

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting/Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing #1**  
**May 9, 2018**

In accordance with Education Code sections 46601–46603, the Solano County Board of Education met on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, in a *Closed Hearing* to act as an appeals board to review an interdistrict attendance appeal.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Elease Cheek called the meeting to order at 4:56 PM, as all parties were present.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Elease Cheek, President (Trustee Area 5)  
Peggy Cohen-Thompson, Vice President (Trustee Area 7)  
Mayrene Bates (Trustee Area 4)  
Michelle Coleman (Trustee Area 1)  
Dana Dean (Trustee Area 3)  
Amy Sharp (Trustee Area 2)

Members Absent

Doug Ford (Trustee Area 6)

Trustee Cheek 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. (*Trustee Ford was absent.*)

**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 5:00 PM.

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

The Board Members introduced themselves.

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) staff:

- Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs, served as hearing facilitator.
- Kim Kopp, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Educator Effectiveness, served as timekeeper.

Appellant:

- Student, 14-year-old female in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Student's mother

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

- Dr. Edison Kelly, Director of Alternative Education
- Dr. Sheila Quintana, Principal of Vallejo High School

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

Dr. Romualdi explained that the expulsion appeal was being held as a closed hearing, and all parties had received a record of the case in advance of the hearing. He described the hearing process, Board's limited authority, and possible actions the Board may take.

He reviewed the order of presentations, and stated that the Appellant and District Representatives each had 10 minutes in which to state their case. The time may be split between the opening statement and closing remarks. Only the Board members vote in appeal cases; neither the County Superintendent nor SCOE staff members vote on the matter.

## **VI. PRESENTATION OF CASE**

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

Appellant's mother spoke in support of granting the appeal and explained her reasons for wanting to transfer her daughter from her district of residence (Vallejo City Unified School District, VCUSD) to American Canyon High School (Napa Valley USD), including the location of the carpool that provides her daughter with daily transportation to and from school, exposure to advanced placement (AP) classes not available in VCUSD, lower test scores and graduation rate but higher dropout rate in VCUSD, lack of confidence in teachers and an unsafe environment in VCUSD.

The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions of the Appellant.

Dr. Romualdi stated that Napa Valley USD was unable to attend the hearing but had notified him that the district currently has no space available for transfer students at American Canyon High School and does not expect such space in the foreseeable future.

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

Dr. Kelly spoke in support of affirming the district's decision to deny the Appellant's request. He showed a PowerPoint about VCUSD's interdistrict attendance process, the history of the student's denial, and AP courses offered in the district. Dr. Quintana talked about graduation rate improvement in VCUSD, staff qualifications, and the college acceptance percentages for VCUSD students.

The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions of the district representatives.

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

Appellant's mother made a brief closing statement.

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

The District representatives did not have any closing remarks.

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

The hearing ended at 5:45 PM. Pursuant to Education Code §35146, the Board adjourned to closed session to deliberate the appeal.

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

The Board reconvened at 5:59 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Cohen-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Coleman, and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of those present to deny the appeal based on the facts of the case and evidence presented. (*Trustee Ford was absent.*)

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

*Signature on File*

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