

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

**Special Meeting/Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing
June 20, 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 5:00 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) *(arrived at 5:03 PM)*

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 Dean, and unanimously carried by a vote of those present to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. *(Trustee Sharp 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 5:04 PM.

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

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) staff:

- Dr. Victor Romualdi, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs, served as hearing facilitator.
- Dr. Andrea Lemos, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and Special Education, served as timekeeper.

Appellant:

- Student, 14-year-old male in 9th grade
- Student's grandmother/guardian, siblings, and a family friend

Respondent – representative of Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD):

- Angie Avlonitis, Director of Student Services

- (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 received a record of the case for review in advance of the hearing. This interdistrict attendance request was

approved by the student's district of residence (Vallejo City USD) but was denied by the desired district of attendance (FSUSD).

Dr. Romualdi 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 Representative each had 10 minutes in which to state their case. At the presenters' discretion, 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 grandmother spoke in support of granting the appeal due to special circumstances, proximity to family members/backup emergency contacts who reside in Fairfield, and the transportation and afterschool care hardships of having the student and his siblings attend school in different districts.

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

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

Ms. Avlonitis stated that, although the student met two of the reasons that FSUSD may approve a transfer, the district denied it because Rodriguez High School has no space available to enroll additional 9th-grade students, and there is a lengthy waiting list of other freshman students who wish to attend there as well. She referenced FSUSD's policy that contains the open enrollment process and determines how transfer students are permitted to attend school in the district.

The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions of Ms. Avlonitis.

(c) Closing remarks by Appellant

Appellant's grandmother made a brief closing statement.

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

The District Representative had no closing remarks.

VII. HEARING CLOSES – CLOSED SESSION DELIBERATIONS BEGIN

The hearing ended at 5:20 PM. Pursuant to Education Code §35146, the Board adjourned to closed session to deliberate the appeal. Trustee Cheek asked Superintendent Estrella-Henderson to join the Board for the beginning portion of the closed session.

VIII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened at 5:33 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Sharp, and carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all members present to grant the appeal based on the facts of the case and evidence presented.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.