

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting/Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing**  
**March 9, 2016**

In accordance with Education Code sections 46601–46603, the Solano County Board of Education met on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, in a *Closed Hearing* to act as an appeals board to review an interdistrict attendance appeal.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Dana Dean called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Dana Dean, President (Trustee Area 3)  
Elease Cheek, Vice President (Trustee Area 5)  
Mayrene Bates (Trustee Area 4)  
Peggy Cohen-Thompson (Trustee Area 7)  
Doug Ford (Trustee Area 6) (*arrived at 5:35 PM*)  
Raymond Silva (Trustee Area 2)

Members Absent

Michelle Coleman (Trustee Area 1)

Trustee Dean welcomed those in attendance and noted that a quorum was present as was Solano County Superintendent of Schools Jay Speck, serving as Secretary to the Board.

**III. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Silva, and unanimously carried by a vote of those present to approve and adopt the agenda as presented.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED HEARING AGENDA ITEM**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**V. CLOSED HEARING OPENS**

The hearing began at 5:05 PM.

- (a) Introduction of appellant, district representatives, SCOE staff, legal counsel, and others present

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Student Programs and Educational Services, introduced herself and explained her role as facilitator of the hearing. She introduced Dr. Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs, who served as timekeeper, and Mr. Speck. Only the Board will vote at the conclusion of this matter; staff members do not vote. The Board Members introduced themselves.

The student (Appellant) is a 14-year-old female, who was not present but was represented by her mother and father.

The Respondent, Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD), was represented by Phillip Shelley, Director of School Management & Support; Edison Kelly, Coordinator of School Management & Support; and Cassie Gossett, Director of Partnerships & Community Engagement.

- (b) Review of legal authorization, purpose, scope, and procedures of the interdistrict attendance appeal hearing and materials pertaining to the appeal

Mrs. Estrella-Henderson stated that the expulsion appeal was being held as a closed hearing. She summarized the case and explained the hearing process, Board's limited authority, and possible actions

of the Board. All parties present had received a record of the case in advance. She reviewed the agenda and order of presentations. The Board may ask questions of the presenters. Questions shall be limited to the scope of the hearing.

## **VI. PRESENTATION OF CASE**

### **(a) Opening statement by Appellant**

Appellant's father made a statement in support of granting the appeal to allow the student to attend school outside of the district of residence (VCUSD). Both father and mother answered questions from the Board Members.

### **(b) Opening statement by representative(s) from District of Residence and District of Proposed Attendance, when applicable**

Mr. Kelly and Ms. Gossett distributed information about VCUSD's various program offerings and spoke in support of affirming the district's decision to deny the Appellant's request. The VCUSD staff answered questions from the Board.

### **(c) Closing remarks by Appellant**

Appellant's mother made a closing statement.

### **(d) Closing remarks by representative(s) from District of Residence and District of Proposed Attendance, when applicable**

Mr. Kelly made a closing statement on behalf of the district.

## **VII. HEARING CLOSES – CLOSED SESSION DELIBERATIONS BEGIN**

The hearing closed at 5:40 P.M. Trustee Ford recused himself from the deliberations due to missing the beginning portion of the hearing. Pursuant to Education Code §35146, the remaining members of the Board adjourned to closed session to deliberate the appeal.

## **VIII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened at 5:49 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Cheek, seconded by Trustee Bates, and carried by the following roll call vote to affirm the district governing board's decision and deny the appeal based on the facts of the case and evidence presented. (AYES (4): Trustees Bates, Cheek, Cohen-Thompson, Dean; NOES (1): Trustee Silva; ABSTINCTIONS (1): Trustee Ford; ABSENCES (1): Trustee Coleman)

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

*Signature on File*

---

Jay Speck  
Secretary to the Solano County Board of Education