

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA
Special Meeting/Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Hearing
August 9, 2017

In accordance with Education Code sections 46601–46603, the Solano County Board of Education met on Wednesday, August 9, 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 7:35 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)
Michelle Coleman (Trustee Area 1)
Doug Ford (Trustee Area 6)
Amy Sharp (Trustee Area 2)

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 Ford, 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 7:37 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.
- Kim Kopp, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and Special Education, served as timekeeper.

The Board Members introduced themselves.

Appellant: The student is a 15-year-old male in 10th grade, who was not present but was represented by his mother and father.

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

- Phillip Shelley, Director of School Management & Support
- Patty Crespo, Vice Principal of Jesse Bethel 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, and a record of the case had been distributed to all parties in advance of the hearing. He explained the hearing procedure, Board's limited authority, and possible Board actions.

He reviewed the agenda and order of presentations. The Appellant and Respondent were each given a total of 10 minutes in which to make their opening statements and closing remarks. The Board may ask the presenters questions, which shall be limited to the scope of the hearing. Only the Board will vote after the hearing; neither the County Superintendent nor Solano County Office of Education 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 to allow the student to attend school outside of the district of residence (VCUSD) due to concerns about safety, their home's proximity to Benicia High School, and a transportation hardship.

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

Mr. Shelley and Ms. Crespo addressed the parents' concerns and spoke in support of affirming the district's decision to deny the Appellant's request. VCUSD requested that the parents consider enrolling their son in another of the district's high schools.

The Appellant's parents and VCUSD staff then answered questions from the Board.

(c) Closing remarks by Appellant

Appellant's representatives 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 CLOSES – CLOSED SESSION DELIBERATIONS BEGIN

The hearing closed at 8:11 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 8:35 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Cohen-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Coleman, and carried by the following roll call vote to affirm the district governing board's decision, deny the appeal based on the facts of the case and evidence presented, and recommend that the Appellant attend Vallejo High School. (AYES (6): Trustees Bates, Cohen-Thompson, Coleman, Sharp, Cheek, Dean; NOES (1): Trustee Ford; ABSTINCTIONS (0): None; ABSENCES (0): None)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Signature on File

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