

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting: March 6, 2008
MINUTES

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met on March 6, 2008, at 4:48 p.m. in special session in the Conference Center located at 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite #120, Woodland, CA. Board Members present: Davis Campbell, Stuart (Stu) Greenfeld, Dr. Cirenio A. Rodriguez, and Joseph W. Thomson. Trustee Lea was absent. Board President Rodriguez presided. Dr. Jorge O. Ayala, Superintendent, was present.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

2.0 PUBLIC HEARING. At 4:50 p.m. the public hearing opened for the purpose of receiving comments from parents, teachers, members of the community, and bargaining unit leaders regarding two Valley Oak Charter School petition appeals.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Mike Egan and Bill Storm, Science Specialist. A copy of the presentation was distributed (this can be found on file with the official records of this meeting)

The following citizens addressed the Board:

- Lisa Roberts-Arvin, Teacher
- Fred Buderer, Parent (city planner)
- Vickie Carr, former staff person of Valley Oak and community member
- Colleen Connolly, neighborhood resident
- Julie Cuetara, parent, neighbor, current Valley Oak technology teacher, co-PTA president for Valley Oak, Davis Arts Foundation treasurer, coordinator for Davis Open, YCCC animal care technician, the Valley Oak dragon (school mascot). Ms. Cuetara distributed and reviewed Davis Joint Unified School District Minority Stats Report (a copy can be found on file with the official records of this meeting).
- Freddie Oakley, parent of graduates and a Yolo County elected official
- Elaine Roberts Musser, serves on various commissions and committees and the county and city level, volunteers as an elder law attorney and the senior legal hot line of the Yolo County Legal Clinic
- Patricia Cuellar, parent (Spanish-speaking)
- Debbie Martin, parent
- Julia Huddleson, parent
- Dorrie Sobottka, parent and former teacher at Valley Oak
- Amanda Lopez Lara, Davis Senior High representative
- Mariko Yamada, member, Yolo County Board of Supervisors
- Kim Coontz, Executive Director, California Center for Cooperative Development
- Rick Gonzalez, President of the Mexican-American Concilio, Yolo County

--

Board President Rodriguez asked if there was any further comment. Trustee Thomson stated that he had two questions for legal counsel before moving forward on these appeals and he asked that the following be made part of the record.

“Two Questions for YCBE counsel

There seems to be general agreement that following the November, 2007 petition, the Valley Oak Charter School petitioners and the DJUSD board agreed to enter into good faith negotiations on revisions to the petition and that the DJUSD board directed its employees to participate in the negotiations on the board’s behalf.

There also seems to be general agreement that at the January 24th board meeting, the DJUSD board rejected an amended petition. However that decision was apparently based in part on considerations explicitly excluded in the education code. At their February 8th meeting, the DJUSD board chose not to vote on the amended petition but only voted down the original, November petition.

It might be argued that by entering into negotiations DJUSD board necessarily obligated itself to treat the amended petition as the operative document.

If so, that seems to raise two questions that YCBE counsel needs to answer before we proceed:

- 1. Has DJUSD met its statutory obligation to vote the completed petition up or down based on acceptable criteria, and*
- 2. If DJUSD has not met its obligation (denial of “due process”?), does the YCBE have jurisdiction to hear an appeal to a decision that was never completed?”*

Adam Ferber, Attorney for the Yolo County Board of Education (who is with School and College Legal Services of California), responded that this would be researched prior to the Board making a decision.

The Board and Superintendent conveyed their thanks to all who took the time to express their views. The public hearing closed at 6:29 p.m.

3.0 MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION: S. Greenfeld. **SECOND:** D. Campbell. **AYES:** Campbell, Greenfeld, Rodriguez, and Thomson. **NOES:** None. **ABSENT:** Lea.

Jorge O. Ayala, Ed.D.
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools and
Secretary to the Yolo County Board of Education

/kef