

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMITTEE
ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MARCH 21, 2018
APPROVED MINUTES

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: Chair Ronald Panziera called the meeting of the Monterey County Committee on School District Organization to order at 6:30 PM in Conference Rooms A/B of the Monterey County Office of Education.

1.2 Roll Call

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Panziera, Chair
John McPherson, Vice-Chair
Harvey Kuffner
Judy Pennycook
Janet Wohlgemuth
Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Secretary to the County Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:

Sergio Alejo
Mary Claypool

STAFF TO SUPERINTENDENT:

Garry Bousum
Ginny Brown
Dr. Deneen Guss
Tom Mooneyham
Carla Stewart

GUESTS:

Greenfield USD Staff & Supporters
SMCJUHS Staff & Supporters

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance: Harvey Kuffner led the Pledge of Allegiance

1.4 Adoption of Agenda:

MSC 17-18-03 (5-0) Judy Pennycook, John McPherson

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

2. Communications

2.1 Correspondence: None

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

3. Unfinished Business Non Action Items

3.1 Monterey County Office of Education's Final Report on the Citizen's Petition, "Petition for Transfer of Territory from the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District

to the Greenfield Union Elementary School District and for the Creation of Greenfield Unified School District”

Dr. Kotowski reviewed a summary of the events that had occurred thus far:

- The Citizen’s Petition to unify the Greenfield schools was submitted on October 15, 2015, that included a feasibility study conducted by Capitol Advisors.
- The County Committee on School District Organization held public hearings on the matter on December 8, 2015 in Greenfield, and December 9, 2015 in King City.
- MCOE completed its review of the Petition and the Greenfield petition and feasibility study on June 27, 2016, the County Committee on School District Organization took action to approve six of nine unification criteria and defer action on three of the criteria – Criteria 3, 6 and 9.
- South Monterey County Joint Union High School District requested time to analyze the implications of unification on the District, due to the District’s State loan.
- The County Committee requested and received a waiver from the State to extend the timeline for the unification petition from July 5, 2016, to April 5, 2018.
- On April 26, 2017, SMCJUHSD’s report on Criterion 3, 6 and 9 was completed and the report was analyzed by MCOE.
- During the summer of 2017, both districts appointed new superintendents, who were briefed on the status of the unification process and the analyses of the petition that had been completed.
- On November 1, 2017, the County Committee met in Greenfield to receive a staff report on the analysis of Criteria 3, 6 and 9.
- Regarding Criteria 3 and 9, the staff indicated that Criteria 3 and 9 could be met if Greenfield made a 1% reduction in expenditures and South Monterey County JUHSD made a 3% reduction in expenditures.
- Regarding Criteria 6, the staff concurred with the School Services of California findings that the proposed unification and loss of Greenfield High School would not disrupt or undermine the educational program remaining with SMCJUHSD if the unification were to occur.
- The County Committee deferred action on Criterion 6 and decided that they would take action on all three remaining Criteria once the financial issues were addressed.
- SMCJUHSD Board held a budget study session on January 9, 2018, to review their current and future financial projections if unification were to occur. SMCJUHSD’s financial projections were based on assumptions that show a lower starting balance, lower average daily attendance, and lower revenues than the MCOE projections.
- Using the SMCJUHSD assumptions, the projections show that the district would be in financial jeopardy by allowing a unification to occur at this time.
- Subsequently, the State Trustee supported the assumptions used by SMCJUHSD. The SMCJUHSD Board met January 24, 2018, and passed a resolution opposing the efforts of the petitioners for the unification of Greenfield High School with GUSD.
- The GUSD Board took action to support the unification at their regular meeting on January 25, 2018

Garry Bousum reviewed Criteria 3 and 9, showing staff’s analysis and recommendation that neither criteria could be met, including the SMCJUHSD’s State loan which specifically forbids unification.

Dr. Guss addressed Criteria 6, showing staff’s agreement that the criteria could be met since both districts offer similar core and elective courses.

3.2 Greenfield Union Elementary School District

Zandra Galvan, Greenfield Union School District Superintendent, spoke regarding Criteria 3 and options regarding the State loan.

3.3 South Monterey County Joint Union High School District

Dr. Brian Walker, SMCJUHSD Superintendent, spoke regarding modifications to the State loan, which is the sole decision of the SMCJUHSD.

Public Comment:

The following individuals spoke in favor of the unification petition: Juergen B. Smith, Victor Torres, Audelia Garcia, Juan Dominguez, Maria Montoya, Carlos Vega, Joel Hernandez, Michelle Perez, Corina Diaz, Beatriz Diaz, Zandra Jo Galvan, Annette Mooneyham, Laura Caballero, Laura Cortez, Guadalupe Cruz Flores.

4. Unfinished Business Action Items

4.1 Criterion 3

The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to Create Greenfield Unified School District Substantially Meets the "Equitable Division of Property and Facilities" Criterion [Education Code Section 35753(a)(3)]:

"The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district or districts."

MSC 17-18-04 (5-0) John McPherson, Judy Pennycook

"That the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the coterminous territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to create Greenfield Unified School District **does not** substantially meet the "equitable division of property and facilities" criterion [Education Code section 35753(a)(3)]."

4.2 Criterion 6

The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to Create Greenfield Unified School District Substantially Meets the "Sound Educational Performance and No Significant Disruption of Educational Programs" Criterion [Education Code Section 35753(a)(6)]:

"The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization."

MSC 17-18-05 (5-0) John McPherson, Harvey Kuffner

"That the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the coterminous territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to create Greenfield Unified School District **does** substantially meet the "sound educational performance and no significant disruption of educational programs" criterion [Education Code Section 35753(a)(6)]; "

4.3 Criterion 9

The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to Create Greenfield Unified 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."

MSC 17-18-06 (5-0) John McPherson, Judy Pennycook

"That the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the coterminous territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to create Greenfield Unified School District **does not** substantially meet the "continuation of sound fiscal status" criterion [Education Code section 35753(a)(9)]."

4.4 Findings Under Education Code § 35707

4.4.1 The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to Create Greenfield Unified School District Would:

Adversely Affect the School District Organization of the County [Education Code Section 35707].

MSC 17-18-07 (5-0) Harvey Kuffner, Janet Wohlgemuth

"That the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the coterminous territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to create Greenfield Unified School District **does not** adversely affect the school district organization of the county [Education Code Section 35707]."

4.4.2 The County Committee Will Vote on Whether or Not the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to Create Greenfield Unified School District Complies with the Provisions of the Nine Criteria of Education Code Section 35753 [Education Code Section 35707].

MSC 17-18-08 (5-0) Harvey Kuffner, Janet Wohlgemuth

"That the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District to Create Greenfield Unified School District **does not** comply with the provisions of the nine criteria [Education Code Section 35753];"

4.5 Action of the County Committee On School District Organization to Approve or Disapprove the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Conterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District, to Create Greenfield Unified School District.

4.5.1 To Approve or Deny the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District, to Create Greenfield Unified School District.

MSC 17-18-09 (5-0) John McPherson, Janet Wohlgemuth

"That the Petition for Unification of the Greenfield Union Elementary School District with the Coterminous Territory of the South Monterey County Joint Union High school District, to Create Greenfield Unified School District, be **Denied.**"

- 5. Unification Frequently Asked Questions: Dr. Kotowski and Dr. Guss reviewed the FAQ document that was provided to the County Committee and public.
- 6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

APPROVED: _____
Ronald Panziera, Chair