

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 6, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER–ROLL CALL

Board President Anna L. Piercy called the special meeting of the Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Anna L. Piercy, president; Katherine H. Smith, clerk; Al Jabbar, assistant clerk; and Annemarie Randle-Trejo, member.

Trustee Brian O’Neal entered at 5:15 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Trustee Smith, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees adopted the agenda.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Piercy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. PRESENTATION

INFORMATION ITEM

Savanna High School, The Rebel Mascot

Background Information:

At the October 5, 2017, Board of Trustees’ meeting, students, parents, and members from the community spoke to the Board about their concerns regarding, Johnny Rebel, Savanna High School mascot and its connection to a time in our country’s history where slavery and racial oppression were commonplace. As a result, the Board received a request to consider removing the Rebel mascot from Savanna High School. The Board instructed the Superintendent and his staff to solicit input from Savanna High School’s student body. The District worked closely with Savanna High School staff to develop a student-centered process to engage their students with this concern.

Savanna High School, a California Democracy School, facilitated students’ participation in a process of inquiry, dialogue, and action to address the issue concerning the Johnny Rebel mascot. At the conclusion of their lessons and activities, Savanna High School students were queried, in a polling exercise, to provide the Board with their student voice regarding the Rebel mascot. The outcome of the school-wide polling exercise was shared at a student-led forum in Savanna High School’s gymnasium on October 25, 2017. The following results were reported: 56 percent in favor of rebranding the mascot, 18 percent in favor of removing the mascot, and 26 percent in favor of keeping the Johnny Rebel mascot as is. At the forum, students were given the opportunity to share what they learned from the civic inquiry process and what they learned from the different perspectives.

Current Consideration:

Savanna High School will have selected teachers and student body provide an update and presentation regarding whether the Rebel mascot should remain, be rebranded, or be removed and changed.

Budget Implication:

There is no impact to the budget.

Action:

Although this was an information item only, requiring no formal action by the Board of Trustees, the Board officially received the information.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS, OPEN SESSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEM

This is an opportunity for community members to address the Board of Trustees on open session agenda items only. Persons wishing to address the Board of Trustees should complete a speaker request form, available on the information table, at the back of the room, and submit it to the executive assistant prior to the meeting. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of five minutes; each topic or item is limited to a total of 20 minutes. Board members cannot immediately respond to public comments, as stated on the speaker request form.

On the motion of Trustee Randle-Trejo, and duly seconded, each speaker was limited to a maximum of three minutes to speak on the item due to the high number of persons wishing to address the Board of Trustees.

- 5.1 Savannah Rangel, Savanna High School student, spoke in support of rebranding the Savanna High School mascot and thanked the Board for taking action in light of the concerns regarding Johnny Rebel.
- 5.2 Liliana Balandran, Savanna High School student, expressed why she believes the Savanna High School mascot should be rebranded.
- 5.3 Bianca Garcia, Savanna High School alumni, spoke in support of removing Johnny Rebel, Savanna High School mascot, and thanked the Board for their willingness to listen to the community.
- 5.4 Roberto Garcia, Savanna High School alumni, expressed his support for the removal of Johnny Rebel, Savanna High School mascot, and the rebel name.
- 5.5 David Luebben-Morrill, Savanna High School alumni, spoke against the removal of the Savanna High School mascot.
- 5.6 Laura Jennings, Savanna High School alumni, communicated her views on the Savanna High School mascot.
- 5.7 Tommy Kearney, Savanna High School alumni, read a statement from the class of 1963 and communicated his support for keeping the mascot as is and the rebel name.
- 5.8 Gerardo Perez, Savanna High School student, provided his student perspective regarding the Johnny Rebel mascot, as well as conveyed his support for rebranding the mascot.

- 5.9 Reverend Dion Thomas, Savanna High School parent and community member, voiced his opposition for keeping Johnny Rebel and the rebel name, as well as for the rebranding of the Savanna High School mascot.
- 5.10 Dr. Fred Calhoun, NAACP Education Chairman, gave a brief narrative and spoke in support of removing Johnny Rebel, Savanna High School mascot.
- 5.11 Beatrice Jones, concerned citizen, praised the students for going through the civic inquiry process and asked the Board to listen to the students.
- 5.12 Pastor George Starks, community member, expressed his support for the removal of Johnny Rebel, Savanna High School mascot.
- 5.13 Cynthia Do, Savanna High School student, voiced her support in regard to the rebranding of the Savanna High School mascot.
- 5.14 Rachelle Roach, concerned citizen, expressed her support for the removal of the Johnny Rebel mascot.
- 5.15 Mary Jones, National Association for Equal Justice in America, commended Savanna High School students on their approach to this controversial issue and suggested that the Johnny Rebel mascot be removed.
- 5.16 Esther Franco, Savanna High School parent, announced her support of the civic inquiry process.
- 5.17 Glenda Flora, Savanna High School alumni, gave a brief narrative on how the first graduating class decided on the Savanna High School Rebel name.
- 5.18 Matthew Thomas, Savanna High School student, expressed his feelings toward the Johnny Rebel mascot, as well as why he believes the mascot should be removed.
- 5.19 Marcus Thomas, Savanna High School student, expressed how the presence of the Savanna High School mascot makes him feel and advocated for its removal.
- 5.20 Zim Walker, Savanna High School alumni, read a statement from a Savanna High School alumni in support of keeping the mascot as is.
- 5.21 Kim McGill, Youth Justice Coalition, communicated her support for the removal of the mascot and all confederate symbols at Savanna High School. Additionally, she asked the Board to ensure the safety of all students in light of student's concerns.
- 5.22 Joaquin Granger, Youth Justice Coalition, read statements in support of removing the Savanna High School mascot, as well as conveyed his opinion on why the mascot should be removed.
- 5.23 Zahria Thomas, Youth Justice Coalition, expressed her feelings towards the presence of confederate symbols and the Johnny Rebel mascot.
- 5.24 Roberto Herrera, Resilience OC coordinator, voiced his support for the removal of all confederate symbols at Savanna High School.

- 5.25 Lay'onna Clark, Savanna High School student, spoke on why she supports the removal of the Johnny Rebel mascot and urged the Board for its removal.
- 5.26 Alma Valenzuela, Savanna High School student, conveyed her support for keeping the Savanna High School mascot as is.
- 5.27 Jeanne Tenno, Savanna High School alumni, expressed what Savana High School represents to her, as well as why she believes the Savanna High School mascot should not be removed or replaced.
- 5.28 Krischa Arce, Savanna High School student, gave her opinion on why she believes rebranding is the best decision.

On the motion of Trustee Randle-Trejo, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees opened the item up for discussion.

Trustee O'Neal thanked all of the speakers and commended the students for going through the civic inquiry process.

Trustee Jabbar praised the students who spoke up and brought this issue to the Board. Additionally, he thanked staff members, teachers, and students for their hard work and their approach to this sensitive issue.

Trustee Randle-Trejo communicated that the Board heard the student voice and that she was very proud of all those who participated in the civic inquiry process.

Trustee Smith gave a brief biographical narrative, as well as expressed that she values all those who came forward and voiced their opinion.

Trustee Piercy said she was very proud of the students who participated in the civic inquiry process and exemplified democracy.

6. **ITEM OF BUSINESS**

Savanna High School, The Rebel Mascot

INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM

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keeping the Johnny Rebel mascot as is. At the forum, students were given the opportunity to share what they learned from the civic inquiry process and what they learned from the different perspectives.

Current Consideration:

The Board will review the presentation and input provided by Savanna High School's student body, regarding whether the Rebel mascot should remain, be rebranded, or be removed and changed.

Budget Implication:

Impact to the budget dependent on action taken, if any.

Action:

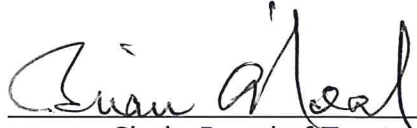
On the motion of Trustee Jabbar, and duly seconded, the Board of Trustees directed the superintendent and staff to rebrand the Savanna High School mascot by keeping the name rebels, but taking out any reference to Johnny Rebel and the confederacy.

Ayes: Trustees Randle-Trejo, O'Neal, Jabbar, and Piercy

Abstain: Trustee Smith

7. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Trustee O'Neal, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Approved 
Clerk, Board of Trustees