

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES Special Meeting/Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing #1 April 12, 2017

In accordance with Education Code sections 46601–46603, the Solano County Board of Education met on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 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 4:04 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Dana Dean, President (Trustee Area 3)
Elease Cheek, Vice President (Trustee Area 5) *(arrived at 4:15 PM)*
Mayrene Bates (Trustee Area 4)
Peggy Cohen-Thompson (Trustee Area 7) *(arrived at 4:20 PM)*
Michelle Coleman (Trustee Area 1)
Amy Sharp (Trustee Area 2)

Members Absent

Doug Ford (Trustee Area 6)

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

III. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Bates, 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 4:05 PM.

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

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) staff:

- Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs, served as hearing facilitator and timekeeper

The Board Members introduced themselves.

Appellant: The student is a 13-year-old female in 8th grade, who was present with her mother and father.

Respondent – representatives of Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD):

- Phillip Shelley, Director of School Management & Support
- Edison Kelly, Coordinator of School Management & Support
- Cassie Gossett, Director of Partnerships & Community Engagement
- Jessica Brown, Coordinator of School Culture and Climate

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

Dr. Romualdi stated that the expulsion appeal was being held as a closed hearing. He summarized the case and explained the hearing process, Board's limited authority, and possible actions the Board may take. All parties present had received a record of the case in advance. He reviewed the agenda and order of presentations. The Appellant and Respondent were each given a total of 10 minutes in which to state their case and make closing remarks. The Board may ask the presenters questions, which shall be limited to the scope of the hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, only the Board will vote; staff members do not vote on the matter.

VI. PRESENTATION OF CASE

- (a) Opening statement by Appellant

Appellant's parents spoke in support of granting the appeal to allow the student to attend school outside of the district of residence (VCUSD) due to concerns about safety and a desire to take courses not offered in VCUSD. The student, 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. Shelley spoke in support of affirming the district's decision to deny the Appellant's request. He showed a PowerPoint, distributed information about VCUSD's various program offerings, and talked about systems currently in place to address safety and academic success. The VCUSD staff answered questions from the Board.

- (c) Closing remarks by Appellant

Appellant's parents made a closing statement.

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

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

VII. HEARING CLOSSES – CLOSED SESSION DELIBERATIONS BEGIN

The hearing closed at 4:31 PM. Pursuant to Education Code §35146, the members of the Board adjourned to closed session to deliberate the appeal.

VIII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened at 4:50 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Cohen-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Cheek, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote of those present to affirm the district governing board's decision and deny the appeal based on the facts of the case and evidence presented. (AYES (6): Trustees Bates, Cohen-Thompson, Coleman, Sharp, Cheek, Dean; NOES (0): None; ABSTINTIONS (0): None; ABSENCES (1): Trustee Ford)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Signature on File

Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Secretary to the Solano County Board of Education