

ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

501 N. Crescent Way, P.O. Box 3520, Anaheim, California 92803-3520, www.auhsd.us

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Special Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 31, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER–ROLL CALL

Board President O’Neal called the special meeting of the Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees to order at 3:45 p.m.

Present: Brian O’Neal, president; Annemarie Randle-Trejo, clerk; Katherine H. Smith, assistant clerk; Anna L. Piercy, and Jessica Guerrero, members; Michael B. Matsuda, superintendent; Jaron Fried, Ed.D., Brad Jackson, and Nancy Nien, Ph.D., assistant superintendents; Robert Saldivar, executive director, and Karl H. Widell, District counsel.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Trustee Randle-Trejo, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees adopted the agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS, CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no requests to speak.

4. CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 3:45 p.m.

5. RECONVENE MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT

5.1 Reconvene Meeting

The Board of Trustees reconvened into open session at 4:30 p.m.

5.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Board President O’Neal led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

5.3 Closed Session Report

Board Clerk Randle-Trejo reported the following action taken during closed session.

No reportable action taken regarding anticipated litigation.

6. **PRESENTATION**

School Efficiency Committee

Background Information:

Declining enrollment is a statewide challenge. With fiscal year 2011-12 serving as a reference point, the Anaheim Union High School District (District) has lost approximately 4,900 students through fiscal year 2022-23. Additionally, the District is projected to lose another 3,900 students through fiscal year 2026-27. The District is funded based on the average daily attendance (ADA) of its enrolled students, both of which have decreased. Yet the District's long-term financial challenges remain, including the need to find revenue to cover anticipated increasing costs (e.g., pensions, special education) and provide compensation increases for many years into the future, especially given the current statewide labor storage, competition from nearby districts, as well as the likelihood of significant inflationary pressures in the near future.

To explore the impact and implications of declining enrollment across the District, and in partnership with the consulting firm Eric Hall & Associates/MGT (EH&A/MGT), the District established a nineteen-member School Efficiency Committee (SEC) to serve in an advisory role to the superintendent and the Board of Trustees. In collaboration with EH&A/MGT, the SEC evaluated twelve potential options regarding school consolidations.

Current Consideration:

Business Services staff provided a presentation on the work of the SEC and its recommendation(s).

Action:

Although this was an information item only, requiring no formal action by the Board of Trustees, the Board officially received the information in the presentation.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- 7.1 Ethan Chung, Orangeview Junior High School student, stated the consolidation would put pressure on students to adapt to a new environment, which could result in a drop in grades. He also stated students would not feel comfortable, due to the age gap between 7th and 12th grade students.
- 7.2 Nathan Ibarra, Orangeview Junior High School student, communicated that the best choice was to leave Orangeview Junior High School as is, as the school site offers many programs and opportunities for students, as well as has the best teachers and staff.
- 7.3 Anneliese Mendez Crawford, Orangeview Junior High School student, relayed her concerns regarding space for all students and the cost of consolidation.
- 7.4 Chris Alexis Montes, Orangeview Junior High School student, said that the consolidation may increase bullying among students, due to their age gap and requested boundaries between grades should be put in place before the consolidation.
- 7.5 Vasu Bagga, Western High School student, believes the consolidation is a visionary step to students receiving the best education possible. He also expressed he is excited to mentor the incoming students.
- 7.6 Lisa Gavros, Orangeview Junior High School teacher, spoke about the inclusivity of special education students and asked the Board to vote against the consolidation.

- 7.7 Ann Rice, Orangeview Junior High School teacher, shared her concerns regarding the sharing of facilities and equity, as well as urged the Board to reconsider the consolidation recommendation from the SEC.
- 7.8 Laura Gray, Orangeview Junior High School teacher, stated the Orangeview Junior High School community was not asked to be a part of the bigger picture and was disappointed in the communication regarding the consolidation process.
- 7.9 Sean Fleshman, Orangeview Junior High School teacher, spoke in support of the SEC recommendation.
- 7.10 Margaret Ortiz, Orangeview Junior High School volunteer, was saddened to hear that the students at Orangeview Junior High School could possibly be relocated.
- 7.11 Anna Stevenson, Orangeview Junior High School teacher, communicated she was upset to hear Orangeview Junior High School students could potentially be relocated and asked the Board to oppose the recommendation for consolidation.
- 7.12 Judy Nguyen, Orangeview Junior High School parent, expressed disappointment in the parent communication of the potential consolidation.
- 7.13 Esther Barrios, Hope School parent, spoke in support of the consolidation recommendation.
- 7.14 Monique Flores, Western High School teacher, said the consolidation should not be seen as a closure of Orangeview Junior High School, but an opportunity to come together as one community.
- 7.15 John Nguyen, Hope School instructional aide, stated the recommended consolidation would not solve the issues at Hope School.
- 7.16 Kirsten Levitin, Orangeview Junior High School teacher, voiced concerns regarding the developmental stages of students, as well as the interactions between young and older students.
- 7.17 Jessica Lenhoff, Hope School teacher, spoke in support of the consolidation stating it would benefit Hope School students, as they would have their own campus where their needs can be met.
- 7.18 Alan Vu, speech language pathologist at Hope School, relayed there is a lack of space at Hope School and the SEC recommendation offers new opportunities for students and staff.
- 7.19 Ahmad Shehadeh, Hope School teacher, expressed his support for the SEC recommendation, as it would allow Hope School students to have a campus of their own.
- 7.20 Koustantinos Kalaitzidis, Orangeview Junior High School parent, expressed there is inequity in the SEC recommendation and is based on a socioeconomic decision.
- 7.21 Maria Silva, Orangeview Junior High School parent, relayed her disapproval of the consolidation, due to 7th and 8th grade students not being socially and mentally ready to take the step and join the high school students.
- 7.22 Sharon, District parent, spoke in opposition of SEC recommendation and provided an alternate plan.

- 7.23 Jazmin Dominguez, Western High School student, addressed the impact the consolidation would have on student space and funding.
- 7.24 Melanie Rodriguez, Orangeview Junior High School student, stated there will be a lack of student space if the consolidation is approved.
- 7.25 Denise Rojas, Western High School student, voiced her concerns regarding limited resources and lack of student space.
- 7.26 Kelly, Orangeview Junior High School student, stated she would like to remain at the Orangeview Junior High School campus and would feel uncomfortable being on the same campus as high school students.

8. **ITEM OF BUSINESS**

School Efficiency Committee Recommendation

Background Information:

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Current Consideration:

After considerable discussion, analysis, and thought, the SEC arrived at a final recommendation to be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Based on current and projected student numbers, current and future facility needs, as well as associated financial and intangible savings, the SEC recommends that Orangeview Junior High School relocate onto the Western High School campus on or about the beginning of the 2025-26 year and that Hope School relocate onto the vacated Orangeview Junior High School campus on or about the beginning of the 2026-27 year. The vacated Hope School would be repurposed for another District use. It is further recommended that the Board of Trustees delegate to the superintendent or designee day-to-day decision-making authority to effectuate the intent of the recommended action.

Budget Implication:

The potential savings for this recommendation is estimated at \$1 million (in fiscal year 2022-23 dollars).

Action:

On the motion of Trustee Randle-Trejo, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees approved and adopted the recommendation of the SEC.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Trustee Randle-Trejo, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Approved 
Clerk, Board of Trustees