

**ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION • SPECIAL MEETING**

**District Education Center
1401 North Handy Street • Orange, California
Special Meeting**

**Monday, September 21, 2015
6:30 p.m. – Open Session**

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Board of Education met for a special meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at the Education Center, 1401 North Handy Street.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board members present: Deligianni, Ledesma, Moffat, Ortega, SurrIDGE, Wayland
Board members absent: none

3. CALL TO ORDER – OPEN SESSION

Board President Ortega called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ortega invited the audience to join together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion No. 23

It was moved by Mr. Wayland and seconded by SurrIDGE to adopt the agenda.

Mr. Ortega read a statement as follows:

“Tonight’s agenda was corrected and reposted upon the advice of counsel. The paper screening outlined in the process will occur at this meeting and those candidates that receive four votes will be permitted to address the Board prior to the final vote. The agenda reflects the change.”

Discussion

Mrs. Moffat stated that she would vote no to approve the agenda because she does not understand the process and the differences in the agenda from last Friday and tonight’s.

Mr. Christensen clarified that the agenda that was prepared prior to the current one, in accordance with prior Board approval, had the Board paper screen their selection of the candidates and invite only those candidates prior to the meeting who had four or more votes. Mr. Christensen stated that after receiving requests from people who wanted to know the breakdown of the vote, legal counsel stated that it was advisable to do the paper screening in public. The paper screening that had been done has not been shared with anyone as legal counsel advised to do the paper screening in public.

Motion No. 23 carried by a vote of 5-1 (No: Moffat).

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON OPEN SESSION ITEM

Speakers

7. AGENDA ITEM

Item 7.A. Area 1 Trustee Vacancy – Candidate Screening, Statements and Provisional Appointment

On September 15, the Board took action to approve a process to make the provisional appointment of a trustee for Area 1 on the Orange Unified School District's Board of Education. The process is for each Trustee to screen the eligible candidates' documents and determine the candidate(s) each Trustee wishes to invite to make a three-minute statement to the Board and community this evening. Subsequent to the invited candidates' statements, the Board will nominate and vote on the provisional appointee. On September 17, candidate Andrew Fisher withdrew himself from the process. The fiscal impact is up to \$500,000 if a trustee is not appointed by the deadline.

Speakers

Michele Gabbard spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki; she is a leader and very involved with the schools and volunteers her time as needed. She stated that Ms. Yamasaki would be an excellent choice to be appointed Board member for Area 1.

Lisa Scott spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki; she raised over \$85,000 for Relay for Cancer Society as a first team captain, she has held several committee positions and has never let anyone down. She has served as PTSA President and her best quality is motivating others to volunteer.

Dr. Heather Chapman commented on the flawed process for such an important position when the agenda is changed at the very last minute, which draws more attention to the District and away from the students, schools and the good work that all the employees do. She encouraged the Board to be more transparent and think about the reputation of the District.

Lee Lombardo spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki, who is a strong advocate of improving student education by promoting important programs that affect each student. Ms. Lombardo added that she has worked with Andrea at Canyon High School's PTSA and elaborated on her many volunteer efforts.

Elizabeth Fisher spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki and her volunteer efforts. She stated she is a stellar individual, steps up and does the right thing, but always asks is this the right thing for the students.

Barbara Agahi spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki and her volunteer efforts at the schools. She stated that Andrea is like a "quiet storm" as she always stands behind, but gets the job done. She is not a political person; she is for the students.

Lisa Kent spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki and her volunteer efforts at Canyon High School, stating she is dedicated to helping not only the schools, but the entire community. She cares about helping the parents, students, and the entire staff at Canyon.

Farah Javadi spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki for many years. She has been involved with PTA, adding that she serves in a National League for Young Men. She is truly a great role model and cares about the children, always involved in philanthropy.

Brad Graham stated that Andrea Yamaskai would make a fantastic addition to the Board. Mr. Graham spoke on behalf of Ken Rulon who, he believes, should have been part of those chosen to speak. Mr. Graham noted that he works with Mr. Rulon with the Anaheim Hills Youth Basketball. Mr. Rulon will always do the right thing for the kids. He encourages kids to do better on the team which helps them to better in school.

Pam Kouri spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki, stating that she is an amazing volunteer and continues to do so, including her community service. The Board needs someone who is part of our community and Andrea has been part of this community for many years.

Jennifer Pettey offered her support for Andrea Yamasaki; she has heard comments on how well she leads PTSA and personally witnessed her leadership.

Jim Cook stated he is in support of Andrea Yamasaki and admires her work and leadership with promoting Measure K. He believes that she would be an excellent candidate for the school board.

Lorraine Grob spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki, who is a dynamic, determined woman of action. Ms. Grob has worked on many committees with Andrea and stated that Andrea has always taken on a leadership role in all of these areas.

Kory Dodd spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki. She has had the pleasure of working with Andrea and stated she is energetic, creative and committed to all that she does. Ms. Dodd noted that Andrea worked countless hours volunteering and advocating for Measure K.

Jim Thomaston urged the Board to make the right decision in appointing a Board member as a proof of its leadership. It goes to the credibility, transparency, skill set and the business operation of the Board.

Linda Horist urged the Board to appoint Andrea Yamasaki to the vacated seat, stating that Andrea has the ability to organize, lead and advocate for programs and policies that support programs. The role the Board plays affects all students, teachers and the community. Ms. Horist urged the Board to make the right decision.

Kim Evans spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki, stating she does not have any hidden agendas and has no reason for seeking the seat except the serve the OUSD students and the community.

Nicolette Gardner spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki and her involvement in the community. Ms. Gardner stated that Andrea would truly be an asset the Board; she is well respected and known in the community because of her positions and involvement.

Carole Miller echoed her support for Andrea Yamasaki.

Erik Kuli stated that he supports Andrea Yamasaki; her volunteer roots run deep in the community and her motives are genuine.

Michelle Weisenberg stated that she supports Andrea Yamasaki, who she feels is an ideal candidate as she meets many specific qualities. Andrea is someone who has strong ties to both the District and the community through her volunteering efforts. She has shown her ability to work well with others in a non-partisan way for the common good.

Mary Kuli spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki and work with her and the CARE group. Ms. Kuli stated that Andrea is always concerned about what is best for the kids; there was never a political agenda. She is easy to get along with, which is important when decisions need to be made by a group.

Joe Greenwald made a few observations – Andrea Yamasaki is universally supported by the community as all high schools were represented at the meeting. Based on all the speakers, this is truly a community support for Andrea. She is a very thoughtful person – Andrea took her time before making the decision to become a candidate; she wanted to understand what she was committing to.

Lissa Smith reflected on her nine years as a former Board member for Trustee Area 1 and encouraged the Board of Education to make the right and best decision for the students of the District. She reminded the Board that this is an opportunity to pick the candidate that is most qualified and part of the community. Ms. Smith also stated that she does not support a special election due to the cost.

Jennifer Schuerger spoke on the qualifications that National PTA has requested school districts to consider when looking for an applicant. She urged the Board to appoint the candidate that best meets those qualifications to Trustee Area 1.

Kelley Sparacino gave her perspective of what the constituents are wanting in terms of representation for Area 1. She urged the Board to select Andrea Yamasaki. Andrea is smart, well-informed, organized, considerate, polite, and she cares for the kids and the community.

Ling-Ling Yaghmia spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki, noting her dedication to the schools and the community. She added that what everybody has said is all true about Andrea. She is dedicated, trustworthy and respected.

Janet Carrete spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki as an incredible person; her roots go far beyond Anaheim Hills. Ms. Carrete stated that Andrea is very passionate for the education system and kids, and strives to see improvement with OUSD through her multiple roles she has taken on.

Kris Erickson urged the Board to choose a person to fill this seat that has relevant experience with, and knowledge of, OUSD. She spoke in support and endorsed Andrea Yamasaki, with whom she has worked as a fellow volunteer for school district causes for over two years. Andrea

has dedicated thousands of hours to OUSD as a volunteer. Ms. Erickson stated that Andrea is the best qualified person for this position.

Victoria Webber requested consideration as a candidate for Trustee Area 1. She is a 21-year resident of Anaheim Hills and looks forward to many more years in the community. Ms. Webber elaborated on her qualifications, her volunteering at her children's schools, and participating in PTA groups. She currently serves as a deacon at church and last year held the position as deacon moderator. She noted that she has devoted the last 15 years of her career to public education and many years before that through her volunteer effort. She was employed at OUSD from 2001 through 2014 and currently works at Laguna Beach Unified School District, adding that she is up to date on board operations, board policies, including the Brown Act. Additionally, she was involved in the creation of the District's Strategic Plan in 2009. It is important that students have safe, clean and modern facilities and is excited that a state-wide school bond will be on the ballot in November 2016. She believes that being a Board member is about supporting students, student engagement and students for the future.

Stacey Meis spoke in support of Andrea Yamasaki to fill the seat for Trustee Area 1. She commented on Andrea's involvement in OUSD in conjunction with her own three children attending OUSD schools. Her volunteer efforts throughout the years would be of great and exciting value to the Board.

Motion 24

It was moved by Mrs. Moffat and seconded by Dr. Deligianni that this Board agree to suspend the candidate paper screening and hear from everyone who has come here with a prepared three-minute presentation.

Discussion

Mrs. Moffat stated that one of the reasons she made the motion to hear from all the candidates is because one of the candidates pulled his name off the list because he felt the process lacked transparency and respect for the candidates and community. Many of the candidates are present tonight and prepared to speak.

Mr. Ortega clarified that based on the motion, there would be seven candidates to speak as one (Victoria Webber) already spoke. This motion would allow the candidates present to speak.

Motion 24 carried by a roll call vote of 4-2 (Yes: Deligianni, Ledesma, Moffat, Wayland; No: Ortega, Surridge) to hear from all the candidates.

The candidates were interviewed alphabetically as follows:

Barbara Christiano stated she and her husband have lived in the community for over 33 years. One of her grandchildren attends Nohl Canyon, where she has volunteered. She was a teacher in the Rowland Unified School District for 39 years. After retirement, she fell into a position with the Mind Institute and developed a keyboard program for Fern Drive School in Fullerton and has volunteered with the Class Act Program. She would like to stay connected and contribute to the District. She would like to see the bond pass as it is important to keep up and maintain the schools. Her reason for wanting to be on the Board is that she cares for the community and all of the students.

Roberto Flores de Apodaco stated he is a college professor and an expert witness for Orange County as a licensed clinical psychologist. He evaluates people in criminal cases, mainly where mental health is one of the issues. He stated that he comes as a candidate without his mind being made up about any of the issues that are before the Board. He would do a thorough study before offering an opinion. Dr. Flores is grateful to OUSD for all the help his family received through their school years.

Christopher Nguyen stated that he is who he is because of OUSD teachers and schools. He graduated from Stanford University, earned his Master of Public Administration from USC, and has spent his career in public policy. He strives to achieve excellent public policy and as such, was appointed by the County Ethics Committee as their chairman. This appointment has made him understand the Brown Act and become an active practitioner. He stated that he brings an excellent skill set and would complement the Board with his public administration background. He has worked on a wide range of education issues, including bonds, waivers, CFD's, legislation, labor issues, and more. He added that he is confident whoever the Board selects that they will make the choice that is in the best interest of the District, taxpayers, and student.

Kenneth Rulon stated that he has resided in the District for 23 years; both his daughters attend OUSD schools. He has participated in the PTA Site Council, is the director of NJB, and is very active in his church. He commented that he gives his support to Andrea Yamasaki – she is well-known in the community, does a great job, and clearly is one of the top three candidates. He would vote for her if he were voting because that is the right thing to do – “doing what is right for the kids.”

Gregory Salas stated that he grew up and lived in Yorba Linda for over 45 years and recently moved to Anaheim Hills. He indicated that his interest in becoming a Board member has progressively grown as he believes he has attributes that would allow him to meaningfully contribute to the Board. Mr. Salas has a degree in engineering and works in the medical finance and equipment fields. The importance of education has been significant in Mr. Salas' life and has been a driving factor in what he does. He stated that he has spoken with Board members and individuals to get the most information he can gather about OUSD to best understand how it functions and what the issues are. He has visited Orange High and Fletcher Elementary and commented on their programs. Mr. Salas supports passage of the bond stating that all the facilities need improvement. He summarized that he will make decisions based on what is good for the kids, the District, and the community.

Alan Trudell stated that his desire as a Trustee is to help the Board make wise policy decisions to ensure current and future OUSD students continue to have equal access to quality educational opportunities. He said he is confident he qualifies for the position due to his experience and many years as an Area 1 resident/parent and more than 32 years as a professional advocate for public education in Orange County. Mr. Trudell reviewed his past job positions, currently working in Garden Grove Unified School District and before that for Capistrano Unified. He formerly worked as the Public Information Officer in Garden Grove Unified, which included leading the district's communication strategy for the successful passage of Measure A in 2010. He comes from a family of educators. Mr. Trudell believes he would be an asset to the OUSD Board and District.

Andrea Yamasaki stated she was overwhelmed by the support she has received. She has been a dedicated volunteer at the schools for the past 16 years, all three of her children have attended OUSD schools. She stated she is running for the Board because she has been involved with the District in numerous capacities and believes she can bring a fresh prospective and objectivity to the position. She spoke about her experiences and the positions she held while involved with PTSA/PTA, providing teacher support, establishing community relationships and business resources, and being fiscally prudent with the budget. It is a priority to have a welcoming environment, clear communication and to work as a team; things she would like to bring to the school board. She believes it is important to remain fiscally responsible and transparent. She remains confident that the Board, teachers, administrators and parents working cohesively together can achieve.

Board Discussion

Mr. Ortega read the following statement:

“There were nine applicants who submitted paperwork indicating an interest in the Board member opening created by the resignation of Diane Singer. One applicant has withdrawn his submission. The applications were sent to each of the current Board members for review in accordance with the procedure established by the Board pursuant to Education Section 5091.

“I move to make a provisional appointment to the fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Diane Singer and for the Superintendent, with assistance from legal counsel, to submit the results in compliance with the Education Code.”

Motion No. 24

It was moved by Mr. Ortega that the Governing Board, by roll call, select one of the candidates who presented to the Board to serve as a provisional appointment to the Governing Board of the Orange Unified School District, in accordance with the Education Code. Any candidate receiving four or more votes would receive the appointment. [The motion was seconded by Mr. SurrIDGE.]

Motion

Mrs. Moffat moved that the Board appoint Andrea Yamasaki as Trustee for Area 1.

Mr. Christensen clarified that Mr. Ortega had already made a motion which allows all Board members to vote for any candidate they chose.

Motion No. 24

Following the second by Mr. SurrIDGE, the motion was carried by a roll call vote of 6-0 to select one of the candidates to serve as a provisional appointment to the Governing Board.

Roll Call

A roll call took place and each Board member stated the candidate they wished to appoint. The vote was as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Surridge	Greg Salas
Wayland	Greg Salas
Deligianni	Christopher Nguyen
Ortega	Greg Salas
Ledesma	Greg Salas
Moffat	Andrea Yamasaki

Mr. Ortega announced that Greg Salas is provisionally appointed as Trustee for Area 1 of the Orange Unified School District as he received the majority votes from the Governing Board.

8. ADJOURNMENT

By call of the President, the special meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Mark Wayland
Clerk of the Board