

**County Board of Education
Ronald L. Stewart Center
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, California
October 1, 2014**

- ROLL CALL:** Pamela Mirabella, Area 1 Trustee; Christine Deane, Area 2 Trustee; Daniel Gomes, Area 3 Trustee; Richard Asadoorian, Area 4 Trustee; and Cynthia Ruehlig, Area 5 Trustee.
- Absent:**
- Others:** Joseph Ovick, Pamela Comfort, Katie Gaines, Bill Clark, Terry Koehne, Mac Carey, Loreen Joseph and County Office staff.
- Presiding:** The regular meeting of the Contra Costa County Board of Education was called to order by Vice President Gomes at 5:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION** Ms. Mirabella moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded, and the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the agenda as presented.
- Ayes: Mirabella, Asadoorian, Gomes, Ruehlig, Deane
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Freddie Davis, Jr. shared complaints he has with the Liberty Union School District football coaches and his son's teacher.
- RECOGNITIONS**
- Consider granting of a Contra Costa High School Diploma to high school student DVHS 1-10-14** Ms. Mirabella moved, Mr. Asadoorian seconded and the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve granting of a Contra Costa High School Diploma to high student DVHS 1-10-14.
- Ayes: Mirabella, Asadoorian, Gomes, Ruehlig, Deane
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
- CLOSED SESSION - none**
- ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** Joseph Ovick, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools, reported that he attended the Labor to Labor dinner at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond on September 26. At the dinner, Congressman George Miller was honored for his forty years of service. Dr. Ovick also attended the State of the Community College breakfast in Brentwood.
- BUSINESS SERVICES**
- Charter School Oversight** Bill Clark, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, said this item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Board. In it he summarizes the key points within the two articles that were identified by Ms. Mirabella and also includes Education Code that addresses some of the comments made in those articles.
- Ms. Mirabella shared documents with the Board. She believes it would be a good idea to share best practices between county offices and districts. She finds it interesting that California does not require a parent to be on charter governing boards. She would like to look into how governance is working with charters. She would also like to look at oversight, facilities as it pertains to Proposition 39, the unfunded mandate for the district and county office, and potential legislation.

Mr. Asadoorian commented that he and Ms. Deane were at a meeting where he was questioned why the Board doesn't have more oversight over charter schools. He responded that it's not the Board's responsibility, but that there is oversight from COE staff.

Mr. Gomes said that charter schools usually arise in areas where students aren't doing well. Regarding charter renewals he thinks the Board should look at how well the charter has done correcting the situation. He believes criteria should be developed that can give a degree of measurement. Ms. Ruehlig said she believes there is criteria in Board policy and Education Code for continued increase in student performance. Mr. Clark explained that the LCAP now requires a three-year multi-year plan. There are goals, actions, and services that need to be identified and measurable progress that needs to be accounted for each fiscal year. In addition, the state is developing a new testing rubric, but it will not be available until the spring of 2016. In some ways, the state has taken action to provide more clarity about what the expectations need to be for charters and public schools. Mr. Gomes suggested defining specific requirements that must be met for charters to be renewed. Ms. Ruehlig said that if specific numbers are defined it can make the Board rigid. There are several factors to consider the success of a school and that is why there are eight priorities given by the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Dr. Comfort shared that API scores are frozen until the new accountability system is built. The rubric that is being developed is to evaluate an LCAP. The state is changing what goes into the API so that it's more than just standardized testing. Moving forward there will be more clarity in terms of being able to evaluate whether schools are improving or not. Mr. Gomes said he likes the idea of encouraging charters that are not doing well to take some type of affirmative action to improve. He would like to lock in some kind of metric or specific criteria so that if a renewal were to be denied, specific reasons could be given so as not to become arbitrary and capricious.

Ms. Deane said she is reticent to lump a whole school together and look at the performance of the group. Especially in charter schools where there is a lottery system. She is against looking at the general percent of improvement in a school, but going forward believes the LCAP will take care of that because it addresses individual students.

Ms. Mirabella asked if there are deadlines for the COE to expect charters to submit required forms. Dr. Ovick explained there is a series of events that charter schools have to follow based on reporting to the state. Often they must be co-signed by the COE to verify that the information, to the best of the COE's ability and knowledge, are accurate reports. There are financial reports that have to be submitted as well.

Ms. Mirabella said districts and charter schools should work together to ensure that facility arrangements do not disadvantage students in either sector. Bill Clark shared that the Education Code provides that charter school petitioners need to provide evidence that they have secured a facility as part of the petition process. No petition would be approved if a facility has not been identified. The facility is visited as part of the review process. If the facility is found insufficient it is noted in the review because the COE wants to make sure it is the right academic environment. Proposition 39 provides that the district provide a facility in the event there is space available for a charter. If not, the petitioner must use its resources to identify a suitable location. They have to pass that criteria as part of the review process.

Mr. Asadoorian asked if districts must include in bond acts that charters will be included in the money for the bond. Mr. Clark said he doesn't believe districts are required to include charters.

Mr. Clark shared that COE was approached by Clayton Valley Charter High School this week regarding their renewal. Their renewal is due in February. COE has their preliminary documents and the final documents will be available next week. Mr. Gomes asked if the Mt. Diablo Unified School District should be notified that the CVCHS is coming up for renewal. Dr. Ovick said the plan is to notify the district once the dates are set. Mr. Clark said the public is welcome and invited to come to the Board meeting to present their point of view.

Ms. Deane said she has a concern when a charter wants to change the renewal timeline because it accelerates writing their renewal, presenting it, and asking their stakeholders to agree on changes that may have been insinuated into the plan. Mr. Clark said it's not unusual to receive a renewal at this time. The process at the charter level is that the renewal needs to go before the charter board. They have their public process for considering any changes. His understanding is that they've held several board meetings to discuss any proposed changes and there has been active participation and discussion.

Public Comment

Jennifer Krnich, Clayton Valley Charter High School teacher and former board member said there is a meeting tonight for stakeholders to go over some of the red line edits in the charter renewal. She shared concerns about conflict of interest on the charter board and questioned the role of teachers who signed the countywide performing arts charter intention signature page.

Ms. Mirabella shared the California Charter Oversight article which contained suggestions about oversight and recommendations to increase transparency. She asked if there was a way to account for how many hours it takes to review charter petitions and provide oversight. Mr. Clark stated that charters are required to report on the state reporting cycle. They are required to adopt a budget, submit a first and second interim report, and an unaudited actual. The COE receives those documents and prepares time accounting for that work and effort. Also, the COE receives one percent income from the charters which helps to offset the cost. Annual visits to the charter are being scheduled. Mr. Clark explained that COE receives ADA funding for every student in the county, including charter schools, under the LCFF. The COE reports to the state findings as far as review of the district reports.

Ms. Mirabella asked if there is a way to tell when too many charters become a diseconomy of scales and an inequity to the students not in charters. She is concerned there are inequities because of foundations putting substantial amounts of money into some charters. She asked Dr. Ovick to bring the topic to the superintendent's council and get feedback from them. She would like to ensure that the policy includes training regarding mandated reporting. She would like to learn more about Proposition 39 and why charters believe districts should build charter schools with bond measures. Ms. Ruehlig said the general intent of Proposition 39 is to make sure all students have reasonable facilities.

Staff Report

Bill Clark, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, reported that the Countywide Performing Arts charter petitioners have agreed to extend the timeline for the decision meeting to January 14, 2015. Mr. Clark also shared a calendar with the Board with the tentative dates for the Clayton Valley Charter High School (CVCHS) petition renewal hearing and decision meeting and the Countywide Performing Arts Charter petition hearing and decision meeting. The Countywide Performing Arts charter petition was given to Board members. The CVCHS renewal petition will be emailed to the Board prior to the October 15 meeting. Board consensus was to follow the calendar as presented. Therefore, the CVCHS hearing will be held October 15. It will be brought back to the November 5 board meeting for approval/denial. The Countywide Performing Arts charter hearing will be scheduled for December 10. It will be brought back to the January 14, 2015 board meeting for approval/denial.

Ms. Ruehlig expressed that she prefers the process of being able to ask questions at charter hearings. Mr. Clark said the Board has authority to ask questions at the first hearing of the countywide charter.

Per a request from Ms. Mirabella, Mr. Clark reviewed with County Counsel why some counties don't have to pay their elections cost. The reason being there is a state statute that counties have to share election costs with participating agencies. The only exception would be a chartered county, in which case they can make their own rules.

Mr. Clark said he will follow up on the question asked by Ms. Ruehlig regarding the Summit application process which asks about the need for special education services.

Staff Report

Pamela Comfort, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, reported that she recently visited John Swett Elementary School. The site's principal has a practice of using social media in order to engage the parent community. She has invited him to the COE to do an evening presentation for others in the county that may be interested in hearing more on how to use social media to engage parents. Dr. Comfort also attended the East Bay Leadership Council's Women's Leadership luncheon with Terry Koehne, Chief Communications Officer. She shared that the first Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) collaborative workshop for 2014-15 was held on Monday, September 28. Sixteen of the eighteen districts, as well as charter school representatives, attended.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Report

Katie Gaines, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, reported that the Human Resources Department recently hosted two substitute fairs. The first took place in the far east county and the second was held at the County Office of Education. Both fairs had a good turn out.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Report

Terry Koehne, Chief Communications Officer, said he is happy to be part of COE and is getting to know the talented staff in his department.

TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Staff Report

Mac Carey, Chief Technology Officer, confirmed with the Board that January 21, 2015 has been scheduled for the Board Docs training. Board Docs is an online agenda program.

BOARD

Legislative Update

Dr. Ovick shared that Terry Koehne and Bill Clark were interviewed by the San Jose Mercury News regarding the COE's position on the governor's proposed rainy day fund. Ms. Deane said she was told by Superintendent Nellie Meyer of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District that she along with a group of superintendents have written a letter to Sacramento asking that adult education be lifted from the LCAP funding and be kept as separate funding.

Recognition of Graduates

Ms. Deane said she feels it would be nice to send a note to graduates that do not attend a Board meeting to receive their diploma. By consensus the Board agreed to include a note with the diplomas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Krnich, CVCHS teacher, said she is curious about the Countywide Performing Arts Charter petition. She is interested in seeing the impact to her student population as well as the county's.

Ms. Mirabella asked if there is a policy that NSBA has on governance of the makeup of a board. Mr. Clark said he has not searched for one, but expects he can find some examples. Dr. Ovick suggested looking at the California Charter Association as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Mirabella moved, Ms. Ruehlig seconded, and the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**Consider approval of minutes of
September 17, 2014**

Ayes: Mirabella, Gomes, Asadoorian, Deane, Ruehlig

Noes: None

**Consider granting of a High School
Diploma to adult school student
CCAS 1-10/1/14**

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**Consider granting of a High School
Diploma to adult school student
CCAS 2-10/1/14**

**Consider granting of a High School
Diploma to adult school student
CCAS 3-10/1/14**

**Consider granting of a High School
Diploma to high school student
MM 1-10/1/14**

**CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS
CALENDAR**

Correspondence: None

Calendar of Events:

December 14 – 16, CSBA Annual Conference, Moscone Center, San Francisco

December 16, Qtly Awards Ceremony, WCDF, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

December 17, Qtly Awards Ceremony, MCDF, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

BOARD REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Asadoorian asked if a county credit card could be reinstated so that board members don't have to pay out of pocket and wait for reimbursement of hotel charges. Mr. Clark will research the issue and bring the information back to the Board. Mr. Asadoorian was recently interviewed by the League of Women Voters, a Democratic Committee, California Teachers Association, and the Antioch Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Ruehlig participated in an interview with CCTV. She announced that Synergy Charter School may move to a new location.

On September 19, Ms. Mirabella along with Ms. Deane visited John Swett High School. On September 24, she along with Mr. Asadoorian visited the Oakland School of Arts. On October 1 she attended the Contra Costa College forum meeting.

Ms. Deane along with Ms. Mirabella, visited Superintendent Harter at the West Contra Costa Unified School District. She visited a Pinole Parks and Recreation after school program. She also visited the New Horizons program in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD). She met with the Board President of the Acalanes School District. She also met with Superintendent Meyer at MDUSD. Recently she met with two stakeholders from Hercules and Pinole. She participated in interviews with the Bay Area New Group.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., Ex Officio Secretary
County Board of Education

Copies of all resolutions adopted by the Board are on file in the Office of the Superintendent, Ex Officio Secretary of the Board of Education. These unadopted minutes are summaries and excerpts from the regular meeting of October 1, 2014, and are subject to amendments and/or correction prior to the approval of the County Board of Education.

For further information, contact Loreen Joseph, (925) 942-3380, ljoseph@cccocoe.k12.ca.us.