

VENTURA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
SPECIAL MEETING
Friday, April 22, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94081126661>
Call in: US: +16699006833

Rio School District, 1800 Solar Dr, Oxnard, CA 93030

MINUTES

1. Call to order

The meeting of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Charles Weis, at 4:02 p.m.

2. Roll call and acknowledgement of guests

The following members of the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization were in attendance:

Kathi Smith, representing Supervisorial District # 1
Mindee Stekkinger, representing Supervisorial District # 1
Pat Phelps, representing Supervisorial District # 2
Terri Lisagor, representing Supervisorial District # 3
Robert Perez, representing Supervisorial District # 4 (Arrived at 4:05 p.m.)
Arleigh Kidd, representing Supervisorial District # 4
Robin Freeman, representing Supervisorial District # 5
Charles Weis, representing Supervisorial District # 5

The following members were absent:

Denise Helfstein, representing Supervisorial District # 2
Barbara Wagner, representing Supervisorial District # 3
Ramon Flores, Member-at-Large

Also in attendance:

*Misty Key, Secretary to the VCCSDO, and Deputy Superintendent,
Fiscal and Administrative Services, Ventura County Office of Education*
David Lopez, Cooperative Strategies, LLC
Mark Bresee, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd and Romo
Julie Judd, Chief Technology Officer, Ventura County Office of Education
Cathy Samuel, Executive Assistant, Ventura County Office of Education

3. Review and Approve April 4, 2022, minutes

Kathi Smith made a motion to approve the April 4, 2022, minutes. The motion was seconded by Terri Lisagor.

Chairperson Charles Weis took a roll call vote to approve the County Committee April 4, 2022, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

	AYES	ABSTAIN	NOES	ABSENT
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>				X
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>				X
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>	X			
<i>Arleigh Kidd</i>		X		
<i>Robert Perez</i>				X
<i>Robin Freeman</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>				X

4. **Public Comments**

Chairperson Charles Weis read the process for making comments online or by phone.

There were no public comments.

5. **Information about Rio School District's Desired Change in Election**

David Lopez shared the Rio School District serves the unincorporated community of El Rio, the River Park development, and portions of the City of Oxnard. Rio School District provides world-class education to its more than 5,050 students throughout five elementary schools, two K-8 school academies, and two middle schools.

The school district undertook the transition from At-Large method of election to a By-Trustee Area method of election voluntarily and engaged in an open process to create voting areas that ensured fair representation for all residents.

Mr. Lopez showed the District Demographics – 2020 Census Data map. This is a predominantly (population wise) Hispanic/Latino area. The Census snapshot shows the breakdown of how the folks in their district responded specifically to the Census. Mr. Lopez said this feedback was adhered to as they drew boundary lines and took any feedback from the community and the school district. The Citizen Voting Age Population Estimates shows the largest minority group is Hispanic/Latino.

Mr. Lopez gave an overview of the trustee area process:

- January 19, 2022, Board meeting: First pre-map public hearing and presentation
- February 16, 2022, Board meeting: Second pre-map public hearing
- February-March 2022, Preparation of draft trustee area scenarios
- March 16, 2022, Board meeting: First public hearing on trustee area scenarios
- April 20, 2022, Board meeting: Second public hearing on trustee area scenarios
- April 22, 2022, County Committee on School District Organization holds a public hearing and considers approval of change in election method and trustee area map
- November 8, 2022, First election held utilizing trustee areas

The Board was compliant with Section 10010 of the elections code. The two pre-map public hearings occurred on January 19, 2022, and February 16, 2022.

Mr. Lopez explained the considerations in creating the trustee areas:

- Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants

- Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- Compact and contiguous, as much as possible
- Respect communities of interest, as much as possible
- Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible
- Respect incumbency, if possible
- Other local considerations (i.e., school boundaries, locations of school sites)

Rio School District Board members as well as the community wanted to have at least one school site in each area while making sure all the other important considerations were met.

There were three map scenarios presented. The Rio school district had some interesting demographic features, the census blocks were very unevenly shaped in some areas. It is preferable not to break census blocks and fortunately the census blocks were kept as is.

Mr. Lopez gave an overview of the community outreach:

- Public notices were posted at school sites and the district office
- Opportunities for community to submit map ideas and dividing lines
- Promoted on Rio School District website with maps and presentations

Mr. Lopez said at the first post map meeting, the Board asked if a school site could be incorporated in each of the trustee areas; this was something they wanted to do. At the final post map meeting there was a reminder by the public that the trustees represent all of the district as opposed to just the one area they reside in. The Board selected map scenario two which had the least variance of all the maps at 6.6% population. It also achieved a majority of Hispanic/Latino area in trustee areas 2, 3, 4 and 5. They had a plurality in trustee area 1 as well. They felt this map best represented their district and the district's needs. There was at least one or more school sites in each trustee area. Incumbency was respected in the process.

Chairperson Weis asked what the white areas on the map represent. Mr. Lopez explained the white areas on the map represent water.

6. **Public Hearing**

Chairperson Charles Weis opened the public hearing at 4:16 p.m. on the Rio School District's desired change in election process from an At-Large election process to a By-Trustee Area election process, pursuant to Education Code Section §5019(c)(1). Chairperson Weis asked if there were any public comments. There were none. He closed the public hearing at 4:17 p.m.

7. **Discussion and Action**

A motion was made by Terri Lisagor to adopt County Committee Resolution 22-11 approving the establishment of trustee areas and changing the method of election to a By-Trustee Area election system in the Rio School District. Motion was seconded by Arleigh Kidd.

Terri Lisagor asked why there was a no vote and what the objection was from the Board member. Mark Bresee explained the process to change to a By-Trustee Area election system was not initiated through a demand letter. The board decided to change to a By-Trustee Area election system to avoid any expense and any claim of the California Voting Rights Act violation. There was one Board member who felt this process was not necessary at this time. This Board member voted no on the initial Resolution to start the process and voted no at the end as well.

Chairperson Charles Weis took roll call vote to approve the County Committee Resolution 22-11. Motion passed unanimously.

	AYES	ABSTAIN	NOES	ABSENT
<i>Kathi Smith</i>	X			
<i>Mindee Stekkinger</i>	X			
<i>Patricia Phelps</i>	X			
<i>Denise Helfstein</i>				X
<i>Barbara Wagner</i>				X
<i>Terri Lisagor</i>	X			
<i>Arleigh Kidd</i>	X			
<i>Robert Perez</i>	X			
<i>Robin Freeman</i>	X			
<i>Charles Weis</i>	X			
<i>Ramon Flores</i>				X

8. Information on future meetings

Misty Key thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. She said it is important work to conclude everything the Rio School District has been working on to change election methodologies.

Ms. Key thanked Mark Bresee and David Lopez for all the work they are doing for the school districts in Ventura County.

Ms. Key shared the Fillmore Unified School District is in the process of changing their election methodologies. Oak Park Unified and Ocean View school district have yet to change their election methodologies. Ms. Key will stay in touch with those two school districts to see where they are at and what their intentions might be. She thanked everyone again.

Chairperson Charles Weis stated this meeting did not need to adopt another Resolution for holding virtual Board meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 because it has been less than 30 days from the April 4, 2022, County Committee meeting which adopted Resolution 22-07, holding virtual Board meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361.

Terri Lisagor congratulated everyone for getting their work done and being so organized.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.