

## EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - **UNADOPTED**

**February 28, 2017**

12:30 pm Open Session  
El Dorado County Office of Education  
Placerville, CA 95667

Board Members Present  
Georgianne Knight, President  
Heidi Weiland, Vice President  
Debbie Akin  
Rich Fischer  
John Lane  
Ed Manansala, Executive Officer of the Board

### EDCOE Staff Present

Robbie Montalbano, Deputy Superintendent; Kevin Monsma, Associate Superintendent; David Publicover, Executive Director – Charter Alternative Programs & Extended Day; Dina Gentry, Communications Director; Coleen Johnson, Executive Director Personnel Services; Susan Carney, Recording Secretary

Mike Tucker, EDCOE Legal Counsel, and numerous guests were present. Guests wishing to be recorded: Joseph Benson, Heather Brown, Dean Forman, Amanda Wallis, Desiree Treml, Natalee Allen, Yvette Cragun, Jana Myers, Gref Meyers, Tricia Nielsen, Kristi Wetsel, Rick Boster, Heather Carr, Judy Kilgore, Nicole O'Meara, Amber Mann, Jessica Elkow.

### **Item**

1. President Knight called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Secretary recorded Board members present.
2. Member Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Knight requested EDCOE administration and Board members introduce themselves.

3. Member Weiland motioned to approve the agenda as presented; second by Member Akin; motion carries. Aye: D. Akin, R. Fischer, G. Knight, J. Lane, H. Weiland
4. Public Comment: Speaking in support of approval of the John Adams Academy charter petition were Dean Forman (JAA founder), Joseph Benson (JAA Executive Director), Rick Boster (spouse of teacher) and Nicole O'Meara (parent).
5. President Knight spoke about the process of reviewing the charter petition and explained the Board's role was to render a final decision regarding the approval or denial of the John Adams Academy – El Dorado Hills charter petition. She stated that Board members have reviewed the petition and will consider each member's analysis, staff recommendation, and public input in the decision.

President Knight then asked Mr. Tucker to give a brief overview of the Charter Schools Act. He spoke to legislative intent and Education Code section 47601. He stated the Board is required to rule on the

five factual findings as provided in E. C. § 47605 and Title 5, CA Code of Regulations section 11966.4(b)2).

Dr. Manansala acknowledged the flexibility of the Charter Schools Act, allowing the appellate body (EDCOE) to exercise an independent analysis of the petition. He also acknowledged that the Buckeye Union School District completed a thorough and thoughtful analysis. Copies of the “Administrative Findings” were provided. Dr. Manansala stated written factual findings as stipulated in E.C. § 47605, concluding that the administration recommends approval of the petition and adoption of the findings as the findings of the Board. Based on the finding, he recommended that pursuant to Board Policy 0100, the Board approve the petition for a period of three years.

President Knight thanked EDCOE staff for their work in reviewing the petition and supporting documents. Deliberations began. Member Fischer asked about evidence that an organization can meet the criteria and record of accomplishment. Member Weiland asked Mr. Tucker about the lack of an appeal process for expulsion in the petition. Mr. Tucker responded that courts have ruled that charter schools are not necessarily required to follow expulsion rules and suggested a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be created such that the superintendent has the ability to ensure expelled students are able to continue their education. Deputy Superintendent Montalbano provided information regarding the debt load of JAA. President Knight requested clarification regarding special education. Associate Superintendent Monsma responded that the petition addressed the area of special education and that JAA would be required to join SELPA.

Discussion followed regarding the process and details of a MOU. Superintendent Manansala stated that if the petition is approved, dialogue between JAA and EDCOE to create a MOU would soon begin. President Knight requested that a report on the MOU be provided to the Board.

Member Fischer motioned to approve the petition for a period of three years and to adopt the administrative findings as findings of the Board.

Member Akin asked if the County Board of Education or the County Superintendent becomes the charter authorizer. Mr. Tucker responded it would be EDCOE and that essentially, the County Superintendent has oversight responsibilities. Superintendent Manansala stated that he expects transparency and responsiveness from JAA in the same manner as with all EDCOE programs.

President Knight asked about the Charter’s budget. Deputy Superintendent Montalbano explained that the Charter’s budget would not be included in EDCOE budget documents and that certain items could be included in a MOU.

Members Akin expressed appreciation to EDCOE staff and fellow Board members for the work and effort in the thorough review. Member Weiland echoed appreciation, adding that JAA provided a comprehensive petition. Member Weiland seconded the motion made by Member Fischer. Roll call vote was taken. D. Akin: Aye, R. Fischer: Aye, H. Weiland: Aye, G. Knight: Aye, J. Lane: Aye, motion carries by unanimous vote in support of granting the petition for a period of three years and adopting the staff recommendation as the Board’s factual findings.

6. Having recorded the vote, President Knight adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.