

MINUTES
of the
Special Meeting
Compton Unified School District Board Study Session

Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
5:30 p.m.

APPROVED
10-23-12

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order - Mrs. Margie Garrett, Board President

The Special Meeting of the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees was called to order by Mrs. Margie Garrett, Board President, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of the District Education Service Center, 501 South Santa Fe Avenue, Compton, CA 90221.

2. Roll Call

The following members were present:

Micah Ali

Margie Garrett

Emma Sharif

Marjorie Shipp

Mae Thomas

Denzell Perry

Student Board Member

The following Members were not present:

Skyy Fisher

Satra Zurita

Karen E. Frison

STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board President Garrett

Elected officials are obligated to their constituents, the community and students to serve with responsibility, reliability, accountability and integrity. They are expected to be role models for students, make ethical and moral choices and are also expected to behave in a respectable manner. In this instance, Board Member Fisher has failed to live up to the aforementioned standards. For these reasons the Board of Trustees will consider a resolution of censure.

Board Member Sharif

Since the Board Member has apologized, it constitutes an admission of guilt.

Our duties (*as Board Members*) are to uphold the highest standards for the students, parents and staff of this community, seven days a week and 24 hours a day. As a mother of four children, I cannot condone this type of behavior; we have a duty and the responsibility to protect the children of our community. Therefore, I will join my colleagues in asking for Mr. Fisher's resignation.

Board Member Shipp

I have been a member of the Board of Trustees for the past eleven years and this last week has been one of the most stressful weeks of my life. I have received numerous telephone calls regarding Board Member Skyy Fisher. I have informed my constituents that we cannot control individuals when they choose to do wrong. I also share the feelings of many community members that a person of Mr. Fisher's caliber should not be making decisions on behalf of our children; that his actions were totally unacceptable; and we are going to hold him accountable. Therefore, I too will not accept a 60-Day Leave; I want a resignation from Mr. Fisher.

Board Member Thomas

I, Mae Thomas, took a commitment and a vow that I would serve you with all honesty and fight with no guilt. I have never been afraid to fight on behalf of what was right because that is what Mae Thomas is all about. You put me in this seat to serve you not to become a part of corruption (lying, wheeling and dealing), but to do what the Almighty God would have me to do. I have fought on this Board many evenings by myself and I'm not afraid of what God has in store for me. I, Mae Thomas, want the community to know that 100% and without a doubt in my heart or in my mind that Skyy Fisher needs to step down. Not only does he need to step down; but I would not give my vote, if one was needed, for a 60-Day Request of Leave. He has the right to go, if he chooses, but he will go without the money of the tax payers.

Board Member Ali

As everyone in our community knows whether student, resident, employee or fellow Board Member; whether black or brown, whether grandparent or child, we were all appalled by the statements made by Compton Unified School District Board Trustee, Skyy Fisher. The statements made by Mr. Fisher regarding the unprovoked killing of Travon Martin exhibited the insensitivity and type of hatred and bigotry we here in Compton have worked hard to lead our children away from. The statements made by Mr. Fisher regarding the Interim Superintendent revealed a complete lack of respect for women, especially women of color and should not go unchallenged. The statements made by Mr. Fisher regarding the student in our community revealed a complete lack of compassion and respect for her and her family and is clearly unimaginable. I take away from these comments complete lack of tolerance and total disregard for others at a time when we need to display more acceptance; be more inclusive and show greater respect for others. I see an utter lack of compassion, sensibility and maturity in Mr. Fisher. This leads me to what is an obvious conclusion when one examines Mr. Fisher's statements through the prism of what is best for our children. As Board Members we are suppose to be the stewards of our community's children. We make this covenant with our community when we ask to serve in one of these seven seats. The message we heard from Mr. Fisher is one that has absolutely no place in the hearts and minds of our children. Let us hope that the echoes of Mr. Fisher's statements would not be heard long. I, with all my heart, condemn the deplorable statements made by Mr. Fisher, reject them in their entirety as an example of the worst of the worst. My hope is that Travon Martin's family and friends, women, especially women of color and all of our students accept our heart-felt comments and remember the statements and actions of the Compton Unified School District tonight and not Mr. Fisher's statements.

Board President Garrett also expressed her disappointment regarding the behavior exhibited by Board Member Fisher and urged him to reconsider his stance and bring forth his resignation as a member of the Board of Trustees, which would be in the best interest of the District and the students. Mr. Fisher was not willing to do so.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS — Agenda Item Only

The following individuals commended the members of the Board of Trustees for sharing their comments about the disparaging remarks and disrespectful behavior of Board Member Skyy Fisher; each speaker condemned Board member Fisher's inappropriate language and comments; and called for the Board member's resignation.

- **NAJIE ALI**, *Community Activist, Project Islamic Hope. No Address Provided.*
- **PAULETTE GIPSON**, *President, NAACP - Compton Chapter, No Address Provided.*
- **REV. K.W. TULLOSS**, *President, National Action Network, Los Angeles, CA*
- **MARIA VILLAREAL**, *609 W. Peach Street, Compton, CA*
- **YOLANDA LOPEZ**, *2809 1/2 N. Wilmington Avenue. Compton, CA 90222*
- **JOYCE KELLY**, *No Address Provided.*
- **COLLEEN DAVIS**, *No Address Provided.*
- **MARIE HOLLIS**, *No Address Provided.*
- **MARCUS HIGGINS**, *No Address Provided* - Encouraged Board Member Fisher to resign; however, if he chooses not to do so, efforts to recall him would be implemented.
- **BARBARA CALHOUN**, *No Address Provided.*
- **DONYETTA HAMM**, *(Parent of a former CUSD Student Board Member), 13524 Avalon Boulevard, Compton, CA 90220*

- **SABRINA RIVERA**, (Former CSUDH Student), 360 Wisconsin Avenue, Long Beach, CA
- **HANEFAH GRIFFIN**, 601 S. Acacia Avenue, Compton, CA
- **EDGAR PRECIADO**, 601 S. Acacia Avenue, Compton, CA
- **LORRAINE CERVANTES**, 1125 S. Oleander, #507, Compton, CA
- **VELERA (VAL) DUDLEY**, 516 West Raymond Street, Compton, CA
- **JOSEPH LEWIS**, 1909 West 138th Street, Compton, CA - Encouraged the community to conduct his/her research on individuals running for political offices.
- **CAROLINA CAUTO**, (Former CSUDH Student), 3984 North Hillcrest Drive, #A, Los Angeles, CA 90008 - Encouraged everyone to take the necessary actions to ensure that Mr. Fisher no longer serves as a Board Member.
- **DENZEL PERRY**, Student Board Member, spoke on behalf of the CUSD students who were outraged at the comments made by Board member Fisher; stated that students have inquired about the consequences of his actions; and also called the for his resignation.
- **CAROLYN STOKES**, 913 South Chester Avenue, Compton, CA
- **PAUL SCOTT**, President, *LA Black Gay Pride Organization*, 318 Market Street, Inglewood, CA 90301 - Stated that he was not completely offended by Skyy Fisher's remarks and neither was he condoning his actions, but suggested that the Board and community regard this matter as a "teachable moment" by engaging in dialogue to better understand others.

C. OPEN SESSION

Resolution No. 11/12-33 Censure of Board of Trustees Member Skyy D. Fisher

The resolution was read by Micah Ali, Clerk of the Board of Trustees.

11/12-120 **MOTION** by *MR. ALI*, and **SECOND** by *MRS. SHIPP* to consider the Resolution to Censure Board of Trustees Member Skyy D. Fisher.

Discussion:

Board Member Shipp agreed to support the resolution but also called for the resignation of Board Member Skyy D. Fisher.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM No. 11/12-120 (Resolution No. 11/12-33)

Roll Call:

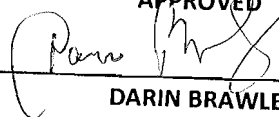
Micah Ali - YES
 Margie Garrett - YES
 Emma Sharif - YES
 Marjorie Shipp - YES
 Mae Thomas - YES
 Satra Zurita - ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

D. ADJOURNMENT

11/12-9026 **MOTION** by *MR. ALI*, and **SECOND** by *MRS. SHIPP* to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees. **Time Being:** 6:51 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED


DARIN BRAWLEY
Superintendent