

Board of Education Minutes
SPECIAL Meeting: March 28, 2017
Open Session: 5:00 p.m., Board Room

- I. OPEN SESSION – President West opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
 - a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by President West.
 - a. ROLL CALL – Donna West, Patty Holohan, Jim O’Neill, Cristina Puraci, Alex Vara

Staff Attending:

Lori D. Rhodes, Superintendent of Schools
Sabine Robertson-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Bernie Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Miki Inbody, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. COMMUNITY INPUT

None.

b. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing regarding the Petition for the Academy of Civics and Technology (A.C.T.) Charter School – Angela Macias, Lead Petitioner

President West opened the Public Hearing at 5:10 p.m. President West noted that Petitioners are in attendance to present the ACT Charter School proposal. President West also noted that the Petitioner will have fifteen minutes to present the proposal. Speaker cards have been received from community members and will be heard after the proposal is presented. President West introduced Dr. Angela Macias, Lead Petitioner, for the Academy of Civics and Technology Charter School.

Dr. Angela Macias shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the vision of the Academy of Civics and Technology Charter, which is to provide a rigorous education that promotes the mental, emotional, social, physical and academic development of the whole student. The mission of ACT is to prepare students for college and/or careers as well as a transition into adult life that exemplifies civic responsibility, noting the target population for the Charter are at-risk youth.

Dr. Macias further presented information regarding the strategies that will be used for the academic program at ACT Charter. Each student at ACT will have a “professional” mentor to assist them.

In closing, Dr. Macias shared five main ways that ACT is different from a comprehensive high school - academic and behavioral support by each student developing personalized academic and life goals; response to intervention, where tiers of intervention are developed and used for all students; flexible schedule, including unique electives; on-line hybrid classes; college and career readiness; and provide two-years of on-going service to students who have graduated from ACT.

Joshua Williams

- Shared he is the Program Director of the Guardian Scholars Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills.
- Noted that felt it is important for Charter Schools like ACT to be implemented because so often students come to college unprepared.
- Shared it is important for foster and at-risk youth to have a program that will prepare them for college and career.

Janay Both Gragg

- Noted she is a faculty member in the School of Education at the University of Redlands.
- Believes that ACT Charter fills gaps in the current educational system and will support the most vulnerable learners and their families.
- Charter is a good addition to the local resources and serves to benefit all stakeholders – our community and District need this.

Patrick Estrada

- Shared he has been in public service industry for past twenty years.
- For past twelve years he has been a police officer with the Redlands Police Department where he has seen thousands of children over the course of his careers.
- Noted it is disappointing for him to see children in the community grow up and make poor choices and not have the support needed, which he feels the ACT Charter will be able to give at-risk and foster students the resources and support they need to become successful community members.
- Shared the partnership between RUSD and ACT Charter will afford the students in the community the opportunities they need to be successful.

Fatima Adame

- Serves as the Regional Director in the Inland Empire of the California Charter Schools Association and is here this evening to support ACT.
- Highly recommends the Academy of Civics and Technology as a Redlands Unified School District authorized Charter School.
- The Association has conducted a thorough review of the ACT Petition and know that it meets the legal, education and fiscal requirements for district approval.

Kenneth Cotich

- Noted he was attending this evening to show his support for ACT Charter.
- Shared he is a music educator and knows the importance of a one-on-one education for at-risk and foster youth.

James McClung

- Shared he is a local artist in Redlands.
- Shared his education experience.
- Noted he is interested in becoming a mentor for students at ACT Charter.

Ryan Berk

- Shared he is a business owner in Redlands.
- Noted he personally connects with ACT as he attended a Charter High School.
- Shared he is interested in becoming a mentor for students at ACT Charter.

Jon McDonald

- Noted he is a local Pastor and before that a public school teacher.
- Has two children in the Redlands Unified School District.
- Shared as a foster parent, he is very excited about the resources for students who may or may not thrive in public education at ACT Charter.
- Noted his support of options for students who may not thrive in a traditional setting.

Carol Ann Franklin

- Noted her first introduction to Redlands Unified was approximately forty years ago, in Bob Campbell's office as they were working on a partnership for student teaching between the District and the University of Redlands.
- Shared her work experience at the University, noting that she retired nine years ago and currently works with foster youth in the community.
- Noted she met Dr. Macias when she served on her Doctoral Committee, and she was extremely impressed by her approach to work with at-risk children in the classroom at the school where she was teaching.
- Shared she served on the ACT Board.
- Noted that the District has many programs that meet the needs of many students; however, ACT can support those students who would not thrive in a traditional setting.

Jonathan Townsend

- Noted he is a product of the Redlands School District, and is an employee at Crafton Hills College where he works in instructional support and tutoring.
- Shared he supports ACT for many reasons, one of which is best practices for foster youth success programs – offer holistic approach to education, provide early information about college to and for foster youth and provides robust support for college prep.
- ACT provides multiple stakeholders to support the school.
- Noted he wholeheartedly supports the school.

Kjeld Lindsted

- Noted he works for the City of Redlands as project manager and grant writer – builds community relationships.
- Dr. Macias approached him to participate at the ACT Charter and has served as the Board Chair for ACT.
- Shared he was able to succeed due to his mentorship over his life.
- Wants to support ACT by also providing mentorship to the students in ACT.
- Provided letters of support from other members of the community.

Kitty Fortner

- Shared her excitement about ACT Charter.
- She has started two Charters in Orange County for at-risk youth.
- Impressed with mentoring and small group class size, as it will benefit at-risk and foster students.
- Shared her support for ACT Charter.

Keith Hosea

- Shared his work with foster youth.
- Noted the ACT Charter will provide a powerful mentoring program and can offer students what they need.
- Shared his support for ACT Charter.

President West noted this concluded the comment cards. President West noted for clarity and the record:

California Ed Code requires school districts to carefully review charter petitions to determine if they meet numerous statutory criteria. The law provides that all school districts must carefully monitor charter schools during their operation for both financial solvency and ability to deliver results in student achievement as measured by test scores. The Ed Code indicates that failure to assure that these conditions exist may subject school districts to liability if the charter school fails, either in the area of financial responsibility or from student achievement perspective. We appreciate your interest in serving the children of our community. We take seriously our responsibility to assure that any charter school that we authorize meets the standards required by California Law. The Superintendent will notify you of the Board meeting date when the Board will take action to accept or deny the Charter Petition. This Board meeting will occur within sixty days of the date that the Charter Petition was submitted. Thank you again for your participation this evening. We appreciate you attending and the information that you have provided us with.

No one else wished to comment and the Hearing was closed at 6:25 p.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Adopted:

Jim O'Neill, Clerk

Date