

VENTURA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91507052723>

Call in: US: +16699006833

Fillmore Unified School District, 627 Sespe Ave., Fillmore, CA 93015

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The meeting of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Charles Weis, at 4:01 p.m.

2. Roll call and acknowledgement of guests

The following members of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization were in attendance:

Kathi Smith, representing Supervisorial District # 1
Mindee Stekkinger, representing Supervisorial District # 1
Pat Phelps, representing Supervisorial District # 2
Denise Helfstein, representing Supervisorial District # 2
Barbara Wagner, representing Supervisorial District # 3
Terri Lisagor, representing Supervisorial District # 3
Arleigh Kidd, representing Supervisorial District # 4
Robin Freeman, representing Supervisorial District # 5
Charles Weis, representing Supervisorial District # 5
Ramon Flores, Member-at-Large

The following member was absent:

Robert Perez, representing Supervisorial District # 4

Also in attendance:

*Misty Key, Secretary to the VCCSDO, and Deputy Superintendent,
Fiscal and Administrative Services, Ventura County Office of Education*
Susan Miller, Cooperative Strategies, LLC
David Soldani, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd and Romo
Christine Schieferle, Superintendent, Fillmore Unified School District
Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer, Ventura County Office of Education
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant, Ventura County Office of Education

3. Approval of Resolution 22-12, Holding Virtual Board Meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361

Resolution 22-12 says that any meetings held via teleconference pursuant to this Resolution shall comply with all requirements of Government Code section 54953(e)(2), including, but not limited to, Government Code 54953(e)(2)(E), which provides:

“The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. This will exist for no more than thirty (30) days from the date of this Resolution”.

Terri Lisagor made a motion to approve Resolution No 22-12 holding virtual meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361. The motion was seconded by Barbara Wagner.

No discussion by members of the County Committee or by members of the audience.

Chairperson Weis took a roll call vote to approve Resolution 22-12. Motion passed unanimously.

	AYES	ABSTAIN	NOES	ABSENT
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>	X			
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>	X			
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>	X			
<i>Arleigh Kidd</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>				X
<i>Robin Freeman</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>	X			

4. Review and Approve April 22, 2022, minutes

Pat Phelps made a motion to approve the April 22, 2022, minutes. The motion was seconded by Robin Freeman.

Chairperson Weis took a roll call vote to approve the County Committee April 22, 2022, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

	AYES	ABSTAIN	NOES	ABSENT
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>	X			
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>	X			
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>	X			
<i>Arleigh Kidd</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>				X
<i>Robin Freeman</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>	X			

5. Public Comments

Chairperson Weis read the process for making comments online or by phone.

There were no public comments.

6. Information about Fillmore Unified School District’s Desired Change in Election

Christine Schieferle introduced Susan Miller, Cooperative Strategies, LLC and thanked the County Committee for their consideration of approval to establish a by-trustee area voting method.

Susan Miller said the Fillmore Unified School District serves the City of Fillmore in Ventura County across eight school sites. Currently there are five Board members at large who are engaged in an open process to create voting areas that ensure fair representation for all residents and reflect the desires of the community. Fillmore Unified School District undertook the transition from at-large method of election to a by-trustee area method of election voluntarily by adopting Resolution 21-22-8.

Ms. Miller shared the District Demographics – 2020 Census Data map. The total population is 20,886 and 15,351 are eighteen and older. The Citizen Voting Age Population Estimates shows the largest minority group is Hispanic/Latino.

Ms. Miller gave an overview of the trustee area process:

- April 5, 2022, Board meeting: Public hearing #1 to solicit input from the public “regarding the composition of the districts” (i.e., Trustee areas).
- April 19, 2022, Board meeting: Public hearing #2 to solicit input from the public “regarding the composition of the districts” (i.e., Trustee areas).
- May 3, 2022, Board meeting: Public hearing #3 presentation and solicitation of input on draft maps.
- May 10, 2022, Community forum with enlarged maps and comments – solicit input for May 17, 2022, public hearing.
- May 17, 2022, Board meeting: Public hearing #4 on trustee area scenarios – solicit input draft maps of trustee areas and proposed sequence of election and summarize input from community forum. Potential Board action to narrow number of published maps for final consideration and/or direct the creation of one or more revised draft maps.
- June 7, 2022, Board meeting: Adopt Resolution Adopting Trustee Area Map and changing election method and sequencing of elections.
- June 29, 2022, County Committee on School District Organization holds a public hearing and considers approval of change in election method and trustee area map.
- November 8, 2022, First election held utilizing trustee areas.

The Board was compliant with Section 10010 of the elections code. The two pre-map public hearings occurred on April 5, 2022, and April 19, 2022. Ms. Miller said they provided in detail of exactly how Christine Schieferle and her team were able to engage the community and make sure the information was readily available.

Ms. Miller explained the considerations in creating the trustee areas:

- Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants
- Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- Compact and contiguous, as much as possible
- Respect communities of interest, as much as possible
- Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible
- Respect incumbency, if possible
- Other local considerations (i.e., school boundaries, locations of school sites)

Map scenario 5 and 6 were considered by the Trustees and with the refinement that was brought forward by community voices they moved onto map scenario 8 which was approved on June 7, 2022.

Ms. Schieferle explained how they reached out to the community. They used the family communication system Blackboard Connect either by emails, text messages or voice messages in English and Spanish to all of the families to inform them of the public hearings and Board meetings, as well as the community forum. They also used social media which was posted in English and Spanish. Advertisements in English and Spanish were placed in the local newspaper and the Fillmore Gazette, and at every Fillmore Unified school site. A webpage was created which was easily accessible on their website with the CVRA information, all notices or public hearings, maps, and FAQ's regarding moving from an at large election system to a by-trustee area election system. They made sure everything that was posted was translated into Spanish on their website. All of their Board meetings had an interpreter who could provide access to their Spanish speaking families who attended.

Ms. Miller explained the trustee areas on map scenario 8. Trustee areas 1, 2 and 5 will be up for election in 2022. Trustee areas 3 and 4 will be up for election in 2024.

Scenario 8 was drawn with assistance from community stakeholders at the May 10, 2022, community forum.

- A focus on the central portion of the City of Fillmore, as this is the most densely Hispanic/Latino portion of the district.
 - Keep Northern Fillmore in Area 2 which was one of the requests from the community dialogue
 - Keep Rancho Sepe and Piru communities together in Area 4
 - Keep residents on Goodenough Road together in Area 1
 - Keep communities near Guiberson Road and Shiells Canyon Road together in Area 5
- All trustee areas have one trustee living within them (requested by stakeholders).
- All trustee areas have a majority protected class with CVAP above 60% for the Hispanic/Latino community.
- Overall variance is 5.1%

David Soldani said Ms. Schieferle and the district did an outstanding job of engaging the community. They had more than the minimally required number of public hearings and extra hearings. They were very deliberate in how they engaged the community and received meaningful feedback. Map scenario 8 was selected due to specific feedback from the community. Mr. Soldani feels the Fillmore Unified School District should be commended for the level of participation and outreach which resulted in the map they ultimately adopted.

7. Public Hearing

Chairperson Weis opened the public hearing at 4:27 p.m. on the Fillmore Unified School District's desired change in election process from an At-Large election process to a By-Trustee Area election process, pursuant to Education Code Section §5019(c)(1). Chairperson Weis asked if there were any public comments. There were none. He closed the public hearing at 4:28 p.m.

Terri Lisagor commended the work that went into the presentation was very clear. Barbara Wagner commented that it looked like there was a lot of involvement that went into the process. Chairperson Weis commended Ms. Schieferle for her great leadership.

8. Discussion and Action

A motion was made by Kathi Smith to adopt County Committee Resolution 22-13 approving the establishment of trustee areas and changing the method of election to a By-Trustee Area election system in the Fillmore Unified School District. Motion was seconded by Terri Lisagor.

Chairperson Weis took a roll call vote to approve the County Committee Resolution 22-13. Motion passed unanimously.

	AYES	ABSTAIN	NOES	ABSENT
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>	X			
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>	X			
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>	X			
<i>Arleigh Kidd</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>				X
<i>Robin Freeman</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>	X			

Pat Phelps asked if there are any other County Committee meetings in the future? Misty Key said there is nothing currently submitted at the moment. There are two school districts within the county who have yet to change their election methodologies, Oak Park Unified and Ocean View School District. Any change at this point in time going forward would not be effective for the November 8, 2022, election. However, it is still important that they change their election methodology at some point in the near future.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.