

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting: January 15, 2021
MINUTES

1.1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met on January 15, 2021 at 4:02 p.m. in Special session on a Zoom conference call. Board Members present were: Jerry Jimenez, Melissa Moreno, Carol Souza Cole, Matt Taylor, Tico Zendejas. President Matt Taylor presided. Superintendent Garth Lewis was present. (Roll Call held).

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

1.3 Approval of Agenda.

MOTION: Jimenez **SECOND:** Moreno **AYES:** Jimenez, Moreno, Souza Cole, Taylor, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** None

ROLL CALL VOTE:

TAYLOR – AYE

JIMENEZ – AYE

MORENO – AYE

SOUZA COLE – AYE

ZENDEJAS – AYE

1.4 Public Comment. Public Comment submitted to Google docs/online are attached.

2.0 ACTION ITEM

2.1 Resolution #20-21/17 Upholding Democracy and Security for Schools and Society
President Matt Taylor presented the draft resolution in the Board packet. Trustees made comments on the resolution:

Trustee Zendejas thanked the community for public comment. He supports the resolution and can understand both sides of the issue. He also appreciates the differences of opinion on this matter.

Vice President Moreno commented that equity and inclusion are not new for YCOE and we have been consistent on equity and inclusion for all students (color or non-color) in Yolo County. There are schools that are passing similar resolutions. We are not alone in standing in equity and inclusion. This resolution points out ideology and is not targeting a specific group. She thanked all the parents for their public comment.

Trustee Jimenez thanked everyone for speaking on the resolution and supports the resolution stating that what happened on January 6th that everyone has a right to protest but what happened was an attack on democracy. It was an attempt to usurp

power and it was an attack of domestic terrorism and should not be tolerated in our society and community.

Trustee Souza Cole appreciates all the comments from the public on this issue. She stated that a lot has happened since they found out that YCOE COVID-19 restrictions were eased and that has a lot of meaning and importance to decisions in the future on reopening schools. Trustee Souza Cole agrees with the general principle and what is trying to be accomplished but the resolution needs to focus more on students and promoting a robust ethnic studies program, civic education and science curriculum. Trustee Souza Cole sent Superintendent Lewis a revised version of the resolution with a focus on governance and what the Board members' job is in terms of promoting important issues in the community as well as endorsing curriculum. Trustee Souza Cole would like to see our Board take a moment and reconsider a resolution in their capacity in serving as community and governance leaders. She is not ready to support the resolution as written tonight and feels that some more work is needed on it.

Superintendent Lewis thanked the public and recognized the importance of public discourse on this issue as it is an important part of our democracy. Healthy discourse helps us consider our common ground. Superintendent Lewis' own reflection on this issue and ideology leans toward that of an inclusive society and appreciates the Board's consideration of the resolution. He also stated that staff can assist and support on this issue in any way needed.

President Taylor stated that healthy discourse is welcome. The Yolo County Office of Education is not directly supervising all students in the county. We work with the Yolo County districts and the Board's goal is setting direction in the county which is also the superintendent's responsibility which the Board takes very seriously. There is a wide range of political views and beliefs on items that we can agree on and he does support resolution. Equity is a major concern of the organization and it is important to continue the work to support schools especially on what it means to be a citizen in our country.

Board members discussed the wording and the importance of the resolution. The Board decided to go line-by-line and revise the document. Trustee Souza Cole rewrote the resolution and that draft (below) was used during the meeting. Changes are included below with the revised resolution:

Resolution #20-21/17
Upholding Democracy and Security for Schools and Society

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2021, our nation witnessed *terrorism*, insurrection and violence in the U.S. Capitol, spreading terror and causing destruction, injury, and death; and

WHEREAS, *it was horrific to witness violence and domestic terrorism* ~~this horror was~~ broadcast live around the globe;

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Office of Education denounces *racism, white supremacy, and* the use of violence and actions that are antithetical to the formation of a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS, public education has the unique responsibility of teaching what it means to be an American *in this multi-cultural country*, the history of these United States, and empowering students with ways to engage in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, structural inequities fostered by past policies and beliefs rooted in racism, have affected the well-being, and in many cases, the fair access to all that this great nation offers to all students and families including those of color - Black, Native, Latino; *Asian Americans*; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Office of Education has as its fundamental reason for existence the responsibility to teach the goals of a democratic society to prepare people to be responsible citizens, improve social *and educational* conditions, promote *equity and* cultural unity; and ~~*provide the opportunity for the pursuit of individual happiness; and*~~

WHEREAS, a robust Civic Education program interwoven and supported by an equally robust *and authentic* Ethnic Studies curriculum, along with a quality curriculum of science, mathematics, and language arts will support these goals of a free democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools reaffirm their oaths of elective office to uphold the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the modeling of responsible citizenship cannot be understated and includes leading with integrity, collaboration, ethics, respect *and non-violence*;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Office of Education hereby condemns violent, destructive and treasonous acts against the United States of America.

The Board took action to approve Resolution #20-21/17 Upholding Democracy and Security for Schools and Society with the changes above. A copy of the final resolution will be emailed to the Board.

MOTION: Moreno **SECOND:** Jimenez **AYES:** Moreno, Jimenez, Souza Cole, Taylor, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** None

ROLL CALL VOTE:

TAYLOR – AYE
JIMENEZ – AYE
MORENO – AYE
SOUZA COLE – AYE
ZENDEJAS – AYE

3.0 ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Superintendent Lewis approves of the rewritten resolution.

President Taylor, Superintendent Lewis and Trustee Zendejas will stay behind on the call to discuss questions from a community member.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

ROLL CALL VOTE:

TAYLOR – AYE

JIMENEZ – AYE

MORENO – AYE

SOUZA COLE – AYE

ZENDEJAS – AYE



Garth Lewis, Superintendent

/ys