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BOARD OF EDUCATION: Donald L. Bridge • Andrew Cruz • Jonathan E. Monroe • James Na • Sonja Shaw • SUPERINTENDENT: Norm Enfield, Ed.D.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Andi Johnston, (909) 628-1201 x1616
andrea_johnston@chino.k12.ca.us

CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elects to Leave the Chino Valley USD July 20th Board of Education Meeting

Following his statements to the Board of Education, Mr. Thurmond inaccurately reports that he was forcibly removed from the proceedings.

Chino, CA – On July 20, 2023, the Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education acted on the proposed new Board Policy 5020.1 – Parental Notification. The proposed new policy states in part that parents and guardians are to be notified if their child is involved in violence, expresses suicidal ideation, or requests to be identified by a gender other than the gender assigned at birth. The vote was taken in public session.

In order to conduct District business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board requires that public comment comply with procedures established in Board Bylaw 9323 – Meeting Conduct. Additionally, during these meetings, the Board president gives oral instructions to the public of acceptable and unacceptable meeting conduct, and advising that disruptive individuals will be asked to remove themselves from the meeting. In most cases, when a speaker's time has expired, the speaker respectfully returns to his or her seat. Furthermore, with Board consent, Board Bylaw 9323 gives the Board president the discretion to modify public speaking time under exceptional circumstances. On this occasion, the Board gave consensus to reduce speaking time from 3-minutes per person to 1-minute per person in order to accommodate the 83 requests received to address the Board. Speakers were advised when their time had expired so that the next speaker could approach the podium to begin his or her comments.

Prior to the meeting, California State Superintendent Tony Thurmond informed the District that he would be attending the meeting. Mr. Thurmond's team was advised of public comment protocols, and subsequently submitted a partially completed speaker card. Nonetheless, the incomplete speaker card was accepted by District staff. Mr. Thurmond's card was the first card received.

At the time public comment was opened on the proposed new policy, Mr. Thurmond was the first to address the Board; however, before he completed his comments, his time expired and was appropriately advised, no less than three times, that his time was up and to return to his seat. Thereafter, Mr. Thurmond began to call out from his seat interfering with Board President Shaw's statement and returned to the podium in violation of Board Policy 9323. Mr. Thurmond continued to demand deference be given to him ignoring President Shaw's request that order be maintained and that he return to his seat. As President Shaw had publicly advised, she called a recess due to Mr. Thurmond's refusal to leave the podium. Thereafter, District security approached the podium to encourage Mr. Thurmond to return to his seat.

In a Tweet published on Superintendent's Thurmond's official Twitter page, Mr. Thurmond claimed that he was "forcibly removed from the meeting." At no time did President Shaw order his removal from the meeting, but rather requested that he to return to his seat. Captured in the meeting's recording available on the Board of Education's meeting YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE6cH15Goy0>,

timestamped at 1:26:30, Mr. Thurmond is visible leaving the podium after being escorted out by his team without force.

Rather than return to the meeting to join students that he shares invited him, Mr. Thurmond's staff requested access to a classroom on the Don Lugo High School campus to complete filming. This request, while not typical, was graciously accommodated by District staff.

District personnel has respectfully submitted an official request to Mr. Thurmond's communication team requesting that the inaccurate information published in his July 20th Twitter post be revised or removed, and that the Superintendent provide a statement of correction that accurately illustrates the District's engagement with Mr. Thurmond that evening. A response of confirmation has been requested by the end of business on July 25, 2023.

To watch the July 20, 2023 meeting in its entirety, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE6cH15Goy0>.

About Chino Valley Unified School District:

Founded in 1860, Chino Valley Unified School District serves approximately 26,000 students across 35 schools within the Chino Valley and South Ontario areas. Home to 18 California Distinguished schools, students receive a rigorous, 21st century education in preparation for college and career. Thriving performing arts and athletic programs, nationally recognized marching bands and engaging parent-school partnerships distinguish Chino Valley Unified School District as one of the best school districts in California. For more information about Chino Valley Unified School district, please visit www.chino.k12.ca.us.

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