

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, California 95131

APPROVED
Board Room
Minutes of Special Meeting #2063-S1
August 25, 2010
5:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by President Song at 5:00 p.m.

Trustees Present:

Grace Mah, Area 1
T.N. Ho, Area 2
Leon Beauchman, Area 3
Joseph Di Salvo, Area 4
Anna Song, Area 5
Craig Mann, Area 6
Jane Howard, Area 7

President Song asked Dr. Charles Weis, County Superintendent of Schools, to lead the pledge of allegiance.

2. SETTING THE AGENDA

MOTION #2063-S1-1 by member Howard that the agenda be adopted as submitted. Vice President Mah seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OR TO PRESENT PETITIONS

President Song opened the hearing for public comment.

No one wished to address the Board or the Superintendent.

President Song explained the procedure for Item 4, "*Consider Sanctions Against Board Member Craig Mann.*"

4. CONSIDER SANCTIONS AGAINST BOARD MEMBER CRAIG MANN

Ina Bendis, *self*, spoke regarding her understanding and her views of the charges brought against member Mann.

Member Mann asked for a point of personal privilege and read a prepared statement, which is *attached* to the minutes of August 25, 2010.

Christopher Schumb, member Mann's attorney, explained member Mann's actions and gave a history of civil rights cases. Member Beauchman explained the rationale of why he considered sanctions against member Mann and Board members deliberated. Rogelio Ruiz, the Board's attorney from Rehon and Roberts, was also present at the meeting but could not answer questions from the Board regarding member Mann since he represents the Board as a whole and not each individual board member.

MOTION #2063-S1-2 by member Ho that the Board *issue a warning* to member Mann regarding Code of Ethics 2.7. Member Di Salvo seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

No action was taken on Code of Ethics 2.8 and 2.9 as they were not discussed.

President Song shared some heartfelt comments regarding the sanctions hearing.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Charles Weis, County Superintendent of Schools
Ex-Officio Secretary

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Member Mann's Prepared Statement at the August 25, 2010 Special Meeting

I wish we were gathered here to celebrate student achievement or employee excellence. Unfortunately, we are not. This "*special meeting*" has been called to facilitate an opportunity for this Board to consider censuring one of its members – yours truly - Craig Mann.

We find ourselves here because of my harsh, inelegant public critique of the district's leadership and its commitment to equal and fair employment practices.

I fully appreciate that one of my Board colleagues believed it necessary to bring this censure initiative forward although I disagree it needed to come to this.

I fully appreciate that my harsh, inelegant public critique has outraged the superintendent, COE employees, board members and members of the community. It was never my intent to cast negative aspersions about any individual and to those that felt victimized – please forgive me.

I fully appreciate that one or more Board members may be disappointed or disagree with or disapprove of my methods and I fully respect your right to be in a personal and/or collective state of angst. I have already publicly apologized and asked the forgiveness of those that were outraged, but I sense it did not convey the depths of my sorrow.

If I could and knew every name, I would personally apologize to everyone. Since this is not possible, let me start by saying to Dr. Weis – I am sorry, please forgive me; Member Beauchman – I am sorry, please forgive me; Member Mah – I am sorry, please forgive me; Member Ho – I am sorry, please forgive me; Member Howard – I am sorry, please forgive me; Member Di Salvo – I am sorry, please forgive me and Member Song – I am sorry, please forgive me. To each and every one of the employees of the COE and community members – I am sorry, please forgive me.

I am very passionate about social justice and civil rights and sometimes our passion can get even the best of us. My passion and frustration got the best of me. We must admit that we are not yet a perfect union and that neither are our institutions. We have not closed the achievement gap, or the opportunity gap as relates to equal and fair employment. The work of freedom fighters before us who labored endlessly to dismantle all vestiges of the institutions that have held women and persons of color behind and/or in the back of or off the bus is not done. We must not be afraid or faint hearted, but instead act as free people to speak up, speak out, but work together in a manner that builds healthy communities. One of my heroes, 19th century abolitionist Frederick Douglass, said that the three effective ways to fight for justice are to "*agitate, agitate, agitate*". Douglass' clarion call is as true now as it was then, but in answering this call in the future I will act in such a way that is more elegant and more effective.

A censure is a political action taken by a political body against one of its own and because of its serious nature the threshold is set high and it is usually only a result of a member committing a "*high crime or misdemeanor*". And while I've committed neither, I do understand this Board may do as they please.

My constituents are quite aware of my strengths as well as my weaknesses and they, the people, have decided there is more good about me than not. I am the same imperfect person they have elected four times since 1998. I trust the people and I hope this body will allow them to be the ultimate judge of my worthiness to serve them when they cast their ballots this November.

Whatever the will of the Board is tonight, what I hope for most is that I can regain the trust and admiration of those I serve with as well as those that I serve. I am an imperfect person, a work-in-progress, God is not finished with me yet and I hope you're not either.