

## **Orange County Board of Education Meeting – 10/5/16 – Transcript**

*(Sound of voices – gavel)*

### **Welcome and Call to Order**

Lindholm: Good morning. I'd like to welcome you to the Orange County Board of Education meeting. Regular meetings are held each month at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Any person wishing to address the Board on any matter whether or not it appears on the agenda is required to complete a request to speak form, available at the table by the door and then please submit the completed form to our board recorder who is up here on the item prior to the meeting where it's going to be discussed. Each individual will be allowed 3 minutes per person per meeting and may not give their time to extend for other speakers. All persons are reminded that this is a public meeting and attendees and speakers should be respectful of each other and the board. Verbal outbursts and clapping are prohibited. If you are disruptive you will be asked to leave pursuant to Penal Code Section 403. Board agendas are posted online and can be reviewed at the board website and agendas are also available at the back of the board room. Welcome today. We are glad to have you all here. We will begin today with the invocation by Lane Calvert, President of the Newport Mesa Interfaith Council and Chair of the Costa Mesa Assembly of the Baha'i Faith and the Pledge of Allegiance by Superintendent Mijares. All please rise.

Calvert: Lane Calvert, and I'm with the Baha'i of Costa Mesa. For those of you who don't know the Baha'i faith it's based in Haifa, Israel, a world religion and believe in the three oneness's, the oneness of god, the oneness of mankind, and the oneness of all religions. And I want to thank god for these leaders who are here to help develop the youth into the leaders of tomorrow, and also thank the schools that are preparing our children to make the right decisions in their lives and to also thank the schools for the diversity that make them up. As we say in the Baha'i faith, god grant that the spirit of unity envelop the whole earth, and that the earth is one country and mankind its citizens. And for our children, oh god, educate these children. These children are the plants of thine orchard, the flowers of thy meadow, the roses of thy garden. Let the rain fall upon them. Let the sun of reality shine upon them with thy love. Let the breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the giver, thou art the compassionate. Amen.

Lindholm: And that brings us to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mijares: Please rise and salute the flag. Ready, begin.

Many voices: *I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Lindholm: Thank you. And welcome to everyone. That brings us to Roll Call please, Madam Clerk.

Sisavath: Trustee Boyd?

D. Boyd: Here.

Sisavath: Trustee Bedell?

Bedell: Here.

Sisavath: Trustee Lindholm?

Lindholm: Here.

Sisavath: Trustee Gomez?

Gomez: Present.

Sisavath: Trustee Williams?

Silence

N. Boyd: And for the benefit of the record I just received a communication from Ken. He is in traffic and he will be here momentarily.

Lindholm: I appreciate that, thank you. That brings us to introductions are there any?

N. Boyd: We have no introductions at this meeting.

Lindholm: Alright, thank you. That brings us to the agenda and adoption of the agenda. Is it ok as written?

Bedell: So moved.

D. Boyd: Second.

Lindholm: Motion and a second to adopt the agenda as written. All in favor?

Several Ayes

Lindholm: Any opposed? Any abstentions? Ok. Minutes of the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Is there a motion for approval?

Bedell: So Moved.

D. Boyd: Second.

Lindholm: Motion and a second for approval of the minutes. All in favor?

Bedell: Just a second, madam chair. On my copy on page 9 I just noticed that this morning when I was re-reviewing it. On page 9 on the 4<sup>th</sup> square down in information items, the Teacher of the Year is not October 5<sup>th</sup>, is it?

*(Several comments)*

Bedell: Right, I'm sorry I didn't say that, I just picked it up this morning.

N. Boyd: We'll correct that.

Bedell: Thank you. That's all madam chair.

Lindholm: Will the maker of the motion accept the amendment?

Bedell: Yes.

D. Boyd: Yes.

Lindholm: We have a motion and a second to approve the minutes as amended with a minor date change. All in favor...

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: Anything else on that? No, the minutes stand approved. That brings us to the public comments section. We welcome you all here today. We have requests to speak. Um, and for those of you who may be new...we have our clerk will be giving you, we have a minute timer and it will let you know when you're about done. It will have a yellow and you'll start with green, you'll go to yellow and you'll go to red. When your time is up she'll let you know. If you'd like to do this...?

Bedell: OK, the first one is Al Wehrle, is that right Al? Welcome.

Wehrle: Thank you very much. Another Al in the room. (*Laughter*) Good morning Council. My name is Al Wehrle, you said it correctly, most people do not. I served 26 years in the United States Army and retired as a full colonel. I did serve to protect the U.S. Constitution which this council appears to be currently ignoring in part by mixing religious interests with government. It is not your purview to place your religious beliefs on display in this setting. That should remain private whether at home or in private schools, not public schools. From our own history, and I'm a student of history and I trust many of you are as well, the Treaty of Tripoli submitted by John Adams, "The government of the United States is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion." John F. Kennedy, none other said, "I believe in an America where separation of church and state is absolute." Number three Ronald Reagan, Saint Regan to many Republicans here in Orange County said, "We establish no religion in this country. We command no worship. We mandate no belief nor will we ever. Church and state are and must remain separate." That is what Ronald Wilson Regan said. I urge this council to take down this motto and cease with these invocations. Respectfully, Al Wehrle, Colonel Retired United States Army. Thank you.

Bedell: Thank you, Al. Our next speaker is Sterling Cadavid. Am I close? Thank you. Thank you Sterling, thank you for coming.

Cadavid: Good morning council. Linda, I played football in your district for 4 years. My parents wanted me to go to private school but I really felt I needed to go to Laguna Hills. One thing that always bothered me though, was that I was very non-religious. I was raised very, very Catholic. My dad watched the pope four times a week. So, when I stopped going to the church at 14 years old, we never had a conversation about it. Somehow, even though I lived in the household, we were able to keep my non-faith and his faith totally separate and still make it work. But then I got to high school as a leader of the team, team captain, they would do the whole get on a knee and pray thing. And even though they never said you had to do it, no one didn't do it. So even though there were only two or three people on the team that were on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, everybody felt that it was compulsory and it kind of tainted my experience before every single game. It was a very strange thing. So, finding that this country is kind of taking a back step we just spent a lot of money on the (*inaudible*) you know, where they build the arc and they want public school kids to go there and things like that. I would really like to see us take a step in the correct direction which is more secular and to keep our gods and religions at home even if there messages are very nice and generally good messages, they still don't belong in the public sector. Thank you.

Bedell: Thank you, Sterling. Next is Al Holguin. Is that right Al?

Holguin: Good morning, council. My name is Al Holguin. I'm a Mission Viejo resident, but I am also an atheist, humanist, and free thinker. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the council received a letter from The

Freedom from Religion Foundation, addressing a constitutional violation the council is engaging in. The violation in question is the invocation performed at the beginning of every board meeting. This act is clear violation of church and state. Time and time again across the country when similar violations of this sort have been brought to the courts, our courts have rightly sided with keeping church and state separate. This very year in February, just 36 miles away, Chino Valley Unified School District lost their court case in the United States court regarding their invocations at board meetings. And now, they are on the hook for \$200,000 in attorney fees. Or should I say, we, the United States tax payers are on the hook, all because of their stubborn refusal to honor the document that makes our country so unique, our constitution. Why must we continue to go through this? Each fought and lost, each case will be lost. It is pulling money away from our kids, and the hardworking tax payers. I assumed the council's role was to better our schools, not waste time and money on invocations and law suits. I am making this public and on record. Do not go down the same path. Do not waste time and waste our money that should be going towards our children's education on the council's personal beliefs. We do not all share the same beliefs, and to assume we do is not fair. It is not what we are about. The motto up there, *In God We Trust*, directly behind you also promotes religion and does not belong there. That too is a constitutional violation that is not our country's original national motto. America's original motto is *E Pluribus Unum*, which means one out of many, one. Excuse me, *Out of many, one*. And that is much more suitable to represent what we are all about. Your job is to represent all students, not just the ones who believe in your god. Invocations at meetings are fine in private schools, but not in public schools. I urge you to take down the motto and immediately stop invocations at school board meetings. If not, the school board will soon be writing some very big checks. Like every school board before you that refused to honor our constitution. Thank you.

Bedell: Thank you very much. Tom Wills? Tom.

Wills: Good morning, my name is Tom Wills. I'm a retired resident of Laguna Niguel. I'd like to speak on the subject of invocations. When you come to these meetings, there's a cost to it. Stipends to you, I believe and there's the cost of the building, there's all these things that cost money, cost tax payer money. Then, you spend time with this gentleman, giving these invocations. That's not what a school board is for. That's not what you're here to do. It's got nothing to do with school and education. I remember a time, I was educated in England, when we spent a half an hour a day at school with prayers and bible readings and all this kind of thing. That has no place in public schools. I would like to see it stop here in Orange County. Our children are all grown up now but they did go to schools in Orange County and thankfully they were not subjected to the same kinds of things that I was. I would ask you to consider the beliefs of other people, or the lack of belief of other people, and respect that and take down these things and not have these invocations. Thank you.

Bedell: Thank you. Laurie Martinez?

Martinez: Well, I'm going to shift gears for a minute. I've never spoken so some of the things I brought might be inappropriate in presentation but, I'm a teacher and I teach at Juvenile Hall. I'm here basically to introduce myself and what we do. I've been teaching in institutions for 17 years. Juvenile Hall is able to house 400 students. Currently I think we have about 100 and something, and that has to do with the alignment and politics. That being said the students that we do have now are pretty much the most in need, if we want to say. So with that, we try to develop programs there and I teach for one program and that's the Youth Leadership Academy which is within Juvenile Hall and it's like a camp. So they do their time there, with me. I teach English by the way. Anyway, within this program we try to do as much as we can for them. We have counseling, we have interns and therapists that meet with our students on a regular basis. We have college for our 19 and 20 year olds that are also with us. We have students get taken to job fairs and so the programs that we have at Juvenile Hall are important and we try our best to give our students what they need. I had a student ask me one time, Ms. Martinez you're a really good teacher, why are you here teaching us? Why don't you teach at a regular school? And my answer is because you guys deserve a good teacher also. So, they like to be held accountable. They like to be treated as they're smart. Technology is an issue for us but it's a direction we're trying to go to help our students who are low readers and behind in school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade credits and they're 18 years old. What I did is I passed out how do I represent my students? I can't so I want them to represent themselves. So I handed out some of their graduations speeches. Usually by the time they graduate at 17 or 18, they've kind of learned a few things and developmentally they've turned a little bit of a corner. I brought this, wrong format, inappropriate, I said I don't know, I'm not going to say who you are, why don't you guys say who you are. So they wrote some things down; *I'm a current gang member who's trying to change and get facial tattoos removed, finish high school and enroll myself in college; I am an undocumented former gang member who is (sound of timer going off) trying to change...*

N. Boyd: Your time is up.

D. Boyd: Finish your sentence.

Martinez: *...trying to change my life, education is my only chance to move up in life and I'm hoping to go to college and become a doctor.* I just wanted to introduce myself and the program.

D. Boyd: Well thank you.

Bedell: Thank you. Heidi Crowley?

Crowley: Good morning President Lindholm, trustees, and Superintendent Mijares. My name is Heidi Crowley and I'm the Coordinator of Charter Schools and Strategic Initiatives for Capistrano

Unified School District. I'm here today to submit a letter written to trustees, I gave copies to Nina before the meeting. The purpose of this letter is to provide corrections to statements made on September 14, 2016, specifically regarding the Global Business Academy. There are four specific areas CUSD would like to correct on public record. Number one, we did not delay the appeal process. Upon recognizing material deficiencies in GBA's charter petition we requested GBA grant a 30-day extension of time to act upon the charter petition so that dialogue and engagement could occur. GBA denied that request. Number two, we did not require one single instructional methodology from GBA. It was stated during your meeting that CUSD was requiring GBA to substantially modify their educational program and modes of instruction and focus on one instructional methodology. CUSD's resolution offered the petitioner's a choice to restructure its proposed educational program to focus on an instructional method one single instructional method or substantiate how it can effectively deliver multiple education programs. They had the opportunity to provide a detailed explanation of how their different methodologies would benefit students and declined the conditional approval. Number three, we did not inhibit a GBA UCI partnership agreement. As stated during your last meeting district staff verified the extent of the partnership with UCI staff as the letters of support in their petition were vague and merely described programs UCI makes available to other schools in our district. And lastly, number four, our timeline did not have an impact on GBA's lack of fiscal solvency. It was mentioned during the previous meeting that GBA was not able to receive charter grant money because of CUSD's delay in the petition process. GBA's 2016-17 cash flow projection reflected receipt of \$225,000 in federal revenue in July 2016 which was necessary to maintain a positive cash flow. The California, the CDE informed us that GBA's charter, if GBA's charter was approved by May 13<sup>th</sup>, the school would receive only \$84,000 as its first allocation after that the money would be disbursed through the reimbursement method. GBA's 2016-17 cash flow projection also reflected receipt of \$200,000 in August 2016 from CDE's revolving loan fund. The California State Treasurer informed us that it had not received an application for funding from GBA and that the application process was closed. Without that projected \$425,000 GBA did not demonstrate sufficient cash flow to start its school. In our public minutes and public audio, when asked by a CUSD trustee how GBA would make up the difference GBA responded that they have fluent and well-heeled backers and they are not worried about running out of money. *(Sound of timer going off)*.

N. Boyd: Your time is up.

Crowley: Thank you for the opportunity to correct this information.

Bedell: Thank you. Bruce Gleason? Bruce.

Gleason: Hi, my name is Bruce Gleason. Thanks for allowing us to talk here. I know that you're probably getting a big earful of the religious talk and I'm here to suggest a couple things. First

thing, I'm wondering why you're doing this in the first place? I get that you're hoping that you're going to be making the best decisions here concerning our community. I get that, I think that everybody here also hopes that you're going to be doing the best thing for our community. If god knows everything, he knows your personal beliefs. He knows everybody's personal beliefs here. There's no need to bring it up in up in a public meeting. God knows it already and I think that even though somebody who might be Christian might be other faiths and it's nice that you invite other faiths here, there's been multiple law suits that have completely ruled against this type of agenda that you've decided upon. So my suggestion is, keep your private beliefs out of this agenda, out of this room. Let's get down to business, let's do some good for the community, without including religion. As you know, this can be a real big mess and it's more likely you're going to be losing and costing the tax payers money. Isn't it better to take that money and put it into a public education? I just think that's the best thing to do. I suggest you put this on the agenda to talk about it. Talk about it. Look at the risks. What's more important, the education of our community or allowing religious leaders to talk invocations? Thank you.

Bedell: Thank you. And finally, Larry Taylor.

Taylor: My name is Larry Taylor. I first came to live in Orange County two years ago, hired for a software development job. Orange County attracts a diversity of people especially for the growing tech industry. Before I moved here, I was already a humanist, agnostic, atheist, in that order. I currently identify as a humanist. Any meeting opened with prayer discriminates against me, makes me uncomfortable in participating with public actions. Others that do not have any religion or have religions that first of all do not believe in god, do believe in god but do not pray, other religions like Buddhism where god is irrelevant, are discriminated against as well as people who are atheists. I favor complete separation of church and state and that an invocation has no place in a board of education. I hope you have no sectarian prayers, even one that assumes that everybody believes in god does not include other people who do not believe in god, or believe in other gods, plural, or do not believe in any gods whatsoever.

Bedell: I seek indulgence of the chair just for 10 seconds. There are many people who have never been here before to one of our meetings and I appreciate that first of all. But also, could you just give us a pithy sentence of the students that we are responsible for on this board, our, ACCESS and we've met Heidi. If you could just...

N. Boyd: The programs that are under the Orange County Board of Education and the County Superintendent are foster youth students throughout the county, students that are incarcerated, those that are on probation, either formally or informally, we have severely disabled students that we educate and take care of and we have adults that are incarcerated in the jails and have been in some type of diversion program. We offer a community program for them and we also have the

board authorized charter to serve students that are 18-25 years old who never received their high school diploma.

Bedell: Thank you very much.

Lindholm: Thank you. That concludes the portion of the meeting that has to do with public comments and we move to the next item on the agenda which is if there are any charter submissions? And I am seeing that there are no charter submissions today. That brings us to the consent calendar items. Those are items 2 and 3 and they can be approved in one motion.

Bedell: Moved.

Gomez: Second.

Lindholm: There's a motion and a second on the consent calendar items, all in favor?

Several Ayes

Lindholm: Any opposed or abstentions? That moves us to staff recommendations. Let's go to item #4. Item #4 is the Gann limit. Is there a motion for approval?

D. Boyd: Moved.

Williams: Second.

Lindholm: There's a motion and a second by Williams. All in favor of Item #4 please say aye.

Several Ayes

Lindholm: Any opposed or abstentions? Motion carries. Item #5 is the agreement between OCBE and Citrus Springs Charter School. Is there a motion on this item?

Williams: So moved.

Lindholm: There's a motion, is there a second?

Bedell: Second.

Lindholm: There's a motion and a second, is there a need for discussion?

Bedell: I'd just like, on page 29, in the red typing. I don't know who is the best person to whom we pose this question? Throughout the document there are *shalls, shalls, shalls*, which for me means *must*. Correct? We get down to this place and then we have *should*. You see where I am in that red? It starts out with *we agree....the administrative panel should consist of at least 3 members who are certificated employees and either a teacher of the pupil or board member*. That's probably a very small number of people. But I'm very attuned to *should* versus *shall* and if it's *should* it gives an out. Right? And there are some things I would hope we would never see *should* on and I don't know if this is one of them. So...it stood out to me because as I was reading the document it's *shall* and *will* and *shall* and *will*.

Lindholm: My only comment on this is my understanding, and please correct me if I'm incorrect, that both our staff and Citrus Springs have approved this as written?

N. Boyd: That would be correct.

Lindholm: I think they've even had a vote on that?

N. Boyd: They took it to their board already, the way that the language was. We were ok with the revisions to that language so at this point they'd have to go back to their board to make that change.

Bedell: I appreciate my beloved president's comments therefore why isn't this on consent? See the logic of my point? That's it if we can't do anything to it.

D. Boyd: If it was on consent you wouldn't be able to speak to it.

Lindholm: He could still pull it, he could still pull the item. So I think in the future, I think what I'm hearing is if it's agreed upon by both parties then it can be under consent. And of course if any board member would like to pull it they can do that.

Bedell: Thank you for your indulgence.

D. Boyd: Could I follow up on....

Lindholm: Yes.

D. Boyd: I have no idea who to address this to but, is there a reason why there is a *should* rather than a *shall* in this particular section?

N. Boyd: Kelly? Which one, the attorney's that worked on this? Both parties are here, a representative from the charter as well as...

Lindholm: Ok, and if you'll identify yourself at the podium we'd appreciate it.

D. Boyd: Good morning.

Rogers: Good morning. My name is Tanya Rogers, I'm the Assistant Superintendent of Business for Citrus Springs Charter School.

Barnes: Kelly Barnes, counsel.

Rogers: And I believe the intent for *should vs shall*, very good observation, it's a best practice and there's no specific requirement as to the composition but we wanted to make sure we had appropriate representation.

Barnes: In addition, in tracking what the education code requires for traditional public schools there's a choice to have a panel or to have a hearing officer or to have the board hear the matter. So the *should* is sort of affording that flexibility that traditional schools have as well to choose how they would operate in this function.

D. Boyd: OK, that makes perfect sense.

Bedell: So this is something different.

Barnes: The way that we reviewed the language was that they would have the option.

Lindholm: And you're both in agreement with this document as written?

Barnes/Rogers: Yes.

Lindholm: Thank you and thank you for your time and thank you for being here. With that, do we have a motion and a second on this?

D. Boyd: Yes, I believe we did.

Lindholm: Thank you. I do appreciate the discussion and the questions and I think it's all very worthwhile. All in favor of this as written?

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: Any opposed or abstentions? Thank you, that concludes that item. We do have a little time I'm wondering if the board would like to go to Item #11? Or no?

Bedell: Sounds good.

Lindholm: Would that be agreeable to the board members? Thank you, do we need a motion to move that?

Williams: I did just make a motion.

Bedell: I second.

N. Boyd: Not to move...you can go anywhere on the agenda, so it's fine.

Lindholm: Let's do this one before we have a lot of closed session items that we will be doing on appeals. This one I put on because I think there was some confusion and there wasn't quite a policy on this. This has to do with posting on the website for the, the official website for the Orange County Board of Education. The language is here I hope you've had a chance to read it. Basically I think it's very self-explanatory. Opening it up for discussion but I would like to move this item.

Bedell: Second.

Lindholm: There's a motion and a second on this item. Is there any discussion?

N. Boyd: Ken had made a motion and Jack had second earlier in the conversation so...

Lindholm: Oh, ok. I thought that was to move the item, was that to approve the item?

Williams: That was to approve Item #...

Lindholm: Oh, my apologies Dr. Williams, ok, so it's already on the floor as a motion to approve. Discussion? You had....

Gomez: Yes, what was the intent of this? I'm not quite sure what we were trying to accomplish by this.

Lindholm: I believe what we have had is a request to put something on the web by an individual member which, there wasn't really a policy on that. So, I think if you have something you individually want to say that should be under your biography. What you believe in or that, but

not other items. So the intent is that you're not going to put 400 pages on there, you're not going to put your personal opinion that this is wrong or this is right, and so that's...we don't have that now. It's simply your biography, anything you want to put in there, you can put in there.

Bedell: So an individual position on an issue?

Lindholm: You could, yes.

Gomez: Ok, so on your individual bio page you could state your opinion about something, a particular issue?

D. Boyd: Right. As opposed to it being on the board page in general where people might assume it was the position of the board as opposed to the individual.

Gomez: Ok. That clarifies that for me. Thank you.

Bedell: Thank you for this by the way, it's nicely crafted. I'm totally supportive of this. I would feel comfortable, and I would appreciate your thoughts on this as board president and also city experience from Becky. I don't want a door to be opened for anybody to censor what goes on this individual page. And it seems to me, would you as chair of the executive committee, and I'm stepping out of that role 'cause it was my document that got us into this dynamic. I guess I want to be sure that there's free access to the person's page by that person. And that somebody is not going to come in and say, "take that off, Dr. Williams' page, take it off Trustee Gomez's page." They may say it but it's not going to happen because the person put it on his or her own page. Is that the way you read this?

Lindholm: What I'm reading is this is anything you want in your biography. If you want to say you are for.....

Bedell: You see what I'm saying? I'm in favor of, I'm strongly supportive of having a cigarette tax?

Lindholm: You could do that in your biography.

Bedell: On that page?

Lindholm: In that page. It's not for press releases, it is not for 400 page reports, it is not for, I don't like my fellow board member, I guess you could if you want to put that in your biography. Your biography is your biography, you could change and update it at will.

D. Boyd: Why would news releases concern you? As long as it's clear that it's the individual member's comments.

Lindholm: I think a news release should be, then you open the door. A news release should come from the board. We are doing a safety drill for Typhus at all the schools. That to me is an official news release. If you have a personal opinion, put it in your bio. You can say you don't like something or you voted for something for a certain reason. But if we're going to go down a huge door and open Pandora's box, then I would like to have additional staff to help write it to help do pictures, this could be just...if you want to be spending time, effort and money and have a discussion on what you're putting in there, what...I don't think we want to put staff in the position of monitoring. Is this appropriate...?

D. Boyd: It would not be my intention any more than any other comment by any individual member. This is probably an insignificant issue. I guess if issues come up in the future we can address them at that time.

Bedell: Trustee Boyd, I will not take that personally since I was the one who raised it.

D. Boyd: I meant my comment.

Bedell: Then we second that motion.

*(Laughter)*

Lindholm: I think this just keeps us on track if we want to put anything on the board website it comes as a group position and a group decision that goes on that website. This is a policy this is what we're doing.

Bedell: Poll the question.

Lindholm: I am very supportive of this. The question has been called, we have a motion and a second in support, all in favor?

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: Any opposed or any abstentions?

Williams: Isn't our policy before we call the question I think it is reasonable and kind and pleasant to ask if everyone is done talking. I didn't get to say one thing.

Lindholm: Oh, my apologies. The question was called. I think by protocol we have to go to the question.

Williams: I understand.

Lindholm: Thank you. So the question was called. It's my responsibility to do this in terms of parliamentary procedure. All in favor?

Several Ayes.

Lindholm: Any opposed? Any abstentions? OK, the policy is passed and I thank you all for that. I think if you have, Trustee Williams, you can do more comments under board comments if you would like.

Bedell: Thank you by the way for drafting this in a timely manner, I appreciate it.

Lindholm: Thank you. It's a pleasure to work with you. That brings us, we will have some closed session items. Do we have anything else that we can do between now and then?

N. Boyd: We need to set up the room.

Lindholm: Ok, for the benefit of the public we will be having some transfer appeals. These will be closed to the general public and so we will be clearing the room. We do have 5 of these. Do we have any other time certain? No. I anticipate that each one will take about 45 minutes. I'm hoping maybe less but if you are here for anything else, please let our clerk or associate superintendent know so that we can try and accommodate you in some way. So we will be out for about 4 ½ hours doing these appeals. Thank you very much.

*(Sound of gavel).*

Wenkart: As indicated on the agenda, the Orange County Board of Education will be meeting in closed session regarding anticipated litigation. The board has received a letter from an organization demanding that the board immediately stop scheduling invocations at its meetings, that the board remove the words *In God We Trust* from the board room, and refrain from adopting resolutions related to religion in the future. Since there is a strong possibility of litigation the board will be meeting in closed session to discuss this matter.

Lindholm: Thank you. We will be going into closed session at this time.

*(Sound of gavel).*

We are back from closed session and our attorney will report out.

Wenkart: We held a closed session to discuss the anticipated litigation involving the organization that has threatened to sue over the invocation and *In God We Trust*, and the resolutions. No action was taken.

Lindholm: Thank you. And due to the late hour we're going to be moving on to announcements but I am hoping they are very brief. Superintendent?

Mijares: Yes, madam president, members of the board. It's great to be with you today, and it is late. Let me just say that again, it's red ribbon week so hope you have your little red band, I think you all got one. October 23 – 29<sup>th</sup>. The Love Them All golf tournament will be held on October the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia, and the proceeds will go to our special education program here at the Orange County Department of Education. I just wanted to also say, it was great to see Becky at the Tustin Public School Foundation State of Education breakfast at Beckman High School on the 26<sup>th</sup>, this past Monday. Great event, lot of good things happening in the Tustin Public School District. Then, the last thing is that Chapman University has a new Dean of Education, Dr. Margaret Grogan. She's taking over for Dean Cardinal. We had a meeting just recently to talk about our partnership with the new Dean of Education at Chapman University. That's all I have under my reports. Quick, see!

Lindholm: Thank you. Do we have any board member comments? Trustee Boyd?

D. Boyd: No ma'am.

Lindholm: Vice President Bedell?

Bedell: Pass.

Lindholm: Trustee Gomez?

Gomez: Just real quickly, thank you for mentioning the State of the Schools Breakfast in Tustin. I would hope that more schools would do something like that so that their communities know what is happening in their individual school districts.

Mijares: You know, Newport Mesa did one this year, we had staff that went, and others are following in that mode.

Gomez: I would like to attend some of those others just so we can see...so that each of us can see what's happening in other districts. We're probably more familiar with where we live, but other districts would be good to see what they're doing too.

Mijares: OK, we'll definitely get you that information.

Lindholm: I want to thank our staff for the wonderful job they did with the charter schools. There was an all day workshop. I know you dropped by briefly, I dropped by for about 10 minutes, in and out and I just really appreciate the staff took the time to say, here are your deadlines, here are forms you need to fill out. Please extend my gratitude and I think it will benefit us all throughout the year if they get their forms in on time, I'm hoping. Please extend my gratitude to the staff who did that.

N. Boyd: We've actually heard some feedback from several of the charters because some of the resources that we provided information on--the Inside the Outdoors with animals and field trip type of activities that they were not aware of as well as resources of utilization of the print shop. They were most appreciative of that as well. So some of the services that they're eligible to participate in if they choose to were also part of the program.

Lindholm: Any other announcements?

N. Boyd: The only other announcement is your submission deadline has been moved up for the next board meeting. It's November 1<sup>st</sup> and that's due to the holiday. The next board meeting is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>. We have a holiday, Veteran's Day on the 11<sup>th</sup>, which is the day we would normally deliver your packets but the office will be closed. So we need to deliver packets a day earlier. So, we'll be communicating with you all and we need to set executive committee early as well because of the holiday. Those are the only things. I've touched base with each of you related to CSBA and so, thank you for getting back to me on that as well.

Lindholm: I want to thank all of you for today. For the time and the listening, and all the great work. And I don't think we have anything else. We stand adjourned.

*(Sound of gavel).*