

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2019

The Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, met in special session on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at the Los Angeles City Board of Education Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Opening remarks were heard from Ms. Mónica García regarding Board Rule 137 (A), Rules of Decorum, Persons Addressing the Board. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The following Board Members were present: Mr. Nick Melvoin, Mr. Scott Schmerelson, Dr. Richard Vladovic and Board President Mónica García. Ms. Kelly Gonez arrived at 9:12 a.m. Dr. George McKenna, III, was absent.

Superintendent, Austin Beutner was present.

Mr. Melvoin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT ITEMS

Items for action below assigned by the Board to be adopted by a single vote:

OLD BUSINESS FOR ACTION:

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 168-18/19
Provisional Internship Permits

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION:

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 219-18/19
Renewal Charter Petition for New Designs Charter School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 222-18/19
Material Revision of New Designs Charter School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 225-18/19
Material Revision of TEACH Preparatory Mildred S. Cunningham
and Edith H. Morris Elementary School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 176-18/19
Renewal Charter Petition for Academia Moderna

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 239-18/19
Approval of a Revised District Volunteer Policy

BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

The following resolution was postponed to the Regular Board meeting of January 22, 2019.

Mr. Melvoin, Dr. Vladovic – Empowering Schools and Teachers with Choice of Employment (Res-015-18/19)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is dedicated to ensuring that every student has access to a high quality education in a positive school environment shaped by dedicated and mission-driven professionals;

Whereas, The District applauds and respects the tireless dedication of educators and other school staff who deserve agency to make professional decisions about their own careers;

Whereas, The District applauds and supports the capacity of school leaders and school site decision-makers to select, support, and manage teachers who are aligned with and committed to a common, local vision for success at each District school;

Whereas, A strong and aligned team of teachers and school leadership promote student academic success and college-readiness; now, therefore, be it;

Resolved, That no teacher shall be employed at a school without the mutual agreement of the teacher and the school site decision-maker, subject to legal or contractual requirements (such as reasonable accommodations for teachers with disabilities); and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent amends or modifies any policies or practices and negotiate contractual obligations where necessary to ensure that by the 2019-2020 school year employment of all Los Angeles Unified School District teachers will be upon mutual agreement of the employee and the school site decision-maker, subject to legal or contractual requirements. The Superintendent will report to the Board within 90 days outlining efforts to ensure implementation of this resolution.

Mr. Melvoin moved that the Consent Items be adopted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Vladovic.

Mr. Crain made the following statement:

This constitutes a public hearing on the following charter petition:

New Designs Charter School

A maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on this item will be heard. Those who wish to speak should sign-up in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be called by name.

The Board will be taking action on the charter petition at this meeting. Petitions denied may be submitted directly to the Los Angeles County Office of Education or directly to the State for action.

The following speakers addressed the Board on Consent Items:

- Ms. Jeanette Santana, Parent, Board of Education Report No. 176-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for Academia Moderna
- Ms. Rachel Villalobos, Assistant Principal, Board of Education Report No. 176-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for Academia Moderna
- Ms. Micaela Washington Harris, Teacher, Board of Education Report No. 176-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for Academia Moderna
- Ms. Lauren Thomas, Student, Board of Education Report No. 176-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for Academia Moderna
- Ms. Virginia Salcedo, Parent, Board of Education Report No. 176-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for Academia Moderna
- Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA, Board of Education Report No. 222-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for New Designs Charter School
- Ms. Zoe Reynolds, Student, Board of Education Report No. 222-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for New Designs Charter School
- Mr. Gil Dyer, Parent, Board of Education Report No. 222-18/19, Renewal Charter Petition for New Designs Charter School

Following speakers, the Consent Items were adopted by general consent.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION:

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 218-18/19
Denial of the Renewal Petition for Community Preparatory Academy

This item was withdrawn by the petitioner.

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Board President García modified the Order of Business
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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 239-18/19
Approval of a Revised District Volunteer Policy

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

Ms. Gonez offered an amendment to the On Demand Safety Volunteer category of the policy to eliminate community members as possible volunteers and only allow parents and legal guardians with education and custody rights to be allowed as volunteers under that category.

On roll call the amendment to Board Report No. 239-18/19 failed, 2 ayes, 3 noes, Mr. Melvoin, Mr. Schmerelson and Ms. García. Dr. McKenna was absent.

On roll call the report failed, 3 ayes, 2 noes, Ms. Gonez, and Mr. Schmerelson. Dr. McKenna was absent.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Gonez moved that the revised volunteer policy be reconsidered with a proposed amendment to include only parents and legal guardians in the On Demand Safety Volunteer category of the policy and add extended family members at the principal's discretion.

Mr. Melvoin Seconded the motion.

Remarks were heard from Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Garcia and Ms. Gonez regarding the Revised District Volunteer Policy's community involvement, safety, and discretion.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Mr. Carl Petersen, Parent
Ms. Jenna Schwartz, Parent
Ms. Rose Reece, Parent

Remarks were heard from Mr. Schmerelson regarding the safety of the Revised District Volunteer Policy.

On roll call the Board Report as amended was approved. 4 ayes, 1 No, Mr. Schmerelson. Dr. McKenna was absent.

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Board President García resumed the Order of Business

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PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mr. Crain made the following statement:

This constitutes a public hearing on the following charter petitions:

New Designs Charter – Watts
Accelerated Charter School
Synergy Quantum Academy
Synergy Kinetic Academy
Academy of Media Arts

A maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on each of these items will be heard. Those who wish to speak should sign-up in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be called by name.

The Board will be taking action on the charter petitions at this meeting. Petitions denied may be submitted directly to the Los Angeles County Office of Education or directly to the State for action.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 220-18/19
Renewal Charter Petition for New Designs Charter School - Watts

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the report:

Mr. Paul Okaiteye, CEO, New Designs Charter
Hon. Diane Watson, former US Representative, California's 33rd Congressional District
Mr. Perry Porter, Dean, New Designs Charter
Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA

Following the speakers and on roll call the report was adopted. 4 ayes, 1 No, Dr. Vladovic. Dr. McKenna was absent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 221-18/19
Renewal Charter Petition for Accelerated Charter School

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA
Ms. Julie Quinn, President, Board of Trustees
Ms. Felicia Jackson, Assistant Principal
Mr. Johnathan Williams, CEO, Accelerated Charter School

Following the speakers and by general consent, the report was adopted.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 223-18/19
Material Revision of Synergy Quantum Academy

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA

Following the speaker and by general consent, the report was adopted.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 224-18/19
Material Revision of Synergy Kinetic Academy

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA

Following the speaker and by general consent, the report was adopted.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 226-18/19
New Charter Petition for Academy of Media Arts

Ms. Gonez moved that the report be adopted. Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion..

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Ms. Chelsea Staebell, Volunteer, Academy of Media Arts
Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA

Following the speakers and by general consent, the report was adopted.

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Board President García modified the Order of Business
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BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

Mr. Melvoin moved the following resolution with the amendment to strike all of the “Whereas” portion:

Mr. Schmerelson, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Gonez - Strategic Planning for Adequate Funding of Public Education in Los Angeles (Res-014-18/19)

~~Whereas, In both the primary and general elections of 2018, Los Angeles County voters, as well as voters in urban counties throughout California, overwhelmingly voted for statewide candidates who strongly supported traditional K-12 public education, publicly-funded early childhood, college, and career education, and whose campaigns were funded more through smaller-dollar contributions from local individuals than from wealthy out-of-state individuals and entities;~~

~~Whereas, The results of 2018 California statewide elections affirm a grassroots commitment to promote, protect, preserve and invest in strengthening the public benefits of our public school system for our communities and for all our children;~~

~~Whereas, Voters approved 21 of the 27 school parcel tax measures that were on the ballot in California in 2018;~~

~~Whereas, Nine of the ten parcel tax or school bond measures on the ballot in Los Angeles County in November 2018 were approved by voters;~~

~~Whereas, In June 2018, a majority of the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District voted to reject a proposal to authorize a parcel tax in November 2018, despite favorable polling of likely voters in the June and November 2018 election cycles;~~

~~Whereas, The Board has been directed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education to implement an aggressive fiscal stabilization plan for the District that should reasonably consist of plans for generating additional revenue as well as reductions in spending;~~

~~Whereas, The Legislative Analyst Office for the State of California (LAO) is projecting a significant increase in Proposition 98 funding for the 2019-20 fiscal year, due to unexpectedly high tax revenues, that is expected to generate a meaningful improvement to the District's General Funds for the upcoming year;~~

~~Whereas, A number of recent financial analyses of the District's structural deficit has shown that about 50 percent of declining enrollment and the associated declining revenue is due to excess proliferation of charter schools within the District;~~

~~Whereas, Despite continued representations by charter school advocates that charter schools maintain long waiting lists of students seeking alternatives to District schools, a recent report issued by the Charter School Division (CSD) revealed widespread under-enrollment of charter schools operating in the District, calling into question the District's legislative priorities with regard to the efforts and advocacy required to modify outdated state law which allows unlimited new charter authorization and growth;~~

~~Whereas, Under-enrolled charter schools that are co-located at District facilities under Proposition 39 are legally subject to monetary penalties that go mostly uncollected by the District;~~

~~Whereas, The fiscal pressures on public school districts caused by the historic under-funding of Special Education mandates could be alleviated by seeking a more equitable allocation of state funding in the following areas:~~

- ~~• Inclusion of Special Education as an unduplicated pupil category for purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding;~~
- ~~• The allocation of Special Education funding based on identified need rather than general enrollment; and~~

- ~~Distribution of funding based on average enrollment rather than Average Daily Attendance;~~

~~Whereas, While philanthropic dollars and community partnerships are appreciated resources, they are short term solutions because those monies fail to offer the District reliable, predictable, consistent, and sustainable revenue sources, resulting in reductions in academic programs and services for students when those dollars reach the end of the grant cycle;~~

~~Whereas, The recent establishment of the Fund for Equity and Excellence has resulted in donated funds being directed primarily to consulting companies with expertise in leveraging debt and imposing austerity measures for private industry, equity firms, and, to a lesser degree, educational organizations, with a goal of “reimagining” the District;~~

~~Whereas, The Board is soon going to be asked to make profound and far reaching decisions regarding the financial and organizational future of public education in Los Angeles; now, therefore, be it~~

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to submit a comprehensive, three-year enterprise plan and timeline, by March 18, 2019, that details sincere and efficacious strategies likely to increase District revenues including, but not limited to: enrollment stabilization and growth; parcel tax and school bond measures; property tax reform; legislative and executive advocacy at the local, state and federal level; and philanthropic support.

Mr. Schmerelson seconded the motion.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Ms. Cecily Myart- Cruz, UTLA

Following the speaker and by general consent the resolution was adopted as amended.

The final version of the resolution reads as follows:

Mr. Schmerelson, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Gonez - Strategic Planning for Adequate Funding of Public Education in Los Angeles (Res-014-18/19)

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to submit a comprehensive, three-year enterprise plan and timeline, by March 18, 2019, that details sincere and efficacious strategies likely to increase District revenues including, but not limited to: enrollment stabilization and growth; parcel tax and school bond measures; property tax reform; legislative and executive advocacy at the local, state and federal level; and philanthropic support.

The following resolution was withdrawn:

Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Garcia - Strategic Planning for Adequate Funding of Public Education in Los Angeles for All Kids (Res-016-18/19) (Postponed from December 11, 2018)

Whereas, Everyone in the Los Angeles Unified School District family is here to help kids succeed, and all students, families, teachers, employees, and community members in Los Angeles stand to benefit from planning to increase revenue to the District, regardless of political preference or divisive politics regarding school choice; now, therefore, be it;

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to submit a comprehensive, three-year enterprise plan and timeline, by ~~January 18~~ March 18, 2019, that details sincere and efficacious strategies likely to increase District revenues including, but not limited to: enrollment stabilization and growth; parcel tax and school bond measures; property tax reform; legislative and executive advocacy at the local, state and federal level; and philanthropic support.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the withdrawn resolution:

Ms. Diane Guillen, Parent
Mr. Juan Mangandi, Parent

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Board President García resumed the Order of Business

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PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mr. Crain made the following statement:

This constitutes a public hearing on the following charter petitions:

Summit Preparatory School
Watts Learning Center Charter Middle School

A maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on these items will be heard. Those who wish to speak should sign-up in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be called by name.

The Board will be taking action on the charter petitions at a subsequent meeting. Petitions denied may be submitted directly to the Los Angeles County Office of Education or directly to the State for action.

The following speakers addresses the Board:

Mr. Jared Lancer, Watts Learning Center Middle School
Ms. Ariana Haut, Summit Preparatory School
Mr. Jose Arroyo, Student, Summit Preparatory School
Mr. Gene Fisher, Watts Learning Center Middle School

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gonez moved that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Jesus Lopez, Plant Manager, San Jose Elementary School Gifted Magnet; Reverend Arthur Lee Broadous, Pacoima Community Organizer; and Mr. Leroy Chase, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club in San Fernando Valley.

Ms. Garcia asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of Ms. Dora Soto, Parent, Board District 2.

Mr. Melvoin seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD: **MARCH 19, 2019**

MS. MONICA GARCIA
PRESIDENT

JEFFERSON CRAIN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD

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