

SACRAMENTO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
10474 Mather Boulevard
P.O. Box 269003
Sacramento, CA 95826-9003

TO: Members, Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization

FROM: David W. Gordon, Secretary

SUBJECT: Agenda – Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Time: At the Conclusion of the Regular Board Meeting

NOTE: The Sacramento County Office of Education encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, contact the Superintendent's Office at (916) 228.2410 at least 48 hours before the scheduled County Committee meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code § 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, §202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)]

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the County Committee Meeting of January 10, 2012
Approval of the Minutes of the County Committee Meeting of January 17, 2012
- IV. Adoption of the Agenda
- V. Visitor Presentations
 - A. General Public
- VI. New Business
 - A. Discussion of Petition to Change the Method of Election for Governing Board Members in the Twin Rivers Unified School District – Teresa Stinson
- VII. Adjournment

NOTE: Anyone may address the County Committee on any item that is within the County Committee's subject matter jurisdiction. However, the County Committee may not take action on any item not on this agenda except as authorized by Government Code section 54954.2.

Anyone may appear at the County Committee meeting to testify in support of or in opposition to any item being presented to the County Committee for consideration. If possible, notify the Committee President or Committee Secretary in writing prior to the meeting if you wish to testify.

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| Subject: Discussion of Petition to Change the Method of Election for Governing Board Members in the Twin Rivers Unified School District | Agenda Item No.: VI.A. Enclosures: 1 |
| Reason: Action | From: David W. Gordon Prepared By: Teresa Stinson Meeting Date: 02/17/12 |

BACKGROUND:

On December 20, 2011, registered voters in the Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD) submitted a petition requesting a change in the method of electing governing board members in TRUSD. TRUSD governing board members currently are elected by the registered voters of the entire school district, but reside in one of seven specified trustee areas. The petition seeks to change the method of election so that members residing in each trustee area are elected by the registered voters of that particular trustee area.

On January 20, 2012, the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters (County Registrar) certified that the petition has at least 500 sufficient signatures by registered voters in TRUSD, which is the minimum required to proceed with the petition under Education Code section 5019. The Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) must now hold at least one hearing in TRUSD and decide whether to approve or disapprove the petition. If approved, unless the current statutory requirement is waived, the registered voters in TRUSD will make the final decision whether to change the election method.

The purpose of this Agenda Item is for the County Committee to schedule the public hearing or hearings on the petition. By law, if the petition is approved, the proposal must be presented to TRUSD voters not later than the next succeeding election of governing Board members in TRUSD. The next governing board elections in TRUSD are in June 2012 and June 2014. Unlike with other petitions impacting school district trustee areas, the law does not specify that the issue may be placed on the November ballot or other possible election ballots. The possible scenarios are as follows:

1. If the petition is denied by the County Committee after public hearing, the process will stop and the election method in TRUSD will remain as it is now.
2. The County Registrar has informed us that the deadline for placing items on the June 5, 2012 election ballot is February 28, 2012. Therefore, if the County Committee approves the petition by February 28, 2012, the issue of

VI.A.1.

whether to change the election method in TRUSD would be placed on the June 5, 2012 election ballot for decision by the registered voters in TRUSD, as required by statute. If approved by the voters, the change in election method would be implemented for the June 2014 election.

3. If the County Committee holds multiple public hearings and approves the petition after February 28, 2012, the issue of whether to change the method of election would miss the June 2012 ballot.
4. If the County Committee were inclined to approve the petition and request that the State Board of Education (SBE) waive the existing statutory requirement that TRUSD voters make the final decision whether to change the election method in TRUSD, there is insufficient time for such a waiver to change how TRUSD governing board members are elected in the upcoming June 5, 2012 election. Assuming that a waiver request was submitted immediately, the earliest that SBE would act upon the waiver request would be in May or July 2012, which is too late for the June 2012 election.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the County Committee schedule a public hearing in TRUSD on February 16, 2012 to consider and potentially act on the petition to change the method of election in TRUSD.