORIA: And I will well and faithfully discharge the duties,

WILLIAMS: And that will well and faithfully discharge the duties,

GLORIA: Upon which I am about to enter,

WILLIAMS: Upon, which I'm about to enter,

GLORIA: Congratulations and give them hell.

WILLIAMS: Thank you Gloria. And this is truly, she is an inspiration to me. I can't call you my mother, that would be an insult, but I will.

GLORIA: Grandma's, okay.

WILLIAMS: No, we are those who share the values of this community and the parents and children that we want to protect. And thank you so much for being here. For some of those who you may not know, my wife stays home with our son 24/7, so she's not able to be here. My older kids, they all live out of the state of California. So it's just me, myself, my crew up here and every single one of you that walk and I can look out there and see many of my friends out there. Thank you because you are my extended family and you're the ones who supported us and defended the values upon which we stand. Thank you so much for being here this evening and thank you, Gloria.

GLORIA: Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you Senator Romero. It's an honor to have you. Next up, yours truly will be sworn in by a trustee from the Lowell Joint School District. My mom, Karen Shaw.

SHAW: All right here. I assume we're supposed to be here. Okay.

KAREN: Until just a minute ago, I didn't know I was supposed to make a speech. I did look up what Timothy meant and it means honoring God and he wears that name very well as well as his beautiful family. And it's an honor for me to be his mom. And just a couple days ago, my daughter and I were watching old videos of, well my fifth child was, I had to be induced in labor with him so I could get to his graduation from high school. Okay? He's been working with children since he was 18 years old and he's

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

always had a really special way with kids. As you can see, he favors boys on this side. We love our girls too though. So I'm honored to be here and I'm honored to execute this oath. I, Tim Shaw do solemnly swear,

SHAW: I Tim Shaw do solemnly swear,

KAREN: That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States,

SHAW: That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States,

KAREN: And the Constitution of the state of California,

SHAW: And the Constitution of the state of California,

KAREN: Against all enemies foreign and domestic,

SHAW: Against all enemies foreign and domestic,

KAREN: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,

SHAW: That I will bear true faith and allegiance,

KAREN: To the Constitution of the United States,

SHAW: To the Constitution of the United States,

KAREN: And the Constitution of California,

SHAW: And the Constitution of the state of California,

KAREN: That I take this obligation freely,

SHAW: That I take this obligation freely,

KAREN: Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion,

SHAW: Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion,

KAREN: And I will well and faithfully discharge the duties,

SHAW: And that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties,

KAREN: Upon which I'm about to enter,

SHAW: Upon, which I'm about to enter,

KAREN: So help me God.

SHAW: So help me God.

SHAW: I realized I've been sworn into a few things over the years. I was on the city council in La Habra for a while and Orange County Transportation Authority Board and some other things, and I realized there's an elected official out there that's never sworn me into any of these offices that actually gave birth to me. I better not forget her in this mix. I've been very proud of my mom getting elected to the school board where our kids are attending. That's been a lot of fun. I wanted to acknowledge my sister for some reason didn't want to come up here. Catherine, she was taping. All right, this one you might've guessed. This one's my wife right here. That's Shannon. We got Luke, Matthew, Wes, Jason, Wyatt, Lincoln. We were going to have a baby girl named Reagan. Only, there was no baby girl. Last but not least at least we got Lincoln. We had a fight every time about the name. So yeah. Why don't you come over here?

Well, thank you. They look good in mail pieces to voters too, so it's kind of fun and I can't even tell you how happy I was a few years ago when they doubled the child tax credit. That was a very welcome piece of news in the Shaw house. Our next item, before I get to that, I wanted to pause real quick as I'm ending this year of being the president of the board and I wanted to say thank you to a few people my, are they still up there? Yeah, Vice President Lisa Sparks. She and I have been on the executive committee now two years together, and Lisa's just a wonderful trustee, a wonderful, wonderful partner to have on the executive committee and on this board and I just love her to death. Thank you to Lisa. Mari Barke out of town for the birth of a granddaughter, and so we send our best wishes to Mari and her family. She's just the kindest, most wonderful person I practically know on the face of the earth. Love having you, Mari, and look forward to your return.

BARKE: Thank you. That's very kind.

SHAW: I wanted to congratulate Jorge. Jorge had gotten himself, of course appointed to the board and then there was, well, is he going to be able to get elected? Getting appointed is one thing. Can he get elected? And I would tell people, you have no idea. He is out there knocking doors, he's visiting schools, he's working it. And boy, any skeptic you might've had out there, Jorge, you put them to rest with a very impressive election and we're just proud to have you on our board.

VALDES: Thank you,

SHAW: Dr. Williams. This will be your seventh term, is that right? Seventh or eighth? Eighth. Okay. So I'm a baseball fan. Yeah, As a baseball fan, I'm aware of the fact that Nolan Ryan is the all-time leader in strikeouts and it's a record that they say will never be broke because nowadays starting pitchers only go like five or six innings when they're out. But Nolan Ryan's there, the starting pitcher win all nine innings

and so he could rack up these strikeouts. I want to compare Ken Williams to Nolan Ryan, he's going to be the guy a thousand years from now. Someone's going to be doing research into Orange County history. And wow, look at this guy who's served on the Orange County Board. I mean he was just the Nolan Ryan of being on the board of education. He'll be the record holder when you get to know him, you realize he has more energy and passion for this job than you can possibly imagine. I think he's going to go at least another 28 years on this board. And the voters love him and we love him. So Ken, great to have you back and to Dr. Bean. I now, I guess it's been three full days. Three days.

BEAN: Seems like three years.

SHAW: You've probably been drinking out of the fire hose as they say of the last three days trying to figure everything out. But we're just thrilled to have you. I honestly feel like your life story is probably one of the most incredible life stories I've ever heard and talk about. Life's unfair and it's certainly been unfair to Dr. Stefan Bean, but at every turn overcome the challenge and doing a great job for us. We're thrilled to have you.

And just for me, I wanted to thank the voters of the fourth district who were kind enough to vote me back in as a trustee. I've enjoyed my time on the board and I enjoy apparently elections so often. I get to go even more often at 2020, 2022, 2024, and I am knocking on doors and it's like, didn't I just vote for you? But I'm just having fun up here. Thank you to the voters and of course my family is always so supportive when I'm off at board meetings and doing things like this. Shannon's holding down the fort and I really appreciate how hard she works for our family. With that, I will move on to item number seven, the election of officers for 2024 to 2025. Nominations are open and I will like to go ahead actually and nominate Dr. Ken Williams to be the president for this term.

VALDES: I second.

SHAW: Are there any other nominations? Okay, seeing none, Darou, will you please call roll.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: I will abstain.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

SHAW: Congratulations.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

SHAW: I think, okay, I'll finish this one off and now the nominations for vice president of the board, nominations are open.

WILLIAMS: I'd like to nominate Mari Barke.

SHAW: Wonderful. Any other nominations? Hearing none. Darou, please call the roll. He nominated Mari Barke.

SISAVATH: Are you going to second?

SHAW: Second. Oh, I'll second that. Sorry.

SISAVATH: Okay. Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

SHAW: All right. Congratulations. If you want to take a break, I think some of you might want to leave, so why don't we take a few minutes break and those who just want to scoot on out will be able to do that.

WILLIAMS: Yeah, we can do the clerk.

SHAW: Thank you all for coming. Oh, did we?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, we do with the clerk.

SHAW: I'm sorry I missed the election for the clerk. Nominations are now open for the position of clerk.

WILLIAMS: I'd like to nominate Trustee Valdes.

SHAW: I will second. Darou, please call the roll.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

SHAW: Great, thank you. We'll come back in about 15 minutes.

[The Orange County Board of Education takes a break and returns.]

WILLIAMS: Okay. We appreciate you being here. If you want to be here, give public comments, please stay. However, we need to conduct our business. We do appreciate if you take your seats and we're going to begin. We're going to move on to item

HENDRICK: Ken

WILLIAMS: Actually, we have public comments. Dr. Bean? Yes. Okay, no problem. How many public comments do we have?

SHAW: 12.

WILLIAMS: We have 12. Two minutes each.

SISAVATH: Okay, wait, let me program.

WILLIAMS: Okay, so under public comments, we're going to be giving two minutes for each speech. Tim will go ahead and give our directions. He'll be calling a name and then somebody who will be on deck, he'll also give that name. We will be using the podium that's out there and you have two minutes and we have Darou who will be monitoring that. You'll see a green light and the green light when you have about 30 seconds left, we'll turn the yellow and then at the red we like you to sort of finish up your sentence and we'll go to the next speaker.

WILLIAMS: Dr. Bean.

SHAW: Okay, here he comes.

WILLIAMS: Dr. Bean, we are waiting for you sir.

HENDRICK: Had a lot of fans.

SHAW: Our first speaker will be Heidi, who will be followed by Stella.

HEIDI: I really am number one, okay. Esteem members of the board. I did not know we were swearing you in today, so congratulations all of you. We love all of you. I'm speaking on behalf of my colleagues and staff at Suncoast Prep Academy Charter. We are so grateful for your unwavering commitment and supporting schools choice and we strongly feel Dr. Bean will make a positive impact working together with children of Orange County. Congratulations to Dr. Bean. And last but not least, we still strongly oppose SB 907. We just wanted to share that we still have that same kind of support for that, opposition. Thank you.

SHAW: Stella, followed by Michelle.

STELLA: Yes. Hi, I am Stella Song, congratulations board and Dr. Bean. We want to thank God so much for his divine supernatural intervention and orchestrating the appointment of Dr. Bean. This is a high calling with tremendous responsibility having to lead Congress, school District as well as almost half a million students. We know that God has truly prepared him for a time such as this. Janet, his wife, is looking down from heaven, rejoicing for this special moment and so are his four children. We pray for your divine blessing and anointing over him to empower him with wisdom, courage, bonus, tenacity, perseverance, and fearlessness to dismantle

the current woke and this indoctrination agenda in the school system. We know that this is not a battle between flesh and blood, but against the principality of the evil domain. So Lord, from this day forth, we pray that you will equip Dr. Bean with a full armor of God against the evil forces. Thank you, Lord. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in Jesus name, amen.

SHAW: Michelle followed by Tien.

MICHELLE: Hello, President Shaw and distinguished trustees. My name's Michelle O'Brien. I'm a 30 plus year resident of Orange County. My children and grandson attended public schools here. I want to thank you for being transparent. You held multiple meetings for six superintendent candidates. Five were very good. One was exceptional. Thank you for voting to select Dr. Bean. He's the right person to lead our Orange County schools. Thank you again.

SHAW: Tien followed by Betty.

TIEN: Can I use a microphone up there?

HENDRICK: Yes, yes, you can move to this one right here.

TIEN: Thank you. Hello everyone. What a day, what a day. Well first of all, I want to thank what my name is Tien Tran. I'm a dentist from the city of Anaheim. I got an honor to work half a day today. Nobody cry, everybody paid. It's July and I'm number four. What an honor. So happy birthday America. Anyway, first of all, I want to thank God for this opportunity, for to be here this special day. I want to thank all the board members. I want to thank every parent, especially teacher educators. You play a very important role in our children life. And now I believe the future of this country will be heading towards a brighter future because we are going to have a new leader in the government and this new leader in the government will give the power back to the parents.

So I mean I like art, so I make thing, I make shirts, and all you need to do is go to Hobby Lobby by these iron on letters. Then you put on tie or hat or shirt or anything as a special gift for a birthday. You can teach your children to do this. So I get an honor to, can I present you Dr. Bean as our 12 Orange County new superintendent, and I know this, I'm a proud refugee from a country, the same country that Dr. Bean was from. America has saved his life and now he has been working hard. But this is the opportunity that Dr. Bean will have a great chance to save this country and to save our children. The education in this country have been great, but for the last couple of years that I noticed as various other parents,

WILLIAMS: Dr. Tran, your time is up, sir. I'm so sorry.

TIEN: For the parents or whoever viewing this program at home, I want everyone to unite behind this new superintendent and make education great again.

SHAW: Okay. Betty followed by Martin.

BETTY: Hi. Today I am representing Congresswoman Michelle Steel, who is a big admirer of this school board as well as Dr. Bean. She handed me and asked me to present a certificate of recognition to Dr. Stefan Bean, Orange County superintendent of schools at his first official meeting as the Orange County superintendent. In honor of your selection as the newly appointed Orange County Superintendent of schools, we thank you all for that you have already done for our community and wish you success in leading this school district as well as being an example for all schools throughout California to be successful in the great path that you will lead us ahead with this great board and it is signed by Michelle Steel, July 3rd, 2024 member of Congress. In addition to that, I want to congratulate this particular board of education who was targeted by our super majority state legislature to try to change this board. Do we want this board to be changed?

CROWD: No.

BETTY: Absolutely not. And so I want to thank each of you and our two trustees that are not here this evening that we are behind you and we will support you and we will go to the state capitol to defend your right. Thank you.

VALDES: Yes, Tim.

WILLIAMS: Tim, after Betty. That's a tough act to follow.

SHAW: We love Betty. All right, Martin followed by Bill. Martin?

WILLIAMS: He may have left.

SHAW: Did we lose Martin? Okay, so Bill, we have Bill.

WILLIAMS: Bill might have left.

SHAW: No Martin, no Bill. Okay. Cyndie?

CYNDIE: Good evening. My name is Cyndie Borcoman. Is mic on? Yes. Welcome Dr. Bean. Very happy that you're here.

As you know, I have been at this podium numerous times over this past year to discuss the failed leadership of Dr. Miramontes. From the time Miramontes came to OCDE, he has created a hostile work environment for both staff and students alike for ACCESS. He has also wasted millions of dollars of taxpayer funds by hiring many of his cronies throughout Orange County in ACCESS. ACCESS had a ratio of one principal per 300 students prior to Miramontes. After numerous hires, ACCESS now has one principal to a hundred students. This is without even hiring a teacher. His last principal hire was Eric Bagger from Buena Park School District, which Dr.

Miramontes worked there and knows him. That's what's called cronyism. In addition, he's hired Ryan Cummings where he worked with them for Norwalk La Mirada in December, 2023. And then Ryan Cummings hired his assistant from La Mirada Norwalk recently called Ryan Medina.

This is called Cronyism. Miramontes is attempting to close three sites though he stated at these board members this meeting that he was not going to do that. These students would have to travel additional five to eight miles and it's gang territory and there'd be problems. The three sites he's trying to close are Tustin Main, El Medina, Tustin, ACT, Boys and Girls Club. During a recent board member, Miramontes stated to the board that ACT lease was extended and that's a lie. The lease is ready to sign, but Miramontes has refused to sign it. He's also trying to lease new sites in Santa Ana and La Habra, which are not adequate for ACCESS students and a waste of taxpayer of money.

WILLIAMS: Thank you. Cyndie.

CYNDIE: Please freeze the new hires and new leases and we want Dr. Bean to help us. Thank you.

SHAW: Daphne, followed by Eva.

DAPHNE: Hello, Daphne Ashbrook, 24-year resident of Orange County. Hard acts to follow some of the people that have come up here to congratulate all of you, especially you Dr. Bean. We're just so looking forward to your leadership as superintendent over our children. We know based on your history, you're going to have our children's best interests' number one. Thank you and congratulations to all of you. Thank you.

SHAW: Okay, Eva followed by Debra.

EVA: Good afternoon. This is the day when we rejoice give thank to God to allow us to have that moment of time. I know with Dr. Bean, the children will be in good hands. They will learn as much as they capacity allow them. God bless you, Dr. Bean. May God guide you through this milestone time.

SHAW: Debra followed by Sonya.

DEBRA: Hi, I am Debra Kamm, a longtime Orange County resident and a special ed advocate. Congratulations to Dr. Bean. We know that our schools will be much more transparent to parents and to taxpayers. Several of you or most of you hopefully, have seen the Wall Street Journal article that was published in February exposing how Irvine Unified spent over \$1 million of our tax dollars to litigate against one child with a disability. The attorneys are paid by the hour, so they actually benefit by losing so they keep appealing and appealing. This was a six-year long case that started when the child was in elementary school. She's now in high school and this case is still ongoing. The resolution director did not resolve that in six years and she

just got promoted. The IUSD board also does not publicly report votes of litigation against children with disabilities. This non-transparency is clear discrimination and since the board approves all other types of litigation per the Brown Act. I've been appointed as a chair for the Advisory Committee for the Office of Administrative Hearings.

These are the judges who hear special education cases throughout California. I've already recommended that all of these judges require verification of school board approval so that we do not have unknown employees or private attorneys filing lawsuits against our children with disabilities. And that's exactly what happened at Irvine Unified. That million dollars of our taxpayer money should have gone to reading programs, therapies and other services for disabled children. But instead it went to line the pockets of wealthy attorneys. I know that with Dr. Bean and the rest of the board here under your leadership, our children will be put first and those with disabilities will get an education and not litigation. Thank you.

SHAW: Sonya. Followed by Austin.

SONYA: Congratulations, Dr. Stefan Bean and the board. Here I go. O say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there; o say does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? God bless all of you.

WILLIAMS: That was special. That was special.

VALDES: That was a heck of a public comment.

SHAW: Austin.

AUSTIN: All right. Good evening everyone. My name is Austin Edsell, Senior District representative for Senator Janet Wynn, who represents the 36th Senate District. I'm here today on behalf of the Senator to follow up on the status of the Vietnamese model curriculum. She is asked that I read this letter on her behalf. Dear Mr. President and Board members, I first want to express my sincere congratulations to Dr. Stefan Bean on your appointment as the new superintendent of schools our office looks forward to. We're continuing our work with you and your office. I also want to take this opportunity to give your honorable board an update since addressing our concerns three months ago at the April 3rd meeting. In that regard, I have to thank Deputy Superintendent Dr. Ramon Miramontes and his staff, especially Jonathan Swanson, for their continuous effort to work with our office. Since the April 3rd meeting, OCDE has reached out to our office and informed us of three things.

They have finalized a curriculum that doesn't align with legislation. They plan to submit the curriculum as is to comply with the contractual duties. And three, our office cannot receive a copy of the curriculum. Nonetheless, OCDE has agreed to revise the curriculum and resubmit after they host a few more working groups to include live interviews of stakeholders, which will be provided by our office while we work to extend the deadline for submission. As the author of the bills driving this curriculum, it is not only right but my duty to ensure that the curriculum reflects the true essence of the original intent of the bill. The intent of the bill is to explore the Vietnamese American refugee experience, including the voices of those who served in the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and those who endured the hardships of migration known as the boat people. Moving forward, I'm requesting again that our offices included in all phases of the curriculum development to guarantee accuracy and authenticity in portraying the Vietnamese refugee experience. This is crucial for our students to receive a comprehensive and unbiased education about this significant chapter in our history. Thank you for your time.

SHAW: Thank you. Austin. I don't know if Martin or Bill came back, but if not, we will be done with public comments.

WILLIAMS: Okay, very good. Barring the end of the public comments, let's move on the consent calendar. I have a motion for items 8, 9, and 10. We'll make it as one motion.

BARKE: So moved.

WILLIAMS: It's moved by Trustee Barke

SHAW: Second.

WILLIAMS: And second by Trustee Shaw. This is an issue that we don't discuss. It's usually on the consent. All those in favor say aye.

SHAW: Well, you have to do a roll call.

WILLIAMS: That's right. Thank you. Roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks? Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes. Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Aye.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Moving on to item 11, charter schools charter submissions. Renee, do we have any?

HENDRICK: We did receive one charter submission from Unity College Middle School. That was a material revision yesterday. Upon staff reviewing that they have talked to the Executive Director Lauren Gonzalez, and confirmed that this is really not a material revision, so they've red redrawn their submission at this time.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Very good. Thank you very much. Okay, moving on to item number 12. Aracely, will you please facilitate this for us? This is regarding the hearing for the Innovate Orange County College Prep Countywide charter petition.

CHASTAIN: Good evening, president Williams, Trustees and Superintendent Bean. Today the Board will hold a hearing to grant or deny the Ednovate Orange County College Prep countywide charter petition submitted on April 15th, 2024. The petition proposes a classroom-based program serving students in grades nine through 12. The charter petitioner notified four districts of their intent to open facilities Capistrano Unified, Garden Grove Unified, Santa Ana Unified, and Tustin Unified. The Board held a public hearing on June 5th to consider the level of support for the charter school. The petition has been reviewed according to California Education Code as legally required. You've been provided with the Orange County Department of Education staff report published on June 18th that summarizes findings from that review and offers recommendations for consideration by the board. Based on information gathered throughout the review process, including a clarification meeting held with petitioners on May 21st. Staff recommends approval of the Ednovate OC College Prep charter petition. Before board discussion Ednovate OC College Prep representatives will have equal time and opportunity or 10 minutes, whichever is longer, to present evidence and testimony responsive to the staff recommendations and findings published on June 5th. I now call representatives from Ednovate, OC College Prep to the podium.

KATIE: Good evening, President Williams, distinguished Trustees, Superintendent Bean. My name is Katie Hart and I'm the Chief Operating Officer of Ednovate Charter Schools. On behalf of the Ednovate community, I first want to express gratitude to the members of this board for your encouragement, thoughtful questions and support for our program during the June 5th board meeting. The sentiment across our community following that board meeting was incredibly positive and hopeful for the future. Knowing that we have an authorizer who can recognize the impact of our

Ednovate schools and the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff, we deeply appreciate this board's commitment to educational excellence and the efforts to support innovative learning environments throughout the communities within Orange County. I can confidently tell you that we at Ednovate are just getting started in Orange County and are fully committed to continuing to bring high quality, innovative high school options to the families throughout Orange County.

I also want to take a moment to thank the OCDE staff for their collaborative and diligence throughout the thoughtful process of this submission. We greatly appreciate your recommendation for approval of this petition and look forward to continuing the strong partnership that we currently appreciate to serve more students and families in Orange County. Distinguished trustees this evening we ask for your vote to approve the petition to establish Ednovate OC College Prep and allow us to expand our impact, continuing our mission of positive multi-generational change for the students and families throughout Orange County. Thank you very much for your consideration.

CHASTAIN: The hearing is now open for 15 minutes of public comments. Trustee Shaw, please call for the first speaker.

SHAW: I'd love to. Okay. We will go to Arthur. Oh boy. Followed by Syeda. Syeda sorry.

ARTHUR: Good evening. My name is Arthur Congo. I am a local advocacy representative with the California Charter Schools Association. CCSA is a membership and professional organization serving our member schools and advocating for fair charter policies for over 1,250 public schools in California. I represent the association tonight in recommending the approval of the new countywide charter petition for Ednovate OC College Prep as an Orange County Board of Education authorized charter school. Ednovate College Prep is a member in good standing with CCSA and in our opinion, it meets the legal standard for a new countywide charter petition under California ED code 47605. CCSA has worked with the leadership at Ednovate and knows they're providing programs for students throughout the community that families want and approval of this new petition would allow the school to ensure that continued and expanded services are available to students under their care. CCSA supports this school and respectfully urges you to approve the petition per the staff recommendation. We have reviewed the Orange County Department of Education staff report as well for Ednovate OC College Prep and do not believe that the staff's report provides any legal barriers to the board approving this petition. And for this reason, we encourage you to approve the petition. Thank you so much.

SHAW: Thank you. Syeda, followed by Jennifer.

SYEDA: Good evening board members and superintendent, congratulations to you all. My name is Syeda Zaidi and I'm the proud parent of Alam Zaidi a 10th grade student at Legacy College Prep. I'm honored to be here once again to express my deepest gratitude for your recent approval of the new Ednovate schools. When I spoke to you

last I shared the transformative impact Legacy College Prep had on my daughter and our family. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your support. Many families will now have the opportunity to experience this life-changing education. Your commitment to expanding Ednovate School opens doors for family who like us may have felt lost within the traditional school system. It offers hope and brighter future to students who deserve every chance to succeed. For families like mine, this approval is more than just new schools. It's a promise of potential growth and the belief that every child can thrive given the opportunity. On behalf of Ednovate parents, we thank you for your continued support and for making a lasting impact on so many lives. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you.

SHAW: And Jennifer.

JENNIFER: Good evening board and congratulations to all. My name is Jennifer Meneses and I'm a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants, first generation student and an alumna of Ednovate school. And as of three weeks ago, a proud graduate of UC Irvine. So go Anteaters.

Thank you. The skills and knowledge and confidence I gained at Ednovate were instrumental and my success at UC Irvine. The Ednovate values of creating a positive multi-generational change have paved the way from academic journey. And now as I enter the workforce, I feel prepared and determined to continue to advocate for educational opportunities for families and students like mine. I'm one of six siblings and the first in my family is to graduate college, but I won't be the last. Thanks to your dedication countless families in Orange County now have a greater educational opportunities. Your belief in our potential has empowered, has empowered us to pursue our dreams and make a difference in our communities. On behalf of all Ednovate students past and present, thank you all for investing in our future and paving the path for all students. Thank you.

SHAW: Thank you, Jennifer.

CHASTAIN: This concludes the public hearing. The board has three options for action regarding a countywide charter school petition. Option one, approve the petition. Option two, approve the petition with conditions. Option three, deny the petition. President Williams, I now close the public hearing and return the meeting to you.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Okay. Board action item number 13 may have a motion on this item and then we will second it and then we'll go into discussion.

VALDES: I move to approve the petition.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

BARKE: I'll second it.

WILLIAMS: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Comments to my trustees who are out of the country. Dr. Lisa Sparks, you've been quiet. Let's give you an opportunity first.

SPARKS: I am very excited about this application. I think they have demonstrated to be really well prepared and I expect a wild amount of success. And I would like to go for option one, which I think maybe a motion was made about option one.

WILLIAMS: It has been. Any other comments? Mary Barke. You're there in Ohio?

SHAW: Wisconsin.

WILLIAMS: Wisconsin.

BARKE: Wisconsin. But close.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

BARKE: I enjoyed the public comment and I fully support this charter school. I've met them and I think they're an amazing group and I know they have a great future ahead of them. So very excited about this opportunity for Orange County and beyond.

WILLIAMS: Awesome. Awesome. My trustees to my right, Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: No, I have no questions.

WILLIAMS: Okay. I Jorge, you're okay. Any questions?

VALDES: This is just such an easy yes for me.

WILLIAMS: Absolutely. If you weren't here at the last meeting when we went over those, there were a lot of support and very impressive. You brought out all the families, the kids, and it's exciting to see all of your successes that you've had throughout these years. You certainly have a very positive impact upon the community and children. I'm going to be fully supporting you. Okay, so we have a motion and a second. Any other comments by my board members? Barring that there's none. Darou let's take a roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Awesome. Congratulations. 5 to 0 votes. Wonderful. Okay, so now we're going to be moving on to item number 14 and Aracely, if you will go ahead and facilitate this part of our meeting.

CHASTAIN: The board will now hold a hearing to grant or deny the material revision to the Orange County Classical Academy Charter. The school is requesting to add two school facilities in Santa Ana and Orange. The Orange County Department of Education staff report was published and a public hearing was held on June 18th to consider the level of support for the material revision. Staff reviewed the revised charter petition and determined that it meets the standards outlined in education code and recommended the board approve the requested material revision. Before public comments Orange County Classical Academy representatives are allotted 10 minutes to provide evidence and testimony in response to the staff recommendations. I now invite representatives from Orange County Classical Academy to the podium.

SKYLAR: Good evening, Trustees. Good evening, Dr. Bean. Semi says hi. She couldn't be here this evening. Mrs. Park is our headmaster. My name is Skylar Chaput I'm the interim assistant headmaster of our upper school at Orange County Classical Academy. I'll be presenting and then I'm going to pass it off to Mr. Mike Davis. Oh, perfect. There we go. All right. Thank you, guys, for considering our revision as well. We appreciate your time. About our school, Orange County Classical Academy. We are a TK through hopefully 12th grade in the next three years, TK through ninth grade, starting in the fall. And we focus on the classical education model. Our mission is to develop students in mind and character through a classical content rich liberal arts and sciences curriculum that emphasizes the principles of scholarship, moral character, and civic virtue. This is a mission statement that's well known at our school by our faculty.

Our students as well all have committed it to their hearts and minds so it's something we all strive for. What we're accomplishing? Well, in 2023, we were the California Distinguished School, I think the only one within our district? Yeah, within our district. 2024 this year we were within the top three charter elementary schools within Orange County. And then our wait list, I mean, really speaks for itself. We have about a thousand students on the list since we've opened as a school. So how do

we do this? Well, it's really all in our curriculum. In our approach, we use a rigorous and time-tested curriculum combined with a culture of very high expectations for our students ultimately to achieve a mission that's not just academic. We don't just care about our students' intellect, but more so who they're becoming and what their hearts look like as they graduate and leave our school. Our journey to 12th grade. On February 8th, OUSD and OCCA agreed to a 10-year license agreement for a four and a half acre lot at 2190 North Canal Street in orange. Our plan is to build a campus of 30 portables that will include the existing gym structure and use of the field that is currently there. A necessary requirement for this occupancy would be a material revision to our charter that ultimately will authorize us to occupy a campus at this location. I'm going to go ahead and pass it off to Mr. Mike Davis.

MIKE: Members of the Board, Superintendent, Dr. Bean. Trustee Valdes had really honored us in our last presentation when he asked us to speak specifically to our student outcomes. I want to share a little bit about that and use this as an opportunity to elaborate a little more on what those achievements represent. So the first three plots are from that presentation, on the left there, you see in the orange, our outcomes in terms of a English learner proficiency. And that's compared to our district OUSD in the middle there and on the right, the state average. In the middle you see our student outcomes for math and on the right for science. Those are our general student averages. There are some who say that, well, this is once again a charter school, skimming from the top, getting the best students. And after all, if you look at the demographics of Orange County Classical Academy, it kind of speaks for itself.

And what I'm saying is that if you look at the demographic makeup of our school, you'll find that roughly half of our students are Caucasian. A little over a quarter are Asian, and then roughly a fifth of the students are Hispanic. So that's a low Hispanic number if you compare to their surrounding schools. It's one of the fun parts of my job as being responsible for compliance to really dig deeply in some of our student assessments. And let me just share with you that when you look into our subgroups, the pattern you see here is consistent. So here is what happens when we look at our Hispanic students and how their level of proficiency comes out in assessments. Here's their math, here's their science.

This is a common pattern. You see when you look within our subgroups, this level of achievement isn't just a case of a demographic breakdown of the school. It's consistent the deeper you go. One slide set of three slides, I should say were shared in our last presentation. The lower left one is the English proficiency achieved among our English learners. And you can see it's pretty substantial compared to the local district and the state. If you look at our first three years, however, we do have a relatively low number of English learners. I'd say a total of 35 ELs and roughly a little under a fourth of those, are Hispanic. But if you look at within those numbers, you'll see that of that Hispanic population among our ELs, roughly 37.5% were reassigned. Now that is a low number. We had a total of about eight Hispanic students among ELs the first three years. Three of those were reassigned, but you'll notice the pattern holds at the middle plot at the bottom there. That's our ELA

outcomes for our special education students. I don't know how you skim from the top when it comes to your special ed population. We don't go out and recruit special ed students. And yet again, the pattern holds. And on the lower right, our special ed students, how they perform on the cast compared to the district and to the state. The pattern holds no matter how far down you go into the subgroups. So how are we achieving this?

If there's one thing I can recommend for those who are just interested in the story of public school education in general, I recommend spending some time listening to "Sold a Story" by Emily Hanford. This came out about over two years ago, and it's a remarkable exposé because what Emily Hanford does is she shares how the vast majority of public schools in the nation simply have not been following the science when it comes to how to teach literacy, how to teach content subject matter. The vast majority of school curricula do not use what's called structured phonics, and they don't teach subject matter in a manner that's rich and coherent and cumulative. And that's been a systemic problem for decades. And the science has been speaking to this for at least 50 years. This exposé had such an impact that you suddenly saw articles, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Forbes magazine reiterating the need to return to or to go to an approach that uses a science of reading in a manner that's aligned.

And there are states across the country right now who are implementing laws to ensure that happens. What none of these articles mentioned is that there was one educational movement since its inception, roughly 25 years ago that can consistently has been using this approach. And it's the classical charter school movement of which OCCA is an instance. Now why that is has to go to our pedagogy and it goes to our mission as a classical school. And I invite the trustees if they're interested we could talk more after this presentation. But if you are an educator and you're interested in basically what curricula are out there that do achieve this at a high level, knowledgematterscampaign.org has been the recommended website and agency that does this. And we use that curriculum right there. The reason why we're achieving this is literally because our curriculum is doing what the science is recommending.

This is why you're seeing the outcomes that you're seeing as you look into our student subgroups. Now I'm going to conclude in a moment, but I just want to mention my appreciation for this board and for the OCDE staff. After all, this is ultimately about approving a mature revision of a charter. But I really wanted to take a moment, just a moment to share why our approach works. And I hope as educators, other schools and leaders might consider looking into this because I can tell you it could be transformative if we all take this as seriously as a classical charter school movement has. I'm going to end with a section. This is from an article in the *Orange County Register* about our school. This came out May 14th in 2023. And these are just a couple of paragraphs from that article. "It has always been our deepest hope that once the effectiveness of our school was demonstrated, critics who are truly open-minded might come to see", oops.

WILLIAMS: You can finish up.

MIKE: Thank you. “Might come to see what we are actually doing at OCCA, but that would mean letting go of a narrative of a lot of folks have been clinging to about our school, rethinking some deeply held assumptions. We understand letting go is hard to do. For all those willing to rethink their assumptions, we cordially invite you to come and see for yourselves the amazing things happening at our little classical charter school.” And that invitation continues to be extended. Thank you.

CHASTAIN: The hearing is now open for public comments. Trustee Shaw, please call for the first speaker.

SHAW: Thank you. We'll have Levi followed by Kim. You're probably Kim.

KIM: I am.

SHAW: They may have left. All right.

KIM: Good evening, Orange County Board trustees. Thank you for this opportunity to speak again. My name is Kim Trask. My husband and I have lived in Orange County for over 20 years. We have been residents of the city of Orange for the last 12 years, and OCCA has been a blessing to our family since our children enrolled in the fall of 2020. My two oldest, one of which is in the audience and about to speak to you tonight is going to be entering seventh grade. My oldest is going to be entering ninth grade and my youngest is starting TK. This material revision approval that's before you tonight affect them in very unique ways. My TK student will be able to new friends because his grade will be expanded. My seventh grade student can maybe take a breath for a little bit. She's been incredibly active at OUSD board meetings and even here trying to help her school grow. And my ninth grader is most significantly affected because without your approval, he can't continue at OCCA, but we really, really want him to. So please pave that way for him and approve this material revision. Thank you.

SHAW: I think that's Kathy I see.

KATHY: Sorry, not that tall. So good evening County Board. My name is Kathy Trask. I am going into sixth grade at OCCA and my mom was just up here. We need a new facility really bad. Our middle schoolers, last year they had to go to a different facility in a church and they only could go for four hours a day, which was not enough time to learn all of the curriculum that we have. And my school is in great need of that facility. And with your help, we can rise to that. And this is really the decision that it comes up to and I really hope that you can make the right decision. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

WILLIAMS: Kathy, can I say something to you? Kathy, thank you for coming up and sharing that. You have, for such a young lady, incredible poise, confidence, and that smile is so contagious. Thank you for speaking up.

KATHY: Thank you.

CHASTAIN: The public hearing is concluded. The board has three options for action regarding a charter school material revision. Option one, approve the material revision. Option two, approve the material revision with conditions. And option three, deny the material revision. President Williams, I now close the public hearing and return the meeting to you.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Thank you, Aracely. At this time I will entertain a motion, a second, then we'll go into discussion. I have a motion for number 15.

SPARKS: Motion for option one.

WILLIAMS: Okay, we have a motion by Trustee Sparks.

SHAW: Second.

WILLIAMS: Second by Trustee Shaw. Okay, now that we have a motion, a second, let's go to my, actually let's pick on Mari Barke out there in Wisconsin.

BARKE: Just a reminder that I'm recused from OCCA, so I am just here doing other work until this portion is over.

WILLIAMS: Thank you for reminding me. Okay. President Shaw or Ex-President Shaw.

SHAW: Yeah, the has been.

WILLIAMS: You're not a has been.

SHAW: Yeah, I appreciated those comments on the facility. I know what a challenge that is for so many of our schools. I mean, I think obviously you're doing great work. I just want to be partners in trying to help solve that. That's my only comment.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Could I have, I think you said your name was Mike? Would you come back to the podium? I appreciate some of these additional statistics, I want to relay to you and everyone else out there that at the last meeting I went through your statistics because I feel it's important that we not gloss over that and that people understand this board is voting yes to these charters. Because we take a fair amount of criticism for doing this. But consistently I see educational outcomes higher than the Orange County average, higher than the demographic, the personal demographic of the student.

After I said that a few days later, I received a very cynical letter from someone who ran for public office and did not win. Saying that my statement about OCCA at the last meeting didn't fully represent the correct picture because there's a disproportionately high amount of white kids at your school and a low percentage of Latino kids there.

My statement essentially wasn't reflective of the reality. Thank you for coming and trying to put a little bit more for people who were looking to create that divide, which I am not one of them, but for those people that are looking for that divide, thank you for coming with these additional statistics. I will ask you this though, and this is very important to me because as a Latino American and someone that truly believes in the equality of every student, I think where the socioeconomics are at play, that is really the difference in the educational outcome. It's not the race-based argument. I will ask you this. Do you know what percentage of students that go to your school received reduced or free lunches per the California standards?

MIKE: Yeah, roughly a fifth, 20%.

VALDES: 20%?

MIKE: Around a hundred.

VALDES: I would ask you and every other charter school that comes here, Ednovate, please tell the CCSA. Can you come here with your material revisions? Can you please have that number at the ready?

MIKE: Got it.

VALDES: I personally would like to see your socioeconomic demographic, the percentage of Latino kids, the percentage of Black students, Vietnamese.

MIKE: Absolutely.

VALDES: Please just put that out there or please send that to the powers that be. When you come here, that statistic is already here. I just wanted to say that. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Trustee Sparks? Did she?

SPARKS: Yes. I just want to congratulate the teachers, the administrators of this school. You all have been a model school of how this should work in terms of a startup of a charter school. The curriculum is sound. I've visited your school several times and it's just remarkable what you're doing with these students. And just keep up the great, great work. We're so proud of you. Thank you to all the teachers, administrators, the board, everyone who's so dedicated to making this school work. It is just been really a model for the charter schools in Orange County. And thanks for also outlining the demographic differences, the short presentation you gave. I

think it really, you're showing your true educator, you're educating the public in addition to all the really innovative, amazing things that you've done. And I know you started during Covid, so it's remarkable. And the waiting list, hopefully we can get more and more students in with an approval. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you Dr. Sparks and I echo many of the sentiments and feelings of my fellow board members and I'll be voting in favor of this material revision. And just for the record, so Trustee Barke is abstaining on this vote here and there'll be the four of us. Darou, will you please take roll?

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Aye.

WILLIAMS: Very good. The motion passes four to zero. Congratulations. Okay, we're going to move on now with lightning speed through the remainder of the meeting here. We have about eight items. For those who want to leave, thank you again for being here. This is strictly board business. Again, congratulations Michael, and thank you for coming. Congratulations on your material revision approval. Okay. Item number 16 might have a motion for approval of disbursement of the funds for the professional organizations.

SHAW: Why don't we do it the same way to make it easy for them because we're going to go through a lot of these fast right?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

SHAW: With no offense to anyone out there in TV land, how about I make a motion and Jorge seconds and we'll, I'm sorry.

WILLIAMS: I think that's a good idea.

SHAW: Okay. I move approval.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

VALDES: I second.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Any discussion? Barring none. All those in favor? Roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Abstain.

WILLIAMS: Okay, moving on. The item number 17.

SHAW: I move approval.

VALDES: I second.

WILLIAMS: Motion and a second. No questions? Move on.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SHAW: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Abstain.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Motion passes. Four to zero, one abstention. Moving on.

VALDES: Does Trustee Barke know that we're past?

WILLIAMS: Number 15?

VALDES: That we're on to disbursements?

WILLIAMS: Trustee Barke we're no longer talking about.

BARKE: I did not realize that. Sorry. I did not realize you had moved on.

WILLIAMS: Okay. That's okay. We'll just keep you as abstaining in those first two, but we're not going to go back and repeat the vote. But let's go ahead with item number 18. I have a motion.

SHAW: Move approval.

WILLIAMS: Second.

VALDES: I second.

WILLIAMS: Conversation, dialogue, discussion Barring None. Darou?

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Moving on to item number 19. I have a motion and a second move.

SHAW: Move approval.

VALDES: I second.

WILLIAMS: Barring any discussion. Let's go ahead and take the vote.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Motion passes. Five to zero. Moving on to item number 20, travel for the California Charter School Association event. A motion and a second.

SHAW: Move approval.

VALDES: I Second.

WILLIAMS: Second. Barring no discussion. Roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Moving on to item number 21. Registration travel to the Orange County School Board's Association for this next year. I have a motion and a second.

SHAW: Move approval.

VALDES: Second.

WILLIAMS: We have a motion, a second. Barring no discussion. Darou roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Item passes. Five to zero. Okay. Moving on to item number 23, board conferences. This is for the 24-25 fiscal year motion and a second, my request.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

SHAW: Did you say 23 or are we on 22? I'm sorry. Did I mishear you?

WILLIAMS: I said 23. My fault perhaps.

SPARKS: We're on 22.

WILLIAMS: We're on 22.

SHAW: 22.

WILLIAMS: Okay. My bad. Okay. May I ask for a motion?

SHAW: Move approval.

WILLIAMS: And a second.

VALDES: I second.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Motion and a second. Any discussion? Barring none. Darou, go ahead and take the roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Item passes. Five to zero. Now we're on 23. And this is for board conferences for this next year. I have a motion and a second.

SHAW: Move approval.

WILLIAMS: Second by.

VALDES: I second.

WILLIAMS: Trustee Valdes. Barring no Discussion. Roll call Darou.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke.

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Moving on to item number 24. Motion.

SHAW: I would move approval.

WILLIAMS: I have a motion by Trustee Shaw.

SPARKS: Second.

WILLIAMS: And a second by Trustee Sparks. Okay. There's going to be some discussion on this since you are the primary motion maker, Trustee Shaw. Will you give us an update?

SHAW: Thank you I'd be happy to. I've been living, breathing, sleeping, lost a lot of sleep. We've had this bill in the legislature to make changes specifically to our board. Senate Bill 907 authored by Senator Newman here of Fullerton and Senator Min from the Irvine area. This bill would be originally the idea was it would make two changes to our board pretty quickly. We would go from having our elections move from the primary to the November ballot and instead of five trustees, we would have seven. Our board took a unanimous position last year or earlier this year to oppose this bill and for several reasons, but I'll get into that. But when you're talking about Sacramento, I wanted to make one caveat. I always hesitate to use partisan terms

here in our meetings, we are elected to non-partisan office. But in Sacramento, the legislature, it's a partisan environment. Everyone's got a D or an R after their name. If you're going to try to stop a bill in the legislature, you just got to know going in, even if all the Rs are voting no, in the state Senate, you would need 13 Democrats to also join the Republicans to get to your 21 votes. The Democrats outnumber Republicans 32 to eight in the state Senate over in the state assembly, assuming all the Republicans are nos, you would need 23 Democrats to vote no on a bill to constitute a majority to stop the bill. So that's just kind of the situation there in the legislature. As Senate Bill 907 came up to be considered, I actually, I ended up personally flying up to Sacramento four different times to testify against this bill. We started in the Senate Education Committee, then the Senate Elections Committee, then the Senate Appropriations Committee. Then I ended up at the Assembly Elections Committee. But every chance I got to testify about this legislation, I tried to start off by speaking to the issue of local control. Why are senators and assembly members from around the state of California deciding how many trustees we have on the Orange County Board of Education and when our elections are?

This is something that I thought and I tried to argue should be something that's decided here locally in Orange County. The issue of when our elections happen, the argument is the reason they state that they want to have our elections held in November is because voter turnout tends to be higher in November. More voters show up to vote in November elections versus primary elections, and therefore you can argue that the result would be more reflective of the actual preference of the electorate when you hold the contest in November. I persistently argued that in the November ballot, the ballot tends to be a lot longer and we've seen, we held up actually examples of that. Here's the ballot from November and it was four pages long and here's the primary ballot it was only two pages long. For your average voter out there, it's in the November ballot when it's so daunting. By the time you get down to the Orange County Board of Education races, you're maybe not, you're voting for president, you're voting for your congress, you're voting for your city council, your state legislature, all these other races, and here you are, you're just kind of, so they call it in political science ballot fatigue. By the time you get to the bottom of the ballot in a very long ballot, a lot of times people are just leaving things blank and obviously overwhelmed. I argued that it's a valid argument that we hold our elections in the primary where the ballots shorter and maybe the voters aren't so overwhelmed in that situation. Obviously, there would be a cost to adding trustees that would include the cost to redistrict, presumably a mid-cycle redistricting for those who've been following our board when we had our redistricting a few years ago. It's very time consuming, very expensive. We're hiring demographers, lawyers and all that. Not to mention when we get two trustees, they're going to be paid a stipend offered health insurance and things like that. They print seven agendas instead of five. There's lots of little costs that start adding up.

As an aside, I never mentioned this in any of my testimony, but I served for four years on the Orange County Sanitation District. And I think that board has 25 members. And when you have a meeting with 25 elected folks, it tends to start

becoming a little more unwieldy. Even the Orange County Transportation Board, I chaired for a while we had a 17-member board. And I understand you can say, well, the trustee districts become smaller, therefore it's easier to maybe campaign and maybe easier to reach your trustee. But there would be, I guarantee you our meetings would be a lot longer when we start just having two more people having to have a chance to speak at every agenda item and all that disruption. So anyway, we not only were my efforts, Lisa Sparks, Dr. Sparks joined me there and Mari went up. We have our professional paid lobbyists in Sacramento who had several dozen meetings with different members of the legislature and their staff.

And at the end of all of that, the full court press that we could put together, I suppose to be very blunt about it, we were losing basically every step of the way and the Senate, Education Committee party line vote, Senate Elections Committee party line vote. Senate Appropriations Committee, where I thought we might have the best chance because of the costs associated with the bill and obviously the state is in dire financial shape. They still senate through. At the full Senate when all 40 senators voted on it, all the Republicans voted no. And we got a grand total of one Democrat. And I wanted to acknowledge Senator Marie Alvarado Gill, I don't know her, I don't really know much about her either, but she represents her website associates from El Dorado Hills. After all that effort, we peeled off, I guess one Democrat. The bill passed the state Senate with 30 yes votes and they only needed 21.

It kind of shows how it was pretty lopsided over to the assembly it went. I flew up again for the Assembly elections committee and once again it was a party line vote. It was our lobbyists in meeting with our attorney, Mr. Rolen as well as Mr. Sheehy, Dr. Sparks and I, we were just kind of contemplating what was the path forward on this. And at one point the author Senator Newman had suggested maybe we'll put off adding two trustees till after the 2030 election. Well maybe we'll see if what he thinks about that is maybe, how serious was he. He kind of blurted that out at one of the committee meetings. Our lobbyist met with Senator Newman who said he would agree to postponing the adding of two trustees to our board until after the 2030 census. And after that we're going to have to redistrict anyway.

And so that would be an amendment he would make to the bill if we were as a board willing to remove our opposition to the bill. And to be clear, we're not endorsing the bill. We would just be effectively removing our opposition and our lobbying efforts to stop the bill and even should it pass the assembly, the governor of course could still veto it, but we would not be actively working to make that happen. Kind of realizing the score on the scoreboard, I would suggest that given where we're at with things at this point in time, I would suggest we move forward with this item if approved by the full board would authorize our lobbyists to send a letter to the legislature indicating that we'd removed our opposition, but only after the amendments are in print and the bill is amended to reflect that idea that our elections will go immediately to November starting in 2026.

Lisa and Mari are the next ones up for reelection. Your elections would be in November and then after 2030, so presumably in the 2032 election, we would have seven trustees on our board at that time. If once we've read the language of the amendment, if that's in fact how it reads, then Mr. Sheehy, he would send that letter. This is what we're deciding here this evening as a full board. I know Mr. Rolan was quite involved in this. What did I miss? What else should I have said? If I can ask you?

GREG: You didn't miss anything, just allow me to say, Mr. Superintendent, Mr. President sounds pretty good doesn't it? Get used to it. It's with a heavy heart but with considerable pride. I bring this to the board for approval. Make no mistake, 907 is an existential threat to this board. The mid cycle redistricting could have immediately threatened each and every one of your trustee areas and added two more. The focus of the executive committee in our lobbyist was to preserve the board, preserve the membership, preserve the composition, and more importantly, preserve the values that we've been celebrating here tonight. Now I didn't expect that, but so the politics is the art of the possible. We did what we had to do and if the amendments are in print and according to what we've negotiated, we will preserve this board for eight years. Eight years. We went through this in 2021, it was disruptive and it was expensive. We want to move forward with our new administration and make some progress.

SHAW: One thing I might mention it is the unintended consequence of the bill that the five of us who are currently up here would basically get a four and a half year term because of moving the election to November. The three of us who just got elected in the primary, our terms would run through November. Am I correct on that?

GREG: That's correct.

SHAW: Okay.

GREG: And no member of this board that I've spoken to has any concern about running in the general election. Everyone that I've spoken to has embraced that opportunity.

SHAW: Well, I'll just say I was on the ballot all the time in November when I was on the city council and I mean that's so, okay, well those are my comments Mr. President,

WILLIAMS: Just real quick, Mr. Rolan, do we have the amendments? Have they been posted and have they met?

GREG: They have not. The legislatures in recess until August 5th.

WILLIAMS: Okay. We don't have anything. Okay. Dr. Sparks, you seconded the motion. You'll be up if you want to speak to the motion.

SPARKS: Well, yeah, I mean, gosh, I think Tim, former President Shaw, I think you described it very well and the whole process and then I think Mr. Rolan really described, I mean my main concern is the fiscal impact of and disruption of going through a redistricting right now would be pretty bad. I think to gain eight years is given the situation is a good thing or maybe the best thing we can kind of deal with. I think if we have this in writing, that's going to be the key for me. But I think that Mr. Shaw and Mr. Rolan really described everything very well.

WILLIAMS: Oh, very good. Okay. Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes. From the one hearing I was at last week, everything was explained well. And I really don't like the fact that we don't have local control over these things, but I understand that sometimes compromise must be made and it seems that this is the best decision for the board going forward. I do support it.

WILLIAMS: Very good to my right. Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: Well to my colleagues with whom I agree the vast majority of the time, I do not agree with a yes vote on this. SB 907 is a complete affront to Orange County and its voters. I promised not even two hours ago that every vote I would take here would be supportive of parents and kids. A yes vote on this simply does not do that. I am most certainly a no. In addition to that, it is my personal and legal belief that we have a valid state constitutional challenge to SB 907, which is not being pursued. I try to be as ethical as I can be. I am not making a deal with Josh Newman period.

WILLIAMS: And I'll wrap up and give my thoughts on this. SB 907 is a result of a single party political state in California. It's a result of a legislature that does not like individuals that holds the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children or that protects the innocence of children. They don't like the governance philosophy that we have advanced. And this is a significant violation of the concept of local control of education. That has been something that has been inviable has not been violated by either parties for the last several decades that I've been in office. But somehow this year, this radical legislature has taken upon themselves. And I was there in a Zoom meeting with a group called the Supporters of Public Education. I saw Senator Newman in there collaborating with the CTA about this bill. And we have video on this and this is a result of political manipulation by unions. The fact that we support charter schools, they don't like that.

I feel like I have a gun to my head. I think this is totally political in nature. In fact, my good friend Karen Jaff happened to be talking with state Senator David Min and she asked him, why are you being a part author of this bill SB 907? And this is what Karen said. She said that men made it public that it's because we're conservative and we're doing too much for parents. And that's the truth. And that's what's been said out there. There's a lot of truth to what has been explained as to the compromise here, and I'm very, very torn. Obviously, I don't have any of the amendments I haven't seen them, that's of some concern. I understand that the legislatures out of

Sacramento at this time. My question back to the author of this motion, what happens because I have no idea about this amended language. Well, if the amended language comes back not according to what we thought it would be?

SHAW: Well then, we would not send the letter. I mean the action tonight authorizes our lobbyists to send the letter that withdraws our opposition. I'm sure Mr. Rolen will want to review that language along with our lobbyist, Mr. Sheehy. And I think can each of us even certainly, well all five trustees can read it before the letter is sent. And then if it does, what Senator Newman indicated it would do is it just kicks off that two trustees till after 2030. I mean, it seems simple enough because it's going to leave the election part alone to moving us to the November election.

WILLIAMS: Yeah, I really thought tonight that amended language would be there. Maybe that was my misinterpretation. When is that amended language? When do we expect it, Greg?

GREG: It's been explained to me that it'll be shortly after August 5th when they return to session.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

GREG: They've already submitted the language to the legislative counsel for writing, but it's not there yet.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

GREG: This is simple. This is a trust yet verify situation. If the language isn't exactly what we want to the letter to the exclamation point, we don't remove our opposition. It's that simple. We let it go to the governor's desk. Our lobbyist continues to work.

WILLIAMS: Okay, so it's going to be done sometime in August. Can this item number 24 wait until the August meeting until we see the actual amended language because we're not going to be sending a letter out until it's public right?

GREG: We know exactly what the amendments are.

WILLIAMS: You do?

GREG: Our lobbyist has told us that now is the time that we have to bring this motion up before the board for approval or disapproval.

SHAW: One thing I failed to mention as well, one request from Senator Newman was when the amendments are in print, the letter has been submitted. If NFR board tonight or whenever authorizes it, he does want a joint statement from the board and from him kind of codifying our, if you will, our removal of our opposition and his amending of the bill.

VALDES: What do you mean by joint statement, Tim?

SHAW: Well, it's something that.

VALDES: Because if you're asking for five 0 it's not going to include me.

SHAW: I know that I'm quite aware. I mean, I know. Well, let me also stipulate it this way. The language of that resolution or that statement has to be agreeable to both sides and we knew there would probably be some back and forth on, I don't want to say it that way. I don't want to say it that way. The two sides, we do have to agree precisely on the language. Correct?

GREG: There is a joint statement, was part of the accord reached by our lobbyists. Yes.

SPARKS: If I may, can you all hear me?

SHAW: Yes.

SPARKS: I would like to ask Mr. Rolen to speak to any of the legal analysis around this if that's possible.

GREG: It would, respectfully Trustee Sparks would be inappropriate to speak about legal analysis in open session.

SPARKS: Okay.

GREG: Suffice it to say we have received analysis on these.

WILLIAMS: This statement, who's going to draft it and what happens if it's not agreed upon?

SHAW: Well, I think Senator Newman's staff at the moment.

WILLIAMS: Does it go away?

GREG: I don't have a clear answer for you on that. What happens if we don't agree to the language of the press release.

SHAW: My understanding was Senator Newman, that was his amending of the bill is contingent. I mean, that was a requirement he had to amend the bill.

WILLIAMS: Wait a minute. He's bargaining with us. We don't know what the amendments are. He said it verbally, but we don't trust the man and there's going to be a joint statement that we have to agree to? Who's going to write that and what's it going to say?

VALDES: Well, the statement would be three, four to one or three to two.

WILLIAMS: No, he's asking for a statement in addition to right now.

VALDES: But it would be from the board.

SHAW: It's from the board, not from an individual of the board. So that only requires the majority. And it's going to, I believe, indicate along the lines that Senator Newman has amended the bill to reflect the following. That two additional trustees don't come in until after 2030 and our board has formally removed its opposition and lobbying efforts to stop SB 907.

WILLIAMS: That's it.

SHAW: And I mean, not much more than that. I don't believe.

GREG: That's the understanding. Yes.

SHAW: So again, the language hasn't been finalized. His staff is writing it and going to have some back and forth with us.

WILLIAMS: Are they watching this video?

SHAW: Well, I'll put it this way. If you recall the meeting I was at where I was in my hotel room in Sacramento, and I said, oh, I saw Senator Newman today, and I invited him and the next morning I saw him in the airport and he said, oh, I heard you're talking about me. We were kind of laughing about that at the airport. My guess is yes, Ken.

WILLIAMS: Okay, to make this clear, because the motion's not entirely clear, to be honest with you. We're agreeing to a statement that's not printed, that's supposed to say that we're officially withdrawing our opposition and that the bill would be amended. So, redistricting won't take place at 2032.

SHAW: Well after the 2030 census.

WILLIAMS: Right, so that would be the 32 elections then.

SHAW: The motion tonight as an entire board, we have to authorize the sending of that letter, but we've authorized it, but it won't actually be sent until the language has been reviewed by our general counsel and our lobbyists. And I think even though all five of us.

SPARKS: Correct.

SHAW: And look, I was catching the first flight out of John Wayne airport to go up to Sacramento, waking up about 4:30 in the morning these four times. When I say I lost sleep on this bill, I literally lost a lot of sleep. And not to mention just the turmoil this caused, but having lived this now for the last six months, I mean, it is just clear

to me if we don't do this, he'll just keep the bill the way it is, and I guess we can roll our dice on that.

VALDES: I just want to reiterate to anyone listening that I believe we have a valid state constitutional challenge. I would prefer to go that route. I've said my piece.

WILLIAMS: Okay, just one quick clarification, Tim. So, this motion here, even though it doesn't say it, you, you're insinuating it in the conversation that it includes a statement that we're going to agree to?

SHAW: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Okay.

SHAW: A joint statement.

WILLIAMS: A joint statement. And we don't know what that joint statement's going to say. We assume it's going to say that we're withdrawing our opposition because we're agreeing to this change in the elections pending the decennial census in 2030. Is that correct?

SHAW: We're moving our opposition because the bill was amended.

WILLIAMS: Okay. And what happens if there's any other language in there that is in the statement?

SHAW: In the statement?

WILLIAMS: In the statement. Yeah, I mean that's pretty plain and simple.

SHAW: It's got to be mutually agreed upon.

WILLIAMS: Okay. There'll be no amendments until it's mutually agreed upon.

SHAW: No, I mean, I think, I'm not sure it's the chicken and the egg thing, but we are only putting out the statement once the amendments are in print and we're ready to go.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Yeah, it's a very difficult situation to be in. And I want to thank you and Lisa and our counsel and Thomas for all the work that they've done. It's not an ideal situation to be in. It's like there's a gun to our head here, but there is some reality to it. And I want to validate Trustee Valdes's position. I'm just really torn. I'm really torn. Being that we have a motion in a second. Is there any more discussion by Trustee Sparks or Barke that since you're not here in the room, it's hard to gauge whether you want to participate any further, ask any more questions or make any more comments?

SPARKS: None.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Okay. We have a motion and a second. I think we've had enough discussion about this. Darou, let's do roll call.

SISAVATH: Trustee Valdes?

VALDES: No.

SISAVATH: Trustee Sparks?

SPARKS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Shaw?

SHAW: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Williams?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

SISAVATH: Trustee Barke?

BARKE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Motion passes. Okay, moving on the agenda. Communication information. Dr. Bean, you're on deck, sir. Or Renee, I don't know if you've coordinated this.

BEAN: Thank you. All right, we're passing on a handout of just notes, my notes. The public also has this available and we're passing that as well. As you know, Jeff Riel, who served with our department for quite a while and served us well and served school districts as transitioning to Long Beach Unified School District. We did make that announcements to our 28 school districts and their superintendents. We also made announcement that we are going to be actively looking for his replacement. And I made a commitment to you and I made a commitment to the public that any hiring processes would be transparent, collaborative, and we would communicate it effectively to the public. In order to do that, Ms. Renee Hendrick and I sat down and we created a process together that we believe would reach that goal. If you would with me, just follow along the handout in order to find the next general counsel.

We're going to first screen, well, we're going to post a job and then we're going to screen our applicants. And as you see here, it will be myself along with our Deputy Superintendent of Operations. And we will do is we'll basically, of course put requirements, job description together, compare it with the applicants. Along with that, we are going to then include some written testing samples. From there, we will submit those candidates to the first round of interviews, which is phase two. In phase

two we're going to have two different panels that will interview candidates for 30 minutes each panel. And the panels will include the district superintendents. We're going to, we don't have details on which superintendents yet, but we want to include district superintendents as well as board members. And of course, we cannot include any more than two board members per panel.

So that's why we have two panels. And then of course, selected staff and cabinet members. And then hypothetical questions will also include understanding of educational law and applications to districts and board of education. Phase three is actually a second round of interviews, and this is where the applicants will advance to the second round and they'll be interviewed by the superintendent board members. As you can see, there'll be two opportunities for board members in round one and two as well as selected cabinet members. And then at each phase along the way, in each round of interviews, they will make a recommendation on which candidates move forward. And then the final round if necessary, the final round will be in depth conversation with me and the executive committee members of the Orange County Board of Education. This board is involved in all three phases, phase two, three, and four, as well as, and I made this very clear to my cabinet that I want to include those who are most affected by this decision, which would then include district superintendents as well as internal staff and cabinet members. I'll pause there if you guys have any questions about the process, our next steps for finding a general counsel.

WILLIAMS: Thank you for your transparency and your leadership. Appreciate that. Beautiful art, nice and easy to read. Great job.

BEAN: Thank you.

SHAW: Dr. Bean, did you say it's about to be posted online?

BEAN: Well, So Mr. Riel comes back, I believe the 13th. Is that correct?

HENDRICK: The 12th, yes.

BEAN: Okay. And when would we post this after you guys had an opportunity to review the process, we wanted you guys to review it first, speak into it, and then when would we post it Renee?

HENDRICK: We're ready to post it.

SHAW: Any dates going to be posted?

BEAN: Yeah.

SHAW: Was it contemplated that the same two board members are part of round two and three and.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

BEAN: Well, yes, at the very least it's potentially possible that the executive committee members could actually attend a couple of rounds because you'll be in the final round along with me and then there'll be three other board members that can spread themselves between the first or the second round as you desire. That is up to you. You'll just let us know.

SHAW: I was just thinking.

VALDES: I'm just overwhelmed with the level of cooperation and the level of transparency, and I think my only comment is, wow.

SHAW: I was just thinking it'd be important to have Trustee Valdes who's not on the executive committee, but being an attorney, it would be great to have him involved at one or more of these steps.

BEAN: We can make it happen at least two steps. I would caution about step or phase or the final round because the executive committee is two board members, right? So if one of you decide who's on the executive committee to step down and have Jorge be at a part of that, we can certainly be flexible with that.

VALDES: Happy to do whatever you guys would like me to do.

WILLIAMS: We can discuss this if you want to have a greater involvement. Tim, what's your interest in this?

SHAW: None.

WILLIAMS: Okay. I appreciate your honesty.

VALDES: I actually have a very high level of interest.

WILLIAMS: Trustee Barke, Sparks, do you have an interest in being involved in these interviewing committees?

SPARKS: I have an interest in being involved in whatever capacity you all need me to be.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Trustee Barke?

BARKE: I would also love to be a part of the process this time. I was not part of the process last time I actually came in after, but just having watched what's gone on my six years now on the board, I would really love to be a part of the process.

WILLIAMS: Right. Very good.

BARKE: I appreciate the opportunity so transparently.

WILLIAMS: And of course, I'll be involved in the process, so give us a call, tell us the dates and we will be there.

BEAN: All right, so we'll reach out to the executive committee and you guys can let us know which board members will serve on each round. Okay?

WILLIAMS: Okay, very good.

BEAN: And I do want to make it very clear that it's because our hope is that this general counsel would support both this board as well as our department. And so that is why we absolutely need to have our board members present in these interview process.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Very good. Announcement, sir.

BEAN: You know what? I just want to just say that I'm very humbled and honored that the five of you would appoint me for this position. And as I said, I'm a public servant along with you guys and in every conversation, I've had, I've shared with my staff and external stakeholders that it is my number one mission to serve our 450,000 students across this county. And that would be first serving our 28 school districts. Because this department does an amazing job of providing different services in support of our 28 school districts and then of course our own students through our ACCESS and connection programs, and then of course our charter community as well. It is my commitment to serve all students and especially the most vulnerable students in our county. You'll often find me in conversations where it involves directly those students are most vulnerable. I have a vested interest in those students. I just wanted to humbly thank each of you and we're going to do this work together and I have a very good staff. I've met some great people in this department and I'm excited to work with all of them, so thank you.

WILLIAMS: Very good. And likewise, it's a pleasure to be a part of the process. Renee, do you have anything to report?

HENDRICK: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Dr. Miramontes?

HENDRICK: A reminder that the next board meeting is August 7th and the board delivery, the deadline is July 24th and the board packet delivery is August 2nd. In your folder, you do have some schedules for the conference schedules for 24-25 for your purview and then also the calendar for CSBA and OCSBA are included in there. That is all I have.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Okay, moving on with the meeting.

HENDRICK: I'm sorry. We have Dr. Miramontes reports also.

MIRAMONTES: That's okay. Good evening. Board members, superintendent. Just a couple of board updates. The first one is welcome to the 24-25 school year. We started our SIS summer program that supports high school students from across the county. Over 11,500 students are currently enrolled in our ACCESS program and I just wanted to thank all the staff from OCDE that assisted from enrollment to those teaching for their efforts to serve students across the county and those efforts are greatly appreciated. In addition, our connections program started as well with our extended school year for our students within that program and the grateful thank you to our staffer committee for the commitment to serve our most vulnerable students. Lastly, we look forward to the MTSSPLI conference and the Safe Schools conference in the next few weeks where Dr. Bean, our superintendent, will be able to welcome all the participants from across the county, the state, and the country. I want to thank the staff from our educational services department for their dedication, thoughtfulness, and planning of these two events. Come out and see our superintendent. Welcome everybody. It's Anaheim, both are in Anaheim, and we can send those dates out to the board as well. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir. Okay, moving on. Legislative updates, committee reports, board member comments. We'll move on to that stage. Jorge, Tim, Lisa, Mari, any comments?

SPARKS: I have a comment.

BARKE: I'd love to comment that I'm just super excited about all the swearing ins that happened tonight. Very excited about working with you, Ken, on the executive committee. Excited to continue on with all of our other colleagues. Very excited about working with Dr. Bean, our new superintendent. I think it's going to be a great year and I'm very optimistic that we're going to do great work together for the children of Orange County, I'm just looking forward to a great year.

SPARKS: I have a comment as well if I may?

WILLIAMS: Go ahead, Dr. Sparks.

SPARKS: Okay. Yeah, Dr. Bean, we're super excited to have you on board and I can't wait to see you next month in person. Just give you a big hug and welcome you. I thank you for your transparency in the search for the new GC. That's going to be an exciting process to be a part of. I want to thank Mr. Shaw, former president for the honor to serve with him on the executive committee these last two years. We did a kind of flip and I think we were able to accomplish a lot and I really appreciate your leadership this year and I look forward to our next year with our new executive committee. Thank you all.

WILLIAMS: Very good. Thank you, Dr. Sparks.

Transcript of the July 3, 2024, Orange County Board of Education Regular Meeting

VALDES: I just want to echo my colleagues' comments about how excited I am, not only for Dr. Bean being our new superintendent, but working with this fantastic board to serve 450,000 kids in Orange County. I'm just super excited to be a part of that.

SHAW: I want to know what time it is in Italy.

SPARKS: It is 4:40 AM.

SHAW: What a trooper. So that's some dedication.

SPARKS: I'm still awake.

WILLIAMS: Thank you Dr. Sparks. Any other comments before we, yes?

HENRICK: Sorry. Just a reminder, we would like to update the board pictures next meeting, so if you can come prepared for that, wear your Sunday best.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

SHAW: But is everyone going to be back?

HENDRICK: I believe so. I know Mari, you'll be here, correct? Yeah. So yes, that was the plan.

WILLIAMS: Great. Okay, so before I gavel us out, any last-minute comment? I'll report out from closed session.

GREG: Closed session this evening. Trustee Barke arrived 4:38 PM. Closed session item number one, the board received information on a matter of existing litigation. No action was taken. Closed session item number two, the board received information on a matter of anticipated litigation and no action was taken.

WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Mr. Rolen. Anything else before I gavel us out? Okay. Make a motion to leave this wonderful celebration of a meeting and we'll see you in August. Thank you very much. We are adjourned.