

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMITTEE ON
SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
JANUARY 13, 2020
APPROVED MINUTES

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: Chair Ron Panziera called the meeting of the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization to order at 6:05 PM in the Dr. Ray Charlson Board Chambers of the Monterey County Office of Education.

1.2 Roll Call

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Panziera, Chair
John McPherson, Vice-Chair
Harvey Kuffner
Judy Pennycook
Janet Wohlgemuth
Mary Claypool
Lupe Sánchez
Dr. Deneen Guss, Secretary to the County Committee

STAFF TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Garry Bousum
Ginny Brown
Carla Stewart
Frank Zotter, Legal Counsel

GUESTS:

NMCUSD Staff and Supporters
Lagunita Staff and Supporters

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance: Frank Zotter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Adoption of Agenda:

MSC 19-20-14 (7-0) Harvey Kuffner, Judy Pennycook

“That the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization approves the agenda as presented.”

2. Communications

2.1 Correspondence: Chair Panziera announced that all correspondence received was located in the rear of the room for the public.

2.2 Oral Comments from the Public (*Limited to Items Not on the Agenda*): None.

3. Unfinished Business Non Action Items

3.1 Introductory Remarks, Frank Zotter, Counsel to the County Committee on School District Organization

Frank Zotter provided introductory comments.

3.2 Staff Report to Address Concerns Raised at the Last Meeting

Garry Bousum spoke regarding the NMCUSD / MPUSD Armstrong ranch agreement. He also read to the County Committee and public the letter from the fire marshal regarding gate access.

3.3 Christy White, Inc. Presentation of the Addendum on Criterion 8 and Criterion 9 of the Feasibility Study Regarding the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District

Christy White presented a PowerPoint presentation with additional information and clarification on Criterion 8 and Criterion 9.

3.4 Comments by North Monterey County Unified School District: David Soldani and Shin Green spoke on behalf of North Monterey County Unified School District. They were in disagreement with Ms. White's report and provided examples of parcels that met the criteria. They also clarified for fiscal criteria, it was not 13 students but 13 units. They referenced the correspondence they each sent to the County Committee.

3.5 Salinas Union High School District Remains Neutral: None.

3.6 Comments by Lagunita Elementary School District: Daniel Stonebloom, Chief Petitioner and Superintendent/Principal of Lagunita Elementary School District, spoke regarding the meeting with North Monterey County Unified School District (NMCUSD) officials. He noted that the people affected have already paid assessment fees to NMCUSD. He stated the next official homeowners meeting is in March and were hoping on a decision sooner rather than later so the district knows where they are.

4. Unfinished Business Action Items

4.1 Determination on Whether the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District Substantially Meets Each of the 9 Criteria Contained in Education Code § 35753 and Findings Pursuant to Education Code § 35707.

4.1.1 Criterion 8

The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District Substantially Meets the "Primarily Designed for Purposes Other than Increased Property Values" Criterion [Education Code Section 35753(a)(8)]:

"The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values."

The following individuals spoke against the petition: Shin Green, Kyle Samuels, Noemy Loveless, and Adrian Ayala.

MSC 19-20-15 (4-3) Judy Pennycook, John McPherson
(Harvey Kuffner, Mary Claypool, Lupe Sánchez opposed)

"That the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District **does** substantially meet the "primarily designed for purposes other than increased property values" criterion [Education Code section 35753(a)(8)]."

4.1.2 Criterion 9

The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District Substantially Meets the "Continuation of Sound Fiscal Status" Criterion [Education Code Section 35753(a)(9)]:

"The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district or any existing district affected by the proposed reorganization."

The following individuals spoke against the petition: David Soldani, Kyle Samuels, Noemi Loveless, Kari Yeater, Diana Jimenez, Adrian Ayala, Liz Samuels, Shin Green, and Cosme Padilla.

MSC 19-20-16 (4-3) John McPherson, Judy Pennycook
(Mary Claypool, Lupe Sánchez, Harvey Kuffner opposed)

"That the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District **does** substantially meet the "continuation of sound fiscal status" criterion [Education Code section 35753(a)(9)]."

4.2 Action the County Committee on School District Organization May Consider

4.2.1 To Approve or Deny the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District

MSC 19-20-17 (7-0) John McPherson, Ron Panziera

"That the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization approves the Petition for Transfer of Territory from North Monterey County Unified School District to Lagunita Elementary School District and Salinas Union High School District."

4.2.2 Area of Election: If the Petition is approved, the County Committee will take action on the area of election.

The following individual spoke against the petition: David Soldani.

Harvey Kuffner made a motion for the area of election to consist of the Prunedale Elementary School attendance area. The motion was seconded by Lupe Sánchez. The motion failed 2-5 .

Ron Panziera made a motion that the area of election consist of the territory for proposed reorganization. Judy Pennycook seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-4.

MCOE legal counsel clarified that in the absence of finding a motion to expand beyond those parcels, then the election will only be held in the territories contained within the reorganization.

Lupe Sánchez made a motion for the area of election to consist of Lagunita Elementary School District, North Monterey County Unified School District, and Salinas Union High School District. The motion was seconded by Mary Claypool. The motion failed 3-4.

Judy Pennycook moved to table the item and return to it after addressing Item 4.2.3. John McPherson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

MSC 19-20-18 (7-0) Judy Pennycook, John McPherson

The County Committee moved to Item 4.2.3.

The County Committee returned to Item 4.2.2.

Harvey Kuffner made a motion that the area of election consist of Lagunita Elementary School District and the Prunedale Elementary School attendance area. Lupe Sánchez seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

AYES: Harvey Kuffner, Janet Wohlgemuth, Mary Claypool, Lupe Sánchez
NOES: Ron Panziera, John McPherson, Judy Pennycook
ABSENT: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

“That the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization determine the area of election to consist of Lagunita Elementary School District and the Prunedale Elementary School attendance.”

The County Committee moved to Item 5.

4.2.3 California Environmental Quality Act: If the Petition is Approved, the County Committee Will Take Action to Direct Administration to File a Notice of Exemption.

The County Committee took a recess at 8:16 PM and reconvened at 8:30 PM.

Judy Pennycook made a motion that the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization direct MCOE administration to file a notice of exemption

citing Class 1, minor alterations of existing public facilities, and a Class 14, minor additions to schools, pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 15301 and 15314. John McPherson seconded the motion.

MSC 19-20-19 (7-0) Judy Pennycook, John McPherson

"That the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization direct MCOE administration to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption, citing Class 1 and Class 14."

The County Committee returned to Item 4.2.2.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

APPROVED: _____
Ronald Panziera, Chair