

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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
333 South Beaudry, Board Room
4:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2009

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, September 8, 2009, at the Los Angeles City Board of Education Administrative Offices, Board Room, 333 South Beaudry, Los Angeles, California.

President Mónica García called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS RESOLUTION FOR ACTION

SUPPORTING EDUCATION REFORM IN CALIFORNIA

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved a waiver of Board Rule 72 to allow action on the following resolution regarding Supporting Education Reform in California. Ms. García seconded the motion, which by general consent was adopted.

In response to a Board Member's inquiry, Mr. Jefferson Crain, Executive Officer of the Board, stated that the Board President or four Board Members may call for a special Board meeting.

Ms. Flores Aguilar moved:

Whereas, The \$4.35 billion Race to the Top program provides an opportunity for California school districts to choose to partner with the state and receive federal grant funds to implement innovative strategies to improve public education, with the overarching goal to improve academic achievement among all students and especially to provide new hope and opportunity to high-poverty communities with the lowest-performing schools, highest dropout rates, least support for effective teaching, and most challenging learning environments; and

Whereas, Education Secretary Arne Duncan is seeking applications from eligible states with ambitious and comprehensive plans to implement systemic reforms at the local level and has discretion to award grants to states based on 19 selection criteria related to a state's current progress and plans for implementing reforms; and

Whereas, To meet eligibility requirements and match up against other states on the 19 competitive criteria, California must make several changes in state law to provide a statutory framework for the state to develop a comprehensive plan with partnering school districts that choose to participate; and

Whereas, California risks losing not only \$500 million or more in a Race to the Top grant, but possibly billions in ongoing federal funds for public education that are likely at risk if California does not make real progress toward implementing these reforms; and

Whereas, SBX5 1 (Romero, Huff, Alquist, Wyland) would make the necessary changes in state law to ensure that California is both eligible and competitive for a Race to the Top grant by removing the so-called “firewall” prohibiting use of student data in teacher evaluations, and providing for turning around California’s historically low-performing schools, authorizing greater use of data to improve instruction and student performance, removing the cap on the number of charter schools, authorizing open enrollment options for students stuck in low-performing schools, and requiring a state plan to implement other reforms that greatly increase California’s chances for a grant; and

Whereas, SBX5 1 would position California to get the maximum amount of federal funding to support school districts that agree to implement reforms early, such as improving use of data to support instruction, developing a system to use student growth as *one of multiple measures* of teacher effectiveness, and directly intervening to turn around the persistently lowest-performing schools; and

Whereas, SBX5 1 would provide students in the state’s lowest-performing schools the option to attend another public school outside of their district’s zip code assigned school; and

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education is strongly committed to educational reforms that benefit all students and lead to increased academic achievement; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District supports the provisions of SBX5 1, as introduced; and

Resolved further, That the Board of Education instructs the Superintendent to forward this resolution to the Los Angeles legislative delegation and others as appropriate and urge them to enact the provisions of SBX5 1.

Ms. García seconded the motion.

Ms. Peggy Barber, Government Relations, stated that adoption of the resolution would officially establish the Board’s support of the provisions of SBX5 1, which is the first Senate Bill introduced in the 5th extraordinary (special) session called by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She shared information regarding the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) funds and SBX5 1 provisions and how both may affect the budget. Ms. Megan Reilly, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions regarding the possibility of additional budget cuts in December.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the resolution:

Ms. Anela Freedman, representing State Senator Gloria Romero
Ms. Zella Knight

Following discussion and on roll call, the motion was adopted, 4 ayes, 2 noes, Ms. LaMotte, Mr. Zimmer. Dr. Vladovic was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Ms. Flores Aguilar, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, the meeting was adjourned by general consent at 5:25 p.m. Dr. Vladovic was absent.

APPROVED BY BOARD: October 13, 2009

MONICA GARCIA
PRESIDENT

JEFFERSON CRAIN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD

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