

WCCUSD Governance Subcommittee

Alvarado Adult Education Campus

September 14, 2015

Minutes

Approved as amended September 21, 2015

I. Opening Procedures

A. **Roll Call and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM by Committee Chair Valerie Cuevas.

Committee Members Present: Valerie Cuevas, Todd Groves

Other Attendees: Bruce Harter, Superintendent, Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Lisa LeBlanc, Associate Superintendent Facilities, Maintenance, Operations, Bond

B. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

Public Comment:

Tom Panas

C. **Approval of August 10, 2015 Minutes**

The minutes from the August 10, 2015 meeting were approved by consensus.

II. Discussion Items

A. **Membership Composition, Committee Size and Appointment Process for the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)**

Public Comment:

Anton Jungherr, Tom Panas

Mr. Jungherr presented a handout entitled *Size, Composition and Selection West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)* referencing history of the CBOC.

Chairperson Cuevas shared that Mr. Don Gosney had also sent communication that she will forward to committee members. Ms. Cuevas spoke about inclusivity for community members. She said that she had invited Ms. Ivette Ricco, Chairperson of the CBOC, to attend the next meeting.

Chairperson Cuevas discussed a timeline for Board action following the September 30, 2015 Board of Education joint meeting with the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee, and an additional committee meeting prior to the October 21st Board of Education meeting.

Committee discussion continued regarding the CBOC composition included breaking down recommendations as well as those made by the Grand Jury. Mr. Groves said that he disagreed with the elimination of trustee appointments. He said that in his opinion, as trustees democratically elected by the public at large, he saw the appointed position as an opportunity for the electorate to weigh in on matters concerning the CBOC. He said he was of the opinion that it was not a conflict but added a voice to the committee. He elaborated that there have been times when his appointee

and he had divergent views but still saw the democratic process in action. Mr. Groves was of the position that from his perspective there was no need to change the composition of the CBOC. He did not see the building trades position nor the tax payer positions as conflicts of interest. He said he did not see any impediment in the current composition to the work or flow of the CBOC.

Superintendent Harter listed the five legally required positions. He also recapped conversation with former board member George Harris III regarding the rational and historical background for the other positions saying that the representation was sought across cities and county municipalities to make sure they had opportunity to voice involvement in expenditure of funds that would affect their communities.

Discussion continued regarding appointments and periodic vacancies on the CBOC. The current composition has been in place since 2011 when the Citizens Advisory Council position was removed. There have been times when organizations were not able to seat a representative resulting in changes to the composition.

Chairperson Cuevas discussed the question of impartiality from observers and ways to balance the democratic tenants. She said that she saw the current makeup of the committee lent itself to a potential for conflict of interest with the set aside positions, particularly those appointed by Trustees. She said that she would prefer to eliminate any potential for conflict of interest. She continued to say that in her opinion, the democratic process of the role of the Board was preserved by the practice of final Board approval of committee members.

Ms. LeBlanc spoke about the role of city appointees on the committee. She said that while the appointment does politicize the committee in general, she does not currently see it happening but the potential is there.

Mr. Groves and Ms. Cuevas were in disagreement about the composition of the committee but agreed to hear additional input from the CBOC as well as others from the community regarding philosophy of size and effectiveness.

Discussion turned to the member appointment process and committee purpose. Mr. Groves recapped the current process with submission of application, review and approval. Superintendent Harter pointed out that Board Policy 7214.2 defined the authority of the Board regarding discretion to select and appoint committee members, determination of the final size of the committee as well as committee purpose. Ms. LeBlanc shared that the current process also included questions for the individual regarding skills and strengths as well as a requirement to submit a resume.

B. Discussion / Approval of Next Steps

Chairperson Cuevas led discussion regarding the next meeting scheduled for September 21, 2015 as well as an October committee date to formalize a recommendation to the full Board. It was determined to move the time of the September 21st meeting to 12:00 PM in order to avoid conflicts later in the day. October 5, 2015 at 12:00 PM was determined as an additional date for the committee to meet.

Chairperson Cuevas spoke about next steps to review all input and closed with remarks about the history of the Board in working together.

Public Comment:

None

III. Adjournment

Chairperson Cuevas adjourned the meeting at 1:21 PM.