

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting: February 8, 2022
MINUTES

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met on February 8, 2022 at 3:31 p.m. at a Regular Board meeting session in person. Board Members present were: Carol Souza Cole, Shelton Yip, Tico Zendejas and Melissa Moreno. President Moreno 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 to Approve Agenda

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

1.4 Public Comment.
Justice advocate, Marvin Mutch made a public comment:

I am a justice advocate. I have grandchildren, nieces and nephews who go to Yolo County schools and moving forward I would like to say last fiscal year California spent 13.8 billion dollars in prisons in California. I would like to work with school boards to repurpose just a bit of money to this end of the process where the young people lined up outside the prison gates waiting for their turn to go in to follow their fathers and brothers who are in prison. People who have the most access to them and are at risk individuals are schools and school boards sets the policy as to how much intervention we are going to do with young people. California for 130 years built 11 prisons and there was 26,000 people in 1984 in prison and between 84 and 94 they built 22 more prisons and went to 174,000 people so they started integrating in the system with war on violence, gangs and guns, drugs and they started harvesting young people in the communities and path to prison with 174,000 beds. I don't know any other way but to try and reach back to your area of expertise and to identify at risk children and have justice and advocacy communities work with school boards in California to intervene in the lives of young people before they end up in prison. Los Angeles has a program where school district supports young people who are in prison and their families which has been very successful. I will be offering assistance and advocacy in the community for students in your district to see if we can make a difference in the prison pipeline.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Board Reports

Trustee Yip

- Thanked Superintendent Lewis and staff for bringing us together for YCOE's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and YCOE's State of the State with Patti Herrera, Associate Vice President, School Services of California.
 - Both events were well attended.
- Congratulated Dr. Micah Studer, Assistant Superintendent, Equity and Support Services for being selected chair for California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) Student Programs and Services Steering committee and putting Yolo County on map and helping us to move things forward.
- Thanked Principal Gayelynn Gerhart and Dr. Studer who worked on Saturday learning how to become a full-service community school.
 - Important information as we move forward.
- Thanked Mariah Ernst-Collins, Program Coordinator II, Student Services for representing Yolo County on a webinar for Breaking Barriers and expanding mental health services across the state while bridging schools and counties together. Ms. Ernst-Collins presented with partners at Yolo County.
- Thanked Superintendent Lewis and Trustee Zendejas for expanding mental health services and systems of care for students in the county.
- Thanked Ms. Nadal for her work with Solano-Yolo credentialing and early childhood teachers which will create the foundational work for schools in Yolo County.

Trustee Souza Cole

- Thanked staff for their hard work.
- Met with Superintendent Lewis and discussed childcare and early learning grants.
- Requested letter of support from the Yolo County Board of Education to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Yolo County American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for a childcare plan in the county. Trustees agreed on joint letter and staff will work on a letter to distribute.
- Trustee Souza Cole requested a curriculum update or status report for this year. Superintendent Lewis stated that staff can give a status update at the March meeting.

Trustee Zendejas

- Great to see everyone in audience.
- Thanked Dr. Studer for his leadership at CCSESA.
- Mental health a big challenge right now. Community has lost someone in Woodland recently and there is a need for great role models (mentors and medical health professionals).
- Reminder that we need substitutes in the classrooms and if anyone in the

community can help, please think about it.

Trustee Moreno

- Gave gratitude to teachers and educators who are helping students, saving lives and making a difference for mental health and well-being.
- Thanked Superintendent Lewis and staff for applying for the grant and working closely with San Diego COE in developing Native American curriculum. There are currently two assembly bills on Native American curriculum and this is a time in history where we are rethinking social history that is taught in schools. Congratulations to YCOE for receiving this grant.
- Working closely with the California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA) organizing and preparing staff for a teacher orientation. Information regarding this session is on the CLSBA website.

Superintendent

Superintendent Lewis reviewed the following items:

- YCOE Continues to Distribute PPE Supplies.
- Announced that on February 28, 2022 the Yolo County School Boards Association (YCSBA) will be hosting a webinar tailored to Board members titled “Governance in a time of chaos.”
- Recognized Dr. Studer for his leadership on CCSESA.
- Congratulated Compass charter school for being recognized as a Purple Star School which recognizes contribution and support to families in military.
- A Cesar Chavez student, Angelina Silva will be recognized for being awarded ACSA’s 2022 Every Student Succeeding Award Recipient for Region 3.
 - Space is limited.
- Discussed ARP grant.
- Trustee Souza Cole requested a special board meeting to approve the letter of support from the Yolo County Board of Education to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Yolo County American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for a childcare plan in the county. She mentioned that we could have the meeting before the county committee on school district organization meeting next week. The Board agreed with a special meeting which will be scheduled for next week.

Margie Valenzuela, Executive Director, Human Resources honored the Employee of the Month for January: Bianca Solorio.

SAT

Crissy Huey, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services presented her report in the Board packet.

Maria Arvizu-Espinoza, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services presented her report in the Board packet.

Items discussed included:

- Thanked staff for their help during recent tragedy at Woodland school.
 - Staff resiliency and dedication is phenomenal and extremely proud of work they do.
 - Thanked Superintendent Lewis for leadership and support.

Committees

Trustee Yip stated that the Policy committee is currently working on 9000 section and will be updated soon.

Trustee Souza Cole would like to schedule a facilities committee meeting in next month and connect with Trustee Yip and staff.

2.2 Associations
None

3.0 **CONSENT AGENDA**
Motion to Approve.

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

4.0 ACTION TO FILL TRUSTEE AREA 1 BOARD MEMBER MATT TAYLOR VACANCY TO THE YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION; PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT [Educ. Code Section 5091 & 5093; BB9223]

4.1 Review of Process

Trustee Moreno reviewed the process taken to fill Trustee Area 1 Board Member Matt Taylor's vacancy to the Yolo County Board of Education. There are four (4) candidates that have met the criteria: Elizabeth Esquivel, Maria Grijalva, Karl Machscheffes and Kingsley Melton. Selection of interview candidates (1-4) was chosen randomly. Trustee Souza Cole clarified that the deliberation process is also done in public.

After tonight's appointment the Superintendent's office will post the Public Notice of Provisional Appointment of Area 1 Trustee for the Yolo County Board of Education within ten (10) days.

4.2 Yolo County Board of Education Candidate Applications
Applications were reviewed in Board packet.

4.3 Board Trustee, Area 1, Provisional Appointment Candidate Interviews

Candidates were asked to pick numbers from 1-4 for order: 1 – Karl Machscheffes, 2 – Maria Grijalva, 3 – Elizabeth Esquivel, 4 – Kingsley Melton. Candidates were then interviewed for the vacancy.

4.4 Public Comment

Trustee Zendejas requested a 5 minute break after public comment.

Written public comments are attached to the minutes.

Eleanor Sanchez, parent at Washington USD - Gave strong support to Elizabeth Esquivel, her dedication and experience is what is needed for county.

Maria Garcia – I support Maria Grijalva. Very beautiful person and helps us to do different things in the school. Always helping me.

Karen Bayne – Good afternoon, I am a resident of Woodland. Tough time to be a school board member right now isn't it. Years ago policy was made and those sides drawn the consequences weren't reflective in life and death neither for staff students or board members. I know I have held all three roles. Student, staff member and most recently I served on the Woodland Jt. USD board member from 2016-2020 starting the years before covid through the first year of the pandemic. It is not easy to be a democracy now is it. At a time when virality is higher than it has been in 50 years. Face threats to integrity of not only public education but democracy as well.

We need members that will serve our students, staff and community with courage be student-centered and preserving integrity of system of public education and our system of democracy. We need someone who will work not only on focus on policy but for people affected by policies. Someone to serve with courage to make sure everyone's history is told and those books that teach those histories are not omitted from libraries and who will serve on focus of equity and justice not just for public education but democracy. It is no accident that democracy and education is at a crossroads right now because public education is not just a part of democracy, but it is the foundation of which a free and equitable democracy depends.

Purpose of education at basic level to graduate people to read, write and do mathematics but the reason we do that is to prepare young people to engage in a democracy. Without a fair and equitable education democracy dies. It is not easy to be a school board member in a democracy today. But the one person I know that is up to that task is Maria Grijalva. She will work not just with policy but people. Her community involvement in West Sacramento has created programs to combat gang activity and advocacy for students who receive special education services including one of her own children. We can count on her to maintain integrity of YCOE but raise its voice in equity and justice even higher. I appreciate the time and I hope you will select Maria Grijalva as the board member for trustee area 1.

Marvin Mutch – I have to lay a foundation. A little more than 6 years ago this month I was sitting in a prison cell serving out the 41st year of a second life sentence as a result of wrongful conviction suffered in 1975 and in 2016 the innocence project got me out. So I have been out for 6 years I was a marginalized child my mother is a holocaust survivor. Often absent and hospitalized my sisters and I were in foster care, I became ward of court, juvenile hall, runaway and I found myself at age 18 where I stayed for 41 years. I can tell you that it is always nice to have people sit in front of a panel and talk about their experience with other people. It takes special people. My wife is teacher and teaches math and science to junior high school kids. Supt at Indian reservation school and a county school in Ca. dropped bck to teaching and help with drug advocacy, etc. Maria has the ability to speak to these young people they trust her, grandmothers, mothers and children get her. There is a group of people in society no one hears. All people don't hear, children and marginalized people are not heard. We need someone who is going to bridge that gap and someone who has heart for making sure those voice are heard and amplified by their own voice to people who can do something about it. Nobody thought about school boards before this last presidency. Now we have people all over country getting on boards. We need a person like her to bridge the gap.

Maria Grijalva one of the candidates for Trustee Area 1 requested to speak during public comment. The Board stated that if they let her speak they would need to let all the candidates have the same option. Ms. Grijalva did not speak.

Lupita Torres, Yolo County Democratic Central Committee District 4 representative – Good afternoon. I am here to show my support for Maria Grijalva who is running for board of trustees' district area 1. I can say with confidence that you will not find another candidate that will benefit your board of trustees as wholeheartedly as Maria. As a warrior of human rights and champion for social justice in Yolo County for decades she has extensive knowledge and first-hand experience working for the communities she would like to represent in West Sacramento. She has worked hard to bring equity and justice to all students in yolo county and specifically in her district. She has broad range of wisdom and experience with families and students ranging from ending the school to prison pipeline, policy and legislation, implementing equitable district elections. She has worked in the trenches and will continue to do so. I hope you will consider Maria Grijalva.

Comments in Facebook chat

Dorothy Small, retired registered nurse – Maria has a passion for social justice especially for those who do not have a voice.

Quirina Orozco – I am writing to express my support for candidate Elizabeth Munguia Esquivel. I worked with Elizabeth on a variety of projects over the past 5 years, know her commitment to children in our community, and her ability to work well with others. Her background is well grounded in education and would be an

asset to the board. Further, as a young mother of two, she is committed not only to her own children but those throughout our region and community.

Recess at 5:30 PM
Returned at 5:39 PM

4.5 Deliberation Process

President Moreno thanked candidates for their experience and time.

Trustee Zendejas really appreciated the candidate's serving their community and for their time and effort. Trustee Zendejas stated that he did not respond to emails sent directly to him and he apologized but wanted to base his decision on heart and experience. He felt one person made the extra steps to visit school sites and to see the schools in action and he will vote for that candidate.

Thank you and good luck.

Trustee Yip commented that he was recently appointed to third term. He appreciates how Elizabeth Esquivel visited school sites and spoke to teachers. As a trustee it is hard to serve and appoint since they have a sacred trust with voters. Public schools are foundation of democracy. In regards to candidates, he was looking for candidates who are ready to govern and understand the relationship with superintendent. Our Board supports each other and appointee must have an understanding of governance. Hearing a candidate talk about visiting schools ahead of time has gained the understanding of where and how they can step in and hit ground running in this position.

President Moreno thanked colleagues for sharing thoughts. Every single candidate has leadership experience. She was impressed with the relationship of candidates to community and the values of social justice. Stated that as a candidate she knew it was important to spend time at Cesar Chavez Community School and Greengate since they are not part of the district. Also important is the collaborative relationship of the trustees to superintendent. She was impressed to see and hear all four (4) candidates together but feels that two (2) candidates have the outstanding experience, relationship and institutional knowledge to be in this role.

Trustee Souza Cole stated the appointee has to specifically understand governance and interests in YCOE. Ms. Esquivel visited school sites and understands governance which is impressive and feels that she has the experience to be a team player. Her presentation was very impactful.

4.6 Motion to Appoint Candidate

On a motion by Trustee Yip and seconded by Trustee Souza Cole, the Yolo County Board of Education provisionally appointed Elizabeth Esquivel to fill the vacancy in Trustee Area 1 and he will hold office until December 2022; motion carried unanimously – 4 Ayes: Moreno, Souza Cole, Yip, Zendejas.

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

Trustee Yip thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve at this time with all the challenges including the pandemic, etc. It is important to support staff and schools and to bring on another person that understands process and system and has knowledge of what staff are dealing with is important. In November the voters will speak if there is interest in running for the seat.

President Moreno thanked everyone.

4.7 Oath of Office

Superintendent Lewis gave the Oath of Office to Elizabeth Esquivel.

Brief recess at 5:59 PM

Return at 6:01 PM

Elizabeth Esquivel has now joined the meeting.

5.0 **ACTION ITEMS**

5.1 RESOLUTION #21-22/32 Cesar Chavez Day – March 31, 2022

Superintendent Lewis presented this item. Discussed the impact of Cesar Chavez who is the namesake of the community school. President Moreno expressed gratitude. She commented on how she met Mr. Chavez at seven (7) years old.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION #21-22/32 Cesar Chavez Day – March 31, 2022.

MOTION: Zendejas **SECOND:** Souza Cole.

AYES: Zendejas, Souza Cole, Esquivel, Moreno, Yip **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** None

5.2 RESOLUTION #21-22/31 Women’s History Month – March 2022

Superintendent Lewis presented this resolution and commented on the theme “Providing healing and hope.” Jayne Williams, Executive Director of All Leaders Must Serve (ALMS) was here to accept resolution but had to leave to attend a meeting. Trustee Moreno supports this resolution and acknowledged the activism of Professor Angela Davis, Bettina Aptheker and Gloria Anzaldua. Trustee Zendejas acknowledged Ms. Williams and stated that she does an amazing job on a shoestring budget. He thanked Ms. Williams for serving community and youth.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION #21-22/31 Women’s History Month – March

2022.

MOTION: Yip **SECOND:** Souza Cole
AYES: Yip, Souza Cole, Esquivel, Yip, Zendejas **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None

5.3 RESOLUTION #21-22/33 Arts Education Month – March 2022

Superintendent Lewis presented this resolution to Alison Flory, Executive Director of Yolo Arts where Arts Education is a centerpiece at Cesar Chavez Community School.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION #21-22/33 Arts Education Month – March 2022.

MOTION: Esquivel **SECOND:** Zendejas
AYES: Esquivel, Zendejas, Moreno, Souza Cole, Yip **NOES:** None
ABSENT: None

5.4 School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs)

Dr. Micah Studer, Assistant Superintendent, Equity and Support Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board. Due to be posted before February 1. The California Department of Education (CDE) is experiencing challenges and will provide data at a later date. Trustee Souza Cole asked about the data and when it is updated if we can we bring back as information or as part of a report. How long does it take to get this information? Staff has reached out to CDE on January 6 and many times after. Trustee Souza Cole also had data questions for Greengate and total enrollment. Noticed chronic absenteeism is concerning. Enrollment, surveys, phone calls are done to students and some of this will be addressed in the monthly attendance report.

MOTION: Zendejas **SECOND:** Souza Cole
AYES: Zendejas, Souza Cole, Esquivel, Moreno, Yip
NOES: None **ABSENT:** None

5.5 Comprehensive School Safety Plans

Dr. Micah Studer, Assistant Superintendent, Equity and Support Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Souza Cole **SECOND:** Zendejas
AYES: Souza Cole, Zendejas, Esquivel, Moreno, Yip
NOES: None **ABSENT:** None

Dr. Studer thanked Anissa DelCastillo, Administrative Assistant on her work with the evacuation maps.

5.6 2022 Delegate Assembly Ballot Subregion 6-A

Trustee Shelton Yip presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Souza Cole **SECOND:** Yip
AYES: Souza Cole, Yip, Zendejas, Esquivel, Moreno
NOES: None **ABSENT:** None

5.7 2022 Delegate Assembly Ballot County Delegate Region 6

Trustee Shelton Yip presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Zendejas **SECOND:** Moreno
AYES: Zendejas, Moreno, Esquivel, Souza Cole, Yip,
NOES: None **ABSENT:** None

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Alternative Education Monthly Attendance Reports

Gayelynn Gerhart, Principal, Alternative Education presented the PowerPoint in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.

Trustee Souza Cole asked what kinds of support do parents need? Principal Gerhart commented on how parents are currently trying to put boundaries and limits on students when they haven't in 16 years. Other items include communication and getting child out of bed for school.

Currently the case manager has 5 families and staff is currently looking at items to support parents and students which include: trainings and partnering with other organizations. Families and children are currently facing trauma and depression and need additional resources. There is a feeling of being overwhelmed for families. New hires are making a difference with students and helping to improve enrollment of school.

Dr. Studer commented on the drop of enrollment. Items discussed included:

- ADA remedy.
- Governor's budget proposal and possible fixes.
- CCSESA is looking into funding fixes for county office programs.
- Continuing to reach out to families.

6.2 Head Start/Early Head Start Reports

Shannon McClarin, Director, Early Childhood Education presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.

Items discussed included:

- Enrollment and recruitment.
- Canvassing.

- Vaccine for children under 5.
- Safety measures and precautions since children cannot mask during naptime.
- Grant and letter of intent to support childcare providers.
- Coaches attending webinars.
- Funding to build childcare center.

6.3 LCAP Mid-Year Update (Quarterly Report)

Dr. Micah Studer, Assistant Superintendent, Equity and Support Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board. Dr. Studer stated that staff will be implementing LCAP adoption before February 28. No action is needed and this will be a supplement to LCAP adoption only. This will come back as a formal template and will conform with quarterly updates. Trustee Souza Cole asked what are biggest takeaways?

Debra Hinely, Director, Internal Fiscal Services discussed:

- One-time funding and implementation.
- Facility upgrades.

Trustee Souza Cole commented that it would be helpful to hear more during the facilities committee meeting and to also have a curriculum update.

President Moreno commented on the report that was done on the first year of state seal of civic engagement that students participate in. She stated that if students see a path then it would be meaningful to work towards the program and have another way to engage with the community since it would be project-based. She asked staff if there had been conversations to write community and civic engagement into the LCAP for next year and have an ethnic studies conversation on how it will be part of curriculum. More information to come from staff on this subject.

Principal Gerhart commented that students that were part of the civic engagement group were very vocal and enjoyed participating. Trustee Souza Cole would like to schedule a curriculum discussion for the next agenda as an information/discussion item which could then flow into the LCAP.

6.4 Proposed Dan Jacobs School Calendar (2022-2023)

Dr. Micah Studer, Assistant Superintendent, Equity and Support Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board. Winter break was left off of calendar. Dr. Studer stated that he will bring back calendar in March as an Action item with Winter break information (add seven (7) days to calendar).

6.5 Williams Quarterly Report on Yolo County Schools in Decile 1-3; Covering the months of October, November and December 2021

Deborah Bruns, Director, Teaching and Learning presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.

- 6.6 Annual Review of Yolo County Investment Policy
Crissy Huey, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.
- 6.7 P-1 Average Daily Attendance Report
Crissy Huey, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to questions from the Board.
- 6.8 Monthly Board Financial Report
Debra Hinely, Director, Fiscal Services presented this item in the Board packet and responded to question from the Board.
- 7.0 Suggested future agenda items.
- Trustee Souza Cole requested that we reschedule Board retreat since President Moreno has a conflict. The Board agreed upon April 4, 2022 from 8:30 am to 11:30 a.m.
 - Special Board meeting will be scheduled in regards to the Letter of Support before county committee meeting next week at 3 PM. Please attach draft letter and proposal in packet.
 - Add Curriculum adoption update in March.
 - Trustee Yip requested that we honor Angie Silva student from Cesar Chavez Community School for being awarded ACSA's 2022 Every Student Succeeding Award recipient for Region 3.
 - Trustee Souza Cole requested that we agendaize the Board retreat items for discussion at next regular Board meeting. Include draft agenda in packet.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

MOTION: tico **SECOND:** Souza Cole **AYES:** Yip, Souza Cole, Zendejas **NOES:** None **ABSENT:** Moreno



Garth Lewis, Superintendent