

CITRUS SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2025

4:00 p.m.

27740 Jefferson Ave. Temecula, CA

and

Santa Ana Student Center

2121 N. Grand Ave. Santa Ana, CA

Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.

Present:

Eugene Dokes, Chair
Jessica Large, Vice Chair
Michael Solomon, Secretary
Cheryl LaCount, Treasurer
Charlene Ponzio, Director
Pam Rivas, Director
Kellie Woodson, Director

Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent
Dr. Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education
Virginia Smith, Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources
Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent, Business
Michelle Sapanara, Asst. Superintendent, Student Services
Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations
Priscilla Doorbar, Principal
Renee Albright, Charter Relations Coordinator

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Dr. Dokes called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Action: Approval of Agenda

- Ms. LaCount moved to approve the agenda.
- Ms. Large seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Ponzio, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted

3. **Action: Approval of Board Minutes from December 10, 2024**
 - Ms. Ponzio moved to approve the Board Minutes from December 10, 2024.
 - Ms. Woodson seconded.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Ponzio, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**
 - Ms. Woodson moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Warrants, Personnel Action Report, School Accountability Report Card, and information about Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirements.
 - Ms. LaCount seconded.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Ponzio, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted

5. **Public Comments**
 - Ms. Neilanie Besana, Ms. Andria Nhean, Ms. Heather Sibayah, Ms. Jessica McMillan, and Claudia Palencia addressed the board and expressed various concerns.

6. **Information: Student Spotlight - Ianna - Santa Ana Student Center**
 - The Board enjoyed a video presentation featuring Santa Ana Student Center student Ianna, who has been with Springs since Kindergarten and is now in 8th grade. Passionate about the arts, Ianna shared her love for singing and her aspirations to pursue a career in music.

7. **Information: Superintendent's Report**
 - Kathleen Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report and provided network-wide updates including our Springs 25th Birthday Bash celebrations at every student center. Additionally, Kathleen announced that we have re-opened our OPEN Classroom (Online Public Education Now) in response to the devastating fires in our communities. This allows anyone to access free educational content on demand.

8. **Information: Completion of Statement Conflict Interest Form 700**
 - Natali South informed board members of the requirement to complete the annual conflict of interest forms. Our office will ensure compliance with this requirement.

9. **Action: Approval of Auditor Selection for the 2024-25 School Year**
 - Ms. Rivas moved to approve the Auditor Selection for the 2024-25 School Year.
 - Ms. LaCount seconded.

- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that we will retain the same audit firm again this year.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Ponzio, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted

10. Action: Approval of Springs Inc. Memorandum of Understanding

- Ms. Large moved to approve the Springs Inc. Memorandum of Understanding.
- Ms. Rivas seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers presented the MOU and explained that this agreement establishes the per-student rate that is paid by the charter to Springs Inc. for the purpose of staff development and events such as Ignite!
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 1 Abstention: Ponzio; Motion Adopted

11. Action: Second Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy 5015.1 - Student Suspension and Expulsion

- Ms. Large moved to approve the Second Reading of Revised Board Policy 5015.1 - Student Suspension and Expulsion.
- Ms. Woodson seconded.
- Discussion: Michelle Sapanara explained that this policy was previously presented for First Reading with no changes requested.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Ponzio, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted

12. Board Comments and Future Agenda Requests

- Dr. Dokes: I think it's important that we provide an opportunity for the parents to know that we've heard their comments and are taking their concerns seriously.
- Ms. Woodson: I'd love to hear more about solutions that are being offered related to the parents' concerns. In the day of social media, it's important to be sure that the perception aligns with the reality of the great opportunities we offer.
- Ms. LaCount: I think it would be great if we could ensure community opportunities, perhaps even evening events where our students and families can engage with each other and the principal.
- Mr. Solomon: Santa Ana school district is doing some major layoffs. Perhaps this will help fill any vacancies.
- Ms. Ponzio: Thank you to staff for their hard work. With respect to the families who spoke today, I'm wondering if their concerns are valid as presented, or perhaps there are factors behind the scenes that they are unaware of. I hope we're taking steps to address these things.

13. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- Ms. LaCount moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m.
- Mr. Solomon seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Dokes, LaCount, Large, Ponzio, Rivas, Solomon, Woodson;
0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted



Michael Solomon, Secretary

March 4, 2025

Date