



PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, County Superintendent of Schools

PLACER COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

APPROVED MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

May 14, 2007

H. Clarke Powers Elementary
Loomis Union School District

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Glenn Vineyard, Chairperson, Placer County Committee on School District Organization (“County Committee” or “Committee”) called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at Powers (H. Clarke) Elementary School Library, 3296 Humphrey Rd., Loomis, CA, 95650

ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY TO COUNTY COMMITTEE

Mel Hamel, Area 1; Tracy Pittman, Area 1; Glenn Vineyard, Area 2; Fionna Tuttle, Area 3; Lorene Euerle, Area 4; Reve' Taylor, Area 4; Evelyn O'Connell, Area 5; James Chambers, Representative at Large; Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Secretary to County Committee. A quorum was established at roll call with eight (8) members present. Maureen Ward, Area 3, arrived at 6:04 p.m.

ABSENT

Jeff Nicolaysen, Area 2; Norma Taylor, Area 5

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Glenn Vineyard.

3.0 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mr. Glenn Vineyard extended public comment time to members of the audience for items that were not on the agenda. No public comment was made.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. James Chambers made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/6/06 meeting, Mr. Mel Hamel seconded the motion; motion carried with a 9-0 vote in favor of approving the minutes.

5.0 PUBLIC HEARING – JOINT PETITION TO ANNEX THE OPHIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE LOOMIS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Glenn Vineyard opened the public hearing regarding the petition to transfer territory from the Ophir Elementary School District (“Ophir”) to the Loomis Union School District (“Loomis”). He discussed the purpose, format, and procedures of the hearing and asked if a spokesperson would be addressing the Committee on behalf of the opponents or proponents. No spokesperson was identified.

5.1 SUMMARY OF PETITION

Ms. Gayle Garbolino-Mojica summarized the petition proposing to annex Ophir in its entirety to Loomis. On 6/5/06, the County Committee granted a petition to transfer territories from the Western Placer Unified School District (“Western Placer”) to Ophir and Loomis. Those transfers, which become effective 7/1/07, provide a continuous border between Ophir and Loomis and make possible the potential reorganization of these two districts. The petitioners advocate that merging the districts will provide a higher level of service to the students who currently attend Ophir Elementary School and realize the efficiencies and savings that will result from the economies of scale of the reorganized district. If approved, Ophir students will be in the Del Oro High School attendance boundary instead of Placer High. Employees of Ophir will become employees of Loomis except for those designated as management and confidential. The employment of certificated and classified personnel will be governed by the collective bargaining agreements between those entities and Loomis. The governing board of the reorganized district will still have five members and five trustee areas. The territory that currently comprises Ophir will be combined into Trustee Area 1, Citrus Colony. The governing board will initially be composed of only members of the existing Loomis Board. An election for Trustee Area 1 will take place in 2008 (when the term of the current trustee expires). No division of property will occur with the reorganization. All real and personal property of the current districts will become the property of Loomis. The current bonded indebtedness of Loomis will not be extended to the property owners of Ophir.

5.2 REVIEW OF REORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS REGARDING STATUTORY CONDITIONS

Ms. Gayle Garbolino-Mojica indicated that the petition was submitted to the Placer County Office of Education (“PCOE”) on 3/20/07 and was approved by the majority of the Loomis and Ophir school boards. Following verification by the County Superintendent, the petition was transmitted to the County Committee and the State Board of Education. Following receipt of the joint petition, the County Committee scheduled these two meetings and public hearings within 60 days. The notice of the meetings and availability of the petition and other information was published ten days before the meeting (May 3, Loomis News and May 4, Auburn Journal). A 30-day notice of issuance of a Negative Declaration on this reorganization project was published on May 11, 2007. The purpose of the meeting tonight is to take public comment on the joint petition. The County Committee will be asked to meet again to take action on the joint petition and on the Negative Declaration. Only if both are approved by the County Committee will an election be called for the voters in the two districts to decide whether to accept or reject the reorganization proposal.

5.3 PRESENTATION BY PETITIONERS

5.3.1 Loomis Superintendent Paul Johnson addressed the Committee. Referencing a projected slideshow presentation, Superintendent Johnson

addressed questions that have been raised in the community with concern to the proposed reorganization. He expressed gratitude to Western Placer and its Board for granting the territory transfers which have made possible the current petition before the Committee. Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Jim Foster, Loomis Board President, who addressed the Committee in support of the petition.

- 5.3.2** Ophir Superintendent Rob Reynolds addressed the Committee. Referencing a projected slideshow presentation, Superintendent Reynolds discussed the challenges facing Ophir and the benefits of merging with Loomis. On his and Superintendent Johnson's behalf, Mr. Reynolds indicated that the best long-term decision is to merge the two districts and asked the Committee to advance the petition to a vote.

5.4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. John Payne, 140 Rainbow Valley Lane, Newcastle, 95658, spoke against the petition. His property is in Western Placer and will not be affected by the outcome of the petition. He understands the sides of the proponents and opponents. He expressed concern that there is a group of family members and individuals within the community that have not been heard. He would like to see a decision made for the benefit of everyone.
- Mr. Mark Rideout, 10465 Dutchmans Mine Rd., Auburn, 95603, spoke against the petition. He feels that there has been a lack of information given to individuals by Ophir. For instance; they were not made aware that the petition would result in residents becoming part of the Del Oro attendance area. He asked the Committee to defer their decision until more information is received; 30 days is not long enough to get resolution to the unanswered questions.
- Ms. Kathleen Devitt, 140 Rainbow Valley Lane, Newcastle, 95658, spoke against the petition. Her children are on charter at Newcastle and she has one child at Del Oro High. She will not be affected by the petition but does not feel that the petition is good for everyone. She would like to see the appeal that is before the State, and the petition currently before the Committee be considered at the same time. She believes there should be public discussion of other choices for Ophir and would like the Committee to delay making a decision.
- Superintendent Kathleen Daugherty, Newcastle Elementary School District, spoke against the petition. She spoke on behalf of the Newcastle Boundary Change Committee's petition that was denied by the County Committee and is currently at the State Department on appeal. She stated that the earliest the appeal can be heard by the State is in September. Ms. Daugherty asked that the Committee use the 120 days that it has to make its decision on the current petition to give the appeal time to be accepted or rejected by the State. She indicated that the territory transfers from Western Placer will be effective on 7/1/07 and the State has the right to overturn a territory transfer within one year after it becomes final.

- Ms. Nancy McKenzie, 2450 Moran Ct., Auburn, 95603, spoke against the petition. Ms. McKenzie is the Chief Business Manager of the Newcastle Elementary School District and a resident of Ophir. The Newcastle Boundary Change Committee's viewpoint is that Western Placer did not have any regard for the wishes of others with concern to the land that was given away. It is no longer true that families are free to transfer between districts freely. She is surprised at the lack of information she has received as an Ophir resident about the petition. She believes there is other information that has a chance of being heard that can benefit all people in the area of concern.
- Mr. William Fawx, 6425 Lincoln-Newcastle Hwy 193, Newcastle, 95658, spoke against the petition. His property is currently in Western Placer but will be in Loomis effective 7/1/07. He questions why he, as a resident, has not been contacted by the proponents of the merger. He questions why Ophir has not sought a merger closer geographically to a school district in Auburn. He believes that information should be given to everyone estimating the cost of the election including whose responsibility it is to pay for it.
- Ms. Mary Stockwell, 6989 Chili Hill Rd., Newcastle, 95658, spoke against the petition. Ms. Stockwell is an Ophir parent and a member of the Newcastle Boundary Change Committee. According to her figures, if tonight's petition goes on the November 2008 general election ballot, it will cost between \$12,000-\$13,000 as opposed to at least \$30,000 in a special election. According to Ms. Stockwell, Loomis desires the merger to go on the ballot of a special election despite the additional cost. Ms. Stockwell further indicated that at various district meetings there has been discussion to put a new bond measure on a ballot to raise funds for Loomis to repair its schools, an issue Ophir families have not been made aware of.

6.0 CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADJOURN THE MEETING

Ms. Reve' Taylor made a motion to close the public hearing regarding the petition to transfer territory from Ophir to Loomis. Mr. James Chambers seconded the motion; motion carried with a 9-0 vote in favor of closing the public hearing. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

County Committee Chair or Designee

County Superintendent or Designee

Date

Date