

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room

1:00 p.m., Thursday, October 3, 2019

Committee Members

Ms. Kelly Gonez, Chairperson
Dr. George J. McKenna, III, Board Member
Mr. Nick Melvoin, Board Member

External Representatives

Ms. Jen Baca, SEIU Local 99
Mr. Juan Ramirez, UTLA
Ms. Kim Pattillo Brownson, First 5 LA
Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA

District Members

Ms. Colleen Pagter, Office of Government Relations
Ms. Devora Reed, Office of General Counsel

NOTES

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m.

Board Member Dr. George J. McKenna, III was not in attendance.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Kelly Gonez welcomed everyone and asked that committee members introduce themselves. Ms. Gonez spoke about the purpose and her goals for the committee. She explained the new committee process regarding Board Member Resolutions for discussion. She highlighted the items on the agenda.

BOARD MEMBER RESOLUTION FOR DISCUSSION

Ms. Gonez provided a brief description and background of Resolution 001-19/20, Expanding the Electorate to Raise the Voices of All Parents in Los Angeles Unified. The resolution directs the Superintendent to conduct research on a proposal that would extend voting rights to all parents and caregivers living within the boundaries of Los Angeles Unified to enable them to vote in elections for their respective school board member regardless of their citizenship status. She briefly discussed the precedent for this resolution and acknowledged the organizations that are supporting this effort.

Committee members discussed the resolution and expressed their support and concerns. Ms. Devora Navera-Reed responded to Mr. Melvoin's question regarding the confidentiality issues. Ms. Gonez responded to questions from committee members.

The following speakers addressed the committee on the resolution:

Ms. Mireya Pacheco, Parent
Ms. Kathia Garcia, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Ms. Rocio Rivas
Ms. Mary Lee, Families in Schools
Ms. Ana De Jesus, Parent

Ms. Gonez asked the external representatives of the committee, Mr. Juan Ramirez, Ms. Pattillo Brownson, Mr. David Tokofsky, and Ms. Jen Baca for their advisory votes. If they so choose, the committee members can vote as individuals and not on behalf of their organizations. Mr. Ramirez, Ms. Patillo Brownson, and Ms. Baca recommended the resolution be forwarded to the Board for approval. Mr. Tokofsky abstained. Ms. Gonez and Mr. Melvoin recommended the resolution be presented for action at the next regular board meeting.

L.A. UNIFIED SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Mr. Mark Hovatter, Chief Facilities Executive, discussed the Los Angeles Unified School District Sustainability Program. He discussed the Sustainability Initiatives Unit created within the Facilities Services Division. The six focus areas of the unit are water stewardship, energy conservation, campus ecology, emerging technologies, high performance schools, and awareness and outreach.

Mr. Hovatter briefly spoke about the Facilities Services Division commitment and goals. He discussed energy and water consumption. Although the District has made improvements with water conservation and reducing electricity, the utility costs have increased because the electric rates and water rates have gone up. He briefly highlighted outside funding sources that help to support the District's program.

Mr. Hovatter discussed some of the District's policies and programs such as the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), Energy and Resource Conservation Policy Bulletin 6513.0, and the Zero Net Energy Ready Policy, this is a new policy not yet adopted by the Board. He stated the District's goal is to have at least half of all the energy to be consumed in their new buildings be sustained through clean energy and renewable sources. Facilities Services Division is working on determining the most cost effective efforts. He discussed examples of the District's sustainability initiatives such as glazing, irrigation system controllers, recycled water, cool roofing, and energy management systems. In addition, he highlighted the programs related to each of the six focus areas of the Sustainability Initiatives Unit.

Mr. Hovatter discussed how California Proposition 26 was supposed to create fairness in the utility companies and how they worked. However, utility companies interpreted Proposition 26 as prohibiting them from providing the District a reduced rate. Currently the District pays a commercial rate for utilities. He stated the Office of the General Counsel is working on updating a brief to present to the Board regarding the District's options for obtaining discounted utility rates.

Facilities Services Division is also working with the Office of Government Relations to look at potential legislative initiatives.

Mr. Hovatter responded to comments and questions from committee members. Committee members discussed legislative actions, revenue opportunities for the District, and reduced energy rates for the District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker addressed the committee on the subject indicated:

Mr. Jack Suria Linares, Education Policy Coordinator, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)	Resolution 001-19/20, Expanding the Electorate to Raise the Voices of all Parents in Los Angeles Unified
---	--

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gonez announced the next Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting is November 14, 2019, and the next Early Education Committee meeting is October 10, 2019. She adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

ll

Materials related to an item on this Agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available for public inspection at:
<http://laschoolboard.org/10-03-19LAE>.