

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting/Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing #2  
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 Elise Cheek called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Elise 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)  
Doug Ford (Trustee Area 6)  
Amy Sharp (Trustee Area 2)

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 Bates, seconded by Trustee Cohen-Thompson, 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 7:44 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.

Dan Wolk, Deputy County Counsel, Solano County

Appellant:

- Student, 15-year-old female in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Student's mother and father

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 stated that the expulsion appeal was being held as a closed hearing. All parties had received a record of the case for review in advance of the hearing. He explained 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 parents spoke in support of granting the appeal and stated their reasons for wanting to transfer their daughter from her district of residence (Vallejo City Unified School District, VCUSD) to American Canyon High School (Napa Valley USD), including safety concerns, negative encounters with other VCUSD students by a sibling and the children of friends, and exposure to programs unavailable in VCUSD.

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

Dr. Romualdi stated that Napa Valley USD was invited to this hearing but was unable to attend; however, district administration notified him that there is no space available for transfer students at American Canyon High School, either now or in the near future.

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

Dr. Kelly and Dr. Quintana spoke in support of affirming the district's decision to deny the Appellant's request. Dr. Kelly presented a PowerPoint about VCUSD's interdistrict attendance process, the district's reasons for denial, and various courses offered in the district. The family declined an offer to visit Vallejo High School to see what it offers. Dr. Quintana further addressed course details and safety concerns.

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

- (c) Closing remarks by Appellant

Appellant's parents 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 had no closing remarks.

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

The hearing ended at 8:15 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 8:27 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Dean, and carried by the following roll call vote to deny the appeal based on the facts of the case and evidence presented. *[AYES (5): Trustees Bates, Coleman, Dean, Cohen-Thompson, Cheek; NOES (2): Trustees Ford, Sharp; ABSTINCTIONS (0): None; ABSENCES (0): None]*

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.