

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting
August 9, 2019
MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

The Yolo County Board of Education met on August 9, 2019 at 4:06 p.m.in Special Session in the Community Conference Room located at 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite #100, Woodland, CA. Board Members present: Shelton Yip, Carol Souza Cole and Matt Taylor. Cirenio Rodriguez and Melissa Moreno were absent. Board President Yip presided. Garth Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

3.0 APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

MOTION: Taylor **SECOND:** Souza Cole **AYES:** Taylor, Souza Cole, Yip
NOES: None. **ABSENT:** Moreno, Rodriguez

4.0 CLOSED SESSION

4.1 Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation: Significant exposure to litigation [Govt. Code 54956.9(d)(2)][One case]

5.0 RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 4:52 p.m. There was no action taken in Closed Session.

5.1 Approve Resolution 19-20/04 Regarding the Surrender of the Charter for, and Closure of, the “Yolo County Career Academy” (YCCA) Charter School [Education Code section 47605; Title 5 CCR sections 11962 and 11962.1]

Superintendent Lewis addressed the Board and public.

Statement was transcribed.

Before the Board is a request to accept my decision to surrender the charter, which authorizes the YCCA to operate as a charter school. I would like to thank the Board, YCOE staff, teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, Superintendent Advisory Team (SAT), and our partner Marquez Designs for all of the work they have invested in the Yolo County Career Academy (YCCA). Your support and belief in the vision to address an unmet need in the community demonstrates our collective responsiveness and commitment to collaboration and innovation among government, education, and the private sector. The concept of charter in the school to serve transitional age youth commonly defined as youth ages 16-24, during the 2018-19 school year allowed us to graduate a student who likely would not have graduated

from high school in the near term. We also touched the lives of fifteen (15) students and their families in meaningful ways. Also, through the hard work of the staff, partners and trustees, YCCA was able to earn an initial accreditation through Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which is no easy task. So, we wanted to acknowledge the fact that there was a lot of effort invested. These are just some of the reasons why it was difficult to reach the decision to request your acceptance of my surrender of the YCCA Charter, effectively closing the school.

The fact is, approaching the start of 2019-20 school year to date we are well short of the student enrollment target of fifty (50) students in order to meet the funding needed for operational costs. At the most recent count we had eight (8) students that completed the entire enrollment packet for school and this fact is the primary driver of my decision to surrender the charter, a decision made in consultation with SAT and our legal team. If the resolution before the Board is accepted then all school operations will cease immediately and the appropriate members of the YCOE team will work to address the impact of this decision on students and families, our staff and partners. At this time, I am open to answer any questions from the Board.

Trustee Yip asked if there were any comments from the public. *There were no comments.*

Trustee Taylor asked what will happen to the eight (8) students who are currently enrolled. Dr. Carolynne Beno, Associate Superintendent, Educational services stated that our team needs input from staff to move forward and we are aware that students are very invested in the program. We will be working with their families to figure out proper placement and the most appropriate next step. Some students may enroll at Cesar Chavez Community School or a district school.

Trustee Taylor requested a report on this subject at the August/September Regular Board meetings. He also requested an update to be included on every meeting agenda (a standing item) on what is happening with the facility and to the students. Trustee Souza Cole requested a reporting protocol checklist from when the charter school closes to the inventory and audits of the facility. She would also like to know what the use of the facility will be with our partners (WCC, Adult Education, High schools) in Yolo County.

Superintendent Lewis stated that an amazing amount of support was provided, including an investment of close to one (1) million in renovation for the building. We will need to be responsible and prudent to look for other opportunities to use the facility as part of educational programming in Yolo County. The team fully embraces that a charter could rise again in the future for YCOE and an initial needs assessment of another educational option for yolo county youth is needed but due to current enrollment we can't prolong this decision to surrender/close since it would be irresponsible. YCOE will reassess what is the best plan to serve young adults in the future.

Motion by Trustee Taylor and Second by Trustee Souza Cole, the County Board approved Resolution 19-20/04 Regarding the Surrender of the Charter for, and Closure of, the "Yolo County Career Academy" Charter School [Education Code section 47605; Title 5 CCR sections 11962 and 11962.1] by unanimous vote of the Board.

Trustee Souza Cole and Trustee Yip stated that they appreciate staff and the Superintendent's work and acknowledge how difficult this decision is. Trustee Yip was impressed by the students who spoke during the YCCA opening and WASC accreditation process. He stated that he understands that this has been a very difficult process to surrender/close YCCA.

MOTION: Taylor **SECOND:** Souza Cole **AYES:** Taylor, Souza Cole, Yip
NOES: None. **ABSENT:** Moreno, Rodriguez

5.0 MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

MOTION: Yip **SECOND:** Souza Cole **AYES:** Yip, Souza Cole, Taylor
NOES: None. **ABSENT:** Moreno, Rodriguez



Garth Lewis
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools and
Secretary to the Yolo County Board of Education