

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  
3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2011

The Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles, acting as the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, met in a special session on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, at the Los Angeles City Board of Education Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

President García called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

The following Board Members were present: Ms. Yolie Flores, Ms. Tamar Galatzan, Ms. Marguerite P. LaMotte, Ms. Nury Martinez, Dr. Richard Vladovic, Mr. Steven Zimmer and President Mónica García.

Superintendent Ramon Cortines was present.

Dr. Vladovic led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. David Crippens, Chair, School Construction Bond Citizen's Oversight Committee (BOC), addressed the Board and stated a portion of the BOCs mission: It is a strong and independent oversight committee that oversees the expenditures of money for the construction, repair and modernization of schools by the Los Angeles Unified School District, and it ensures that the projects and funds are completed and spent wisely and efficiently.

Mr. Crippens spoke about the BOCs appointing authorities, and noted that the composition of the BOC is established by a Memorandum of Understanding, and can only be amended by agreement of both parties, the District and the BOC. He also provided an update on the bond program, of the 2011 Funding Strategy and on the joint taskforce process to see where changes may be made.

In addition, Mr. Crippens briefly commented on the discussions with Mr. James Sohn, Chief Facilities Executive, Facilities Services Division, on the current status of the bond programs' various contingency reserves.

Finally, Mr. Crippens congratulated Mr. Jess Womack for his selection as the Interim Inspector General, and pointed out the BOC considers the Office of the Inspector General a professional, effective and productive component of effective oversight of the construction program.

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President García resumed the Order of Business.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESENTATION

Superintendent Cortines introduced Mr. James Sohn, for an update on the Facilities Bond Program, 2011 Funding Strategy.

Mr. Sohn, gave a brief report on the status of the Funding Strategy and highlighted some of the options available. He spoke about process clarifications and transparencies; change order and contract withholding policies. Mr. Sohn also provided an update on the positions in his division and introduced part of his staff.

Mr. Sohn responded to questions and comments by the Board.

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President García modified the Order of Business.

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## NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION

### BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 149 – 10/11 Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Reorganization

Ms. Flores moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Martinez seconded the motion.

Ms. Sharyn Howell, Executive Director, Division of Special Education, explained that a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) is usually an organization comprised of member school districts to ensure that students with disabilities receive the services in which they are entitled. She stated that due to the large size of LAUSD, it is a single district SELPA.

Ms. Howell said the District investigated creating a SELPA with a different organizational structure to better serve those at charter schools with special education needs. The goal is for students with disabilities to have the same access as general education students. She commented that a partnership with charter schools on the issued of special education services is also an opportunity to learn best practices.

Ms. Howell thanked all the partners in the charter community who worked on this process.

Superintendent Cortines thanked Ms. Howell and Mr. Tommy Chang, Regional Director, California Charter Schools Association, for taking a leadership role on this issue.

Mr. Chang addressed the Board, thanked the Superintendent for his leadership, and responded to questions asked by the Board Members.

Superintendent said the anticipated changes are a work in progress.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the report:

Mr. Jed Wallace, California Charter Schools Association

Ms. Irene Sumita, Executive Director, Fenton Charter Schools and Chair, California Charter Schools Association

Mr. David Riddick, Director, Fenton Charter School

Mr. Richard Parra, Director, Fenton Primary Center

Ms. Chris Ferris, Principal, Our Community Charter School  
Mr. Bryan Bower, Director Granada Hills Charter High School  
Ms. Cristina de Jesus, Chief Academic Officer, Green Dot Public Schools  
Ms. Gina Plate, Sr. Advisor, Special Education, California Charter Schools Association

Superintendent Cortines and Ms. Howell responded to questions and comments by the Board.

Following discussion, the report was adopted by general consent.

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President García resumed the Order of Business.  
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### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Jefferson Crain, Executive Officer of the Board, read the following statement:

This constitutes a public hearing on the charter petitions for 1) Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences, 2) New West Charter School and 3) Synergy Quantum Academy, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on these items will be heard. Those who wish to speak to these petitions should pull a speaker form from the slots located on the pillar in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be heard in numerical order as indicated on the speaker form.

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.

Charter for Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences

Charter for New West Charter School

Charter for Synergy Quantum Academy

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Mr. David Tokofsky, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles  
Ms. Sharon Weir, Principal and Executive Director, New West Charter School  
Ms. Tanisha Barnett, New West Charter School  
Ms. Brandi Turnbow, New West Charter School  
Ms. Janelle Ruley, Middleton, Young & Minney, LLP, attorney representing  
New West Charter School  
Mr. Mitchell Wong, Parent, New West Charter School  
Ms. Kerry Golub, Parent, New West Charter School  
Mr. Kirk Wowser, Parent, New West Charter School

Mr. José Cole-Gutiérrez, Director of Charter Schools, Innovation and Charter Schools Division, responded to questions asked by Board Members.

## CONSENT ITEMS

### NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION CONTINUED:

Items for action below assigned by the Board at the meeting to be adopted by a single vote.

Mr. Jefferson Crain, Executive Officer of the Board, read the following statement:

Before action is taken on Board of Education Reports No. 126, 131, 132, 136, 137, 138 and 139 – 10/11, a public hearing must be held.

This constitutes a public hearing on the reports, and a maximum of 12 individuals who wish to address the Board on these items will be heard. Those who wish to speak to these reports should pull a speaker form from the slots located on the pillar in the rear of the Board Room. Speakers will be heard in numerical order as indicated on the speaker form.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 126 – 10/11  
Denial of the Charter Petition for Marell's Preparatory Academy

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 131 – 10/11  
Denial of the Charter Petition for West Athens Charter High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 132 – 10/11  
Denial of the Charter Petition for Barack H. Obama Leadership Academy Charter School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 134 – 10/11  
Material Revision to Charter of KIPP Academy of Opportunity

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 135 – 10/11  
Material Revision to Charter of KIPP LA College Prep Charter School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 140 – 10/11  
Material Revision to Charter KIPP Empower Academy

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 141 – 10/11  
Material Revision to Charter KIPP Comienza Community Prep

Ms. Martinez moved that the reports be adopted. Dr. Vladovic seconded the motion.

The following speakers addressed the Board on Report No. 126 – 10/11:

Dr. Mary Ellen Maddox, Lead Petitioner, Marell's Preparatory Academy  
Mr. David Tokofsky, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles

The Board will be taking action on these reports. Petitions denied may be submitted directly to the Los Angeles County Office of Education or directly to the State for action.

Following the speakers, the reports were adopted by general consent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 127 – 10/11  
Charter for Ánimo Charter Middle School No. 1

Ms. Martinez moved that the report be adopted. Dr. Vladovic seconded the motion.

Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez and Mr. Parker Hudnut, Executive Director, Innovation and Charter Schools Division, responded to questions and comments by the Board.

On request by Dr. Vladovic for a roll call vote on Report No. 127 – 10/11, Ms. Martinez requested that the following items, in addition to Report No. 127 – 10/11 be also moved for action. Dr. Vladovic seconded the motion.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 128 – 10/11  
Charter for Ánimo Charter Middle School No. 2

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 129 – 10/11  
Charter for Ánimo Charter Middle School No. 3

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 130 – 10/11  
Charter for Ánimo Charter Middle School No. 4

Following discussion and by roll call vote, the reports were adopted, 6 ayes, 1 no, Ms. LaMotte.

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION CONTINUED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 133 – 10/11  
Material Revision to Charter of KIPP Raices Charter Academy

Ms. Martinez moved that the report be adopted. Ms. Flores seconded the motion.

Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez responded to questions and comments by the Board.

On request by President García for a roll call vote, the report was adopted, 6 ayes, 1 abstention, Mr. Zimmer.

CONSENT ITEMS CONTINUED:

NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION CONTINUED:

Items for action below assigned by the Board at the meeting to be adopted by a single vote.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 136 – 10/11  
Renewal of the Charter for Ánimo Jackie Robinson Charter High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 137 – 10/11  
Renewal of the Charter for Ánimo Ralph Bunche Charter High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 138 – 10/11  
Renewal of the Charter for Ánimo Locke Tech Charter High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT NO. 139 – 10/11  
Renewal of the Charter for *Ánimo Watts Charter High School*

Ms. Martinez moved that the reports be adopted. Ms. LaMotte seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelly Hurley, Cluster Director, Locke Family of Schools, Mr. Marco Petruzzi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Green Dot Public Schools and Mr. Cole-Gutiérrez responded to questions asked by Board Members regarding Report No. 139 – 10/11.

Mr. Zimmer moved to amend Report No. 139 – 10/11 to require a school review process. Ms. LaMotte accepted the amendment as a friendly amendment.

Following discussion and on request by President García for a roll call vote Reports No. 136 and 137 – 10/11 were adopted, 7 ayes; Reports No. 138 and 139 – 10/11 as amended were adopted, 6 ayes, 1 no, Ms. LaMotte.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Martinez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Vladovic seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

APPROVED BY BOARD: **AUGUST 30, 2011**

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MONICA GARCIA  
PRESIDENT

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JEFFERSON CRAIN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD

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