

## **OCBE June 5, 2024 - Agenda Overview**

The meeting is scheduled for 2 pm

### **Litigation**

The agenda includes updates on ongoing and upcoming litigation matters involving the organization, detailing the current status, upcoming court dates, and strategic considerations for the legal team. Additionally, it includes an item for approving and paying a **one-month invoice of over \$63,000 for legal services**.

### **Lobbyists**

**The OCBE has spent over 10 million dollars on lawyers, litigation, and lobbyists. They are renewing their contract with Sheehy Strategy Group. This is a waste of taxpayer dollars and duplicates efforts from the OC Dept of Education.**

Hiring a lobbyist enables an elected board of education to push its extremist views and partisan agenda aggressively. The board seeks to use lobbyists to secure funding and resources that align strictly with their ideological priorities, often at the expense of broader, more inclusive educational goals. By influencing legislation, they aim to reshape policies that support their narrow viewpoints, disregarding diverse perspectives.

Lobbyists advance the board's divisive educational priorities, consolidating their power and influence over the educational system.

### **Charter Proposal (Hearing)**

**The OCBE will conduct a hearing on a new charter school approval...Ednovate-OC College Prep.** The goal is to provide community input and allow the Board to ask questions. The hearings are usually attended by supporters of the Charter School and occasionally representatives from local districts. There will not be a vote tonight, but when this charter returns to the Board, they typically rubberstamp approvals.

Implementing this charter may divert resources and attention from existing programs performing well, potentially reducing the quality and availability of these services. The development of the charter proposal appears to have involved limited input from key stakeholders, including employees, community members, and partner organizations, such as Capo Unified, Garden Grove Unified, Santa Ana Unified, and Tustin USD, who were informed about the application for a county-wide charter. Without broad-based support and engagement, the proposal may not fully reflect the needs and priorities of those it aims to serve.

### **Key Questions to Ask at Charter Hearings**

#### **Impact on Existing Programs**

1. Has the charter sought district partnership?
2. Are there plans to integrate the charter's initiatives with existing programs to avoid duplication and inefficiency?

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

1. How were stakeholders, including employees, community members, and partner organizations, involved in the development of the charter?
2. How will the concerns and suggestions of the local districts be addressed moving forward?

## Communication and Public Perception

1. How will the county communicate the benefits and changes associated with the charter to the public?
2. What strategies are in place to manage public perception and maintain trust regarding charter applications?

## Budget

### 1. Budget Approvals and Revisions

- Items discussing the approval of the annual budget and any necessary revisions are detailed. These entries include projected revenues, expenditures, and justifications for any adjustments.

### 2. Financial Performance Reports

- Regular reports on financial performance, including income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements, are part of the agenda. These reports provide insights into the financial health of the Orange County Department of Education.

### 3. Funding Requests

- Requests for additional funding for specific projects or departments are included. These items explain the need for extra funds, the expected outcomes, and the impact on the overall budget.

## Overview of SB 907

SB 907 requires the Orange County Board of Education to have seven members. It mandates that elections for the board be consolidated with the statewide general elections in November of each even-numbered year. This bill aims to ensure consistent and streamlined election processes for the board, reflecting a broader state interest in uniformity and efficiency in educational governance.

The OCBE opposes this legislation because consolidating elections with statewide general elections might change voter dynamics, potentially affecting the composition and political balance of the board, which some members oppose. OCBE Watch supports this legislation.

For more details, you can view the [bill's full text here](#).