



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held October 14, 2008, the Board took the following action:

6 and 47-E

The following items were called up for consideration:

6

Supervisor Knabe's recommendation to approve the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee's recommendations to reform education in the juvenile justice system; and direct the Committee, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer, to finalize an implementation schedule to move forward with all 35 recommendations, identify any additional funding or legislative needs, and report back to the Board within 60 days, with subsequent progress reports due on a quarterly basis thereafter; and

47-E

The Chief Probation Officer's recommendation to approve the concept of Education Reform to begin moving forward with the 35 recommendations identified in the Comprehensive Educational Reform Report and the draft implementation action plan that were developed by the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee, contingent on the availability of additional funding beyond the \$621,000 being recommended and any necessary State legislation or approval of State waivers; and take the following related actions:

Instruct the Chief Probation Officer to work with the Chief Executive Office, the County Counsel's Office, and other key stakeholders, in seeking necessary legislation to provide or enhance the County's flexibility to deliver education services through multiple providers, including implementation of independent charter school programs designed to improve the delivery of educational services to minors in Probation camps and halls and ensure enhanced options are available to best meet their needs;

Acknowledge that the County would need to obtain approval of State legislation to enable the Probation Department to operate independent charter schools, and upon such approval, authorize the Chief Probation Officer to immediately begin development of such charter schools;

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6 and 47-E (continued)

Support the efforts by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to pursue legislation to change their funding model and instruct the Chief Probation Officer to work with LACOE on these efforts;

Instruct the Chief Probation Officer and LACOE to develop a pilot dependent charter school program for girls for implementation at Camp Scott or Camp Scudder which can be accomplished under existing law;

Instruct the Chief Probation Officer to pursue the implementation of an independent school pilot program for boys operated by another school district at a Probation camp to be determined by the Chief Probation Officer which can be accomplished under existing law;

Approve appropriation adjustment transferring a total of \$621,000 (\$321,000 in ongoing salaries and employee benefits; \$20,000 in ongoing services and supplies; and \$280,000 in one-time services and supplies) to the Probation Department's operating budget to provide the appropriation necessary to effectively begin implementing the recommendations outlined in the report;

Approve the funding for Education Reform for the Probation Department limited to \$621,000 with any additional funding for Education Reform needing to be identified and approved by the Board prior to the Probation Department moving forward with those recommendations that require additional funding;

Approve three ordinance and budgeted positions and authorize the Chief Probation Officer to fill the following positions: (1) Senior Probation Director or equivalent MAPP Tier II S12 level position: one (1) Senior Secretary III; and one (1) Program Analyst, Probation, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code, and subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office. The \$321,000 in ongoing funding for these positions is contained in the appropriation adjustment;

Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to negotiate and execute a one-year sole source agreement with The Resource Company, with the option to extend the contract term on a month-to-month basis not to exceed six (6) months, contingent upon available funding. The \$80,000 one-time cost of this contract is included in the appropriation adjustment; and

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6 and 47-E (continued)

Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to prepare and execute modifications necessary to the resulting contract for any decreases or increases not to exceed the contract amount.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Knabe:

“We have before us a set of groundbreaking recommendations that will reform education programs in the County's juvenile halls and probation camps. They were developed in close collaboration by the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee I established, consisting of the key County entities that collectively are responsible for the well-being for more than 27,000 young people involved in the criminal justice system. When I entered the motion to initiate this process in 2007, I challenged the County to look beyond just a narrow focus to ‘reform’ educational services under the current, broken paradigm, and instead look towards ways to actually enhance, improve and increase educational opportunities that is responsive to the needs of each individual young person.

“It is clear that effective schools reduce the number of at-risk youth, and reduce the possibility of recidivism. Improved educational opportunities increase the chances of youth being successful in their return to the community. Every chance we have to interact with one of them - especially the 7,000 that are in our direct care - is an opportunity to help get on a track to a meaningful, productive life. As a County, we should demand nothing less. These recommendations represent a significant step forward in meeting our obligation to provide them with the quality education to which they are entitled, and so desperately need.

“Los Angeles County must take a strong leadership role in addressing the serious issues impacting the Juvenile Justice system. The Children’s Council of Los Angeles County reports on youth in the juvenile justice system indicated that the problems afflicting juvenile justice are inter-related, and so our reform efforts can and must be integrated and inter-related as well, both in process and in outcomes. It is time to move towards comprehensive, systematic reforms to improve the overall prospects of Probation students, and these recommendations are the vehicle by which we can achieve that. We have moved past merely pointing out these pervasive problems over and over to solving them for the benefit of the young people that come under our responsibility.”

(Continued on Page 4)

6 and 47-E (continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Approve the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee's recommendations to reform education in the juvenile justice system;
2. Direct the Committee, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer, to finalize an implementation schedule to move forward with all 35 recommendations, identify any additional funding or legislative needs; and
3. Report back to the Board within 60 days, with subsequent progress reports due on a quarterly basis thereafter.

Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, and Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent of Schools, responded to questions posed by the Board.

Susan Lee, Mark Lewis, Janeen Steel and Belinda Walker addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“The Board of Supervisors supports the Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to work with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to legislatively change the current funding model which is based on average daily attendance to one that is based on a residential service delivery. In the meantime, we should study how the current dollars are being invested and how that compares to other Juvenile Court Schools in the State.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a recommendation that Supervisor Knabe's motion and the Chief Probation Officer's recommendation be approved as amended to direct the Acting Auditor-Controller to work jointly with the Superintendent of Schools to provide a report (to be included with the implementation plan due in 60 days) on:

1. How existing dollars are being utilized, including all staff and other overhead costs, and how that compares to other Juvenile Court Schools in the State, including Orange and Ventura counties; and

(Continued on Page 5)

6 and 47-E (continued)

2. The difference, in dollars, between the current funding model and the change to a residential service delivery model and how the new model would impact the implementation of the 35 recommendations.

Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Antonovich's amendment.

On motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board approved the Chief Probation Officer's attached recommendation, as amended, and took the following actions:

1. Approved the Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee's recommendations to reform education in the juvenile justice system;
2. Directed the Committee, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer, to finalize an implementation schedule to move forward with all 35 recommendations, identify any additional funding or legislative needs;
3. Report back to the Board within 60 days, with subsequent progress reports due on a quarterly basis thereafter; and
4. Instructed the Acting Auditor-Controller to work jointly with the Superintendent of Schools to provide a report (to be included with the implementation plan due in 60 days) on:
 - How existing dollars are being utilized, including all staff and other overhead costs, and how that compares to other Juvenile Court Schools in the State, including Orange and Ventura counties; and
 - The difference, in dollars, between the current funding model and the change to a residential service delivery model and how the new model would impact the implementation of the 35 recommendations.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Acting Auditor-Controller
Chief Probation Officer
Superintendent of Schools