



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**MCUSD/MCOE Special Board Meeting**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**District Office Board Room**  
May 2, 2024

**1. Open Meeting:**

President Jennifer Kiser opened the meeting at 4:30PM. Ms. Kiser was Teleconferencing from 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa, CA. Present were Robert C. Hill, Kimberly Harper, Bob Morse, Bob Collins, and Jeff Aranguena, the Superintendent.

Ms. Kiser suggested that Ms. Harper as she was in the room and the technology could be an issue. The Board agreed.

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice President Harper

B. Items not on the Agenda:

Overnight, Out of State or Unusual Field Trips for Students - MCHS

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Moved by Mr. Collins to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Hill

AYES: Hill, Harper, Morse, Kiser, Collins. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion Passes.

D. Overnight, Out of State or Unusual Field Trips for Students - MCHS

Moved by Mr. Collins to approve the agenda item, seconded by Mr. Morse

AYES: Hill, Harper, Morse, Kiser, Collins. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion Passes.

**2. Public Hearing: By-Trustee Area Election System:**

A. Pre-Map Public Hearing #1: Superintendent Aranguena introduced David A. Soldani of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, the district's legal team. Mr. Soldani began by presenting the attached presentation information which included a history of the CRVA and Fair Map Act. He also explained the process for moving from an at-large to by-trustee area voting system. It is expected that the maps adopted by the County of Mariposa for the Supervisorial Districts will be usable for this process.

In response to Board questions, Mr. Soldani discussed the reasoning behind the CRVA coming into place and the proven Constitutionality. He also explained vote dilution, and how this could apply. He went on to state that irregardless of the

reason behind this question being raised the law is designed to improve election outcomes. He also clarified that for this purpose the protected classes under consideration are census driven. It was clarified that the County committee who will make the final decision is the Board of the County of Education. It was also pointed out that information regarding this process has already been added to the district website. Mr. Soldani also clarified that board members may be from a specific district within the county, their duty is to represent and make the best decisions for the entire district, not just the schools residing in their specific district.

Mr. Ben Ogren, GIS specialist for the County, spoke to the fact that he is not a demographer, but he believes that the information provided by Mr. Soldani as to the requirements for the maps. Mr. Soldani proposed and was given permission to check with a demographer to ensure that the maps used by the County are valid.

The board confirmed that if they didn't complete the process prior to the end of June they could continue if necessary. The June deadline is in place to allow this change for the November 2024 election.

L. Edelheit: Ms. Edelheit requested that the board make this change to trustee area voting, and would also hope that the current maps are usable and adhered to. She also spoke to the at-large voting process, which costs more, not used for other types of elections, including the local board of supervisors. She also believes this voting structure change was presented as a conversation and not as a threat.

E. Hanchett: Ms. Hanchett is a resident of District 2 and is in favor of moving to a by-trustee area voting system.

Mr. Soldani confirmed that if the board of supervisors uses the same maps for voting, that the maps do not change as confusion could be a potential problem. He further confirmed that there are no issues with the school board being both a district and county board. He also added that the districts do not have to have a school in their boundaries.

In wrapping up, Mr. Soldani hopes to have confirmation on the validity of the maps prior to the next public hearing.

Moved by Mr. Collins to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Morse

AYES: Hill, Harper, Morse, Kiser, Collins. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion Passes.

### **3. Closing Items:**

A. Next Meeting Date: Regular Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 9, 2023, with Open Session at 5:30 PM in the MCUSD Board Room and via Zoom.

D. Adjourn:

Moved by Mr. Morse to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hill

AYES: Hill, Harper, Morse, Kiser, Collins. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Motion Passes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Aranguena, Superintendent

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