

**West Contra Costa Unified School District Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting
8/31/2021 – 6:30pm | ZOOM WEB CONFERENCE | <https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/97856231995>**

Attendees: Vicki Gordon, Chair, Contra Costa County Resident
Derik Hilliard, Vice Chair, Trustee Area 5
Omar Butler, Trustee Area 1
Diana Diaz-Noriega, Trustee Area 3
James Toalu, Trustee Area 4
Craig Lazzaretti, Contra Costa County Resident

I. Call To Order

Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40pm

II. Roll Call

Commission Members Present: Vicki Gordon, Derik Hilliard, Omar Butler, Diana Diaz-Noriega, James Toalu, Craig Lazzaretti

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Craig Lazzaretti

Motion seconded by Diana Diaz-Noriega

Voting: Unanimously Approved

IV. Public Comment for Items not on Agenda

Tom Panas, Gabriel Alfaro, Scott Rafferty

Legal Counsel P. Casey Pitts responded to a question from Mr. Rafferty regarding the Commission's policy regarding disclosure of communications with District Trustees

V. Discussion and Possible Action Items

A. Discussion Regarding Trustee Area 2 vacancy

Mr. Pitts noted that the application for the Trustee Area 2 vacancy has been posted on the Commission's website and that the Commission was encouraging all interested individuals to apply.

Public Comment on Item A was provided by Scott Rafferty and Genoveva Calloway

Commissioner Comment:

Ms. Gordon asked Mr. Pitts to clarify whether the content of the application and the procedure for applying were within the Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Pitts stated his

understanding that the Stipulated Judgment assigned responsibility for those matters to the Superintendent, but said he would confirm that understanding and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Lazzaretti asked whether the Commission could ask the principals of schools in Trustee Area 2 to send notification of the vacancy and application process to their school communities. **The Commission agreed by consensus to have Mr. Pitts follow up on this question and other concerns raised regarding the Trustee Area 2 vacancy application process.**

Ms. Diaz-Noriega noted that a tool to determine whether one resides in Trustee Area 2 is available online and that a link had been provided in the Zoom conference chat, and suggested additional District resources that could be used to distribute information about the vacancy application process.

B. Discussion Regarding Demographer Recruitment and Potential Adoption of Modified RFP with Increased Proposed Budget

Mr. Pitts explained that the proposed modified request for statement of qualifications and proposal was identical to the original request that the Commission had approved, except that the estimated budget was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and included an express acknowledgement that additional expenditures would be considered if necessary to complete the project.

Mr. Lazzaretti asked whether additional modifications to the language of the original request were warranted. He noted that the request continued to identify Bobby Jordan as a contact person, even though Mr. Jordan had left the District. **The Commission agreed by consensus to remove Mr. Jordan's name from the request, and to include a different District point of contact if the District provides that name.** Mr. Lazzaretti also noted that the request seemed to provide two different deadlines, September 3, 2021 and September 3, 2021. **The Commission unanimously agreed to modify the deadline to September 9, 2021.** Mr. Lazzaretti also stated that he did not understand the reference to "this alternative" in Section VI.3. Mr. Hilliard explained that the language of that provision was taken from a model request used by a California city, and reflected the demographer's need to present any alternatives to the Commission for its approval.

The Commission agreed by consensus to adopt the modified request, as modified.

There was no Public Comment on Item B.

C. Discussion of Plans for Public Outreach Including Timeline and Format

Mr. Pitts explained that the Commission was facing a tight deadline for completing its public outreach and adopting an initial proposed map, and so may want to start considering the timeline for its public outreach and how that outreach will occur,

including whether it will be through Zoom meetings, in-person meetings, or a hybrid of the two.

Mr. Lazzaretti noted that the commissioners appointed from Trustee Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 would be key to the outreach effort.

Ms. Gordon asked whether the Commissioners would support establishing a committee to consider the format and timeline for public outreach.

Ms. Diaz-Noriega supported establishing a public outreach committee, and stated that it was important to provide alternatives to Zoom or in-person meetings through which interested individuals could participate in the public outreach process.

Mr. Butler stated that the Commission should be certain to leverage existing community resources.

Ms. Gordon asked whether Mr. Pitts could reach out to the Superintendent and the District's communications department about outreach, and expressed concern that having members of the Commission speak at a Board of Trustees meeting could create an appearance of non-impartiality. Ms. Gordon asked for volunteers to serve on a public outreach committee charged with considering what forms of public outreach to use, how to undertake that outreach, and the timeline for doing so. **Ms. Diaz-Noriega, Mr. Butler, and Mr. Hilliard volunteered to serve as the public outreach committee.**

Public Comment on Item C was provided by Scott Rafferty and Genoveva Calloway.

D. Discussion of potential impact of COVID-19 on Commission's work

Mr. Pitts explained that this agenda item was requested at the prior Commission meeting, and stated that the focus of the item was how COVID-19 could impact matters within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Mr. Lazzaretti asked whether the Commission would be considering transitioning to in-person meetings at any point, and what the logistical challenges of doing so would be.

Mr. Hilliard stated that concerns about COVID-19 were still present for many, and that the Commission would not be serving its purpose if its public outreach events risked becoming sites of COVID-19 transmission.

Ms. Gordon agreed that the Commission should err on the side of caution.

Ms. Diaz-Noriega emphasized that the need to use inclusive methods of outreach, including methods that permitted those unable to attend in-person events to participate.

Public Comment on Item D was provided by Tom Panas and Scott Rafferty.

E. Discussion of census data release

Mr. Pitts informed the Commission that the Census Bureau had released redistricting data from the 2020 Census in a “legacy” format on August 12, 2021, and would be releasing that same data in a more user-friendly format by September 30, 2021.

Mr. Lazzeretti expressed concern about the Commission’s ability to meet the October 1, 2021 deadline for adopting a proposed map, given that the Commission still had not retained a demographer.

Ms. Gordon asked Mr. Pitts whether modifications to the October 1, 2021 deadline could be approved by Judge Henderson, or would require the agreement of the parties and/or the Superior Court. Mr. Pitts stated his understanding that a modification of that deadline likely could not be provided by Judge Henderson alone. He recommended that the Commission move as quickly as possible to retain a demographer and establish a public outreach scheduled, so that it would be possible to determine the modification that would be necessary.

Mr. Hilliard expressed his agreement that Judge Henderson could not change the deadlines in the Stipulated Judgment.

Public Comment on Item E was provided by Scott Rafferty.

VI. Commissioner reports, updates, and future agenda items

Mr. Lazzeretti requested that the agenda for the next meeting include hiring a demographer, and the need to modify the October 1, 2021 deadline.

VII. Future meetings

The Commission set its next meeting for Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:30pm, by Zoom video conference.

Mr. Hilliard asked Mr. Pitts to determine whether Judge Henderson could consider applications for the Trustee Area 2 position on the Commission that were received in response to the original request for application. Mr. Pitts agreed to do so.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Gordon adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:58pm.