

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Public Session 3:15 p.m.

Educational Services Center • Board Room

770 Wilshire Boulevard • Los Angeles, California 90017

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) was called to order at 3:18 p.m. with President Scott J. Svonkin presiding.

The following members were present: Mike Eng, Ernest H. Moreno, Nancy Pearlman, Miguel Santiago, Scott J. Svonkin, and Steve Veres. Absent: Mona Field (arrived at 3:23 p.m.). Student Trustee LaMont G. Jackson was not present (arrived at 3:20 p.m.).

Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez was present.

Trustee Eng led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Svonkin read the cautionary language for speakers and their personal responsibility and, potentially, personal liability for defamatory remarks.

(Student Trustee Jackson arrived at 3:20 p.m.)

Ms. Elen Asatryan addressed the Board in support of Com. No. BT1. Resolution – 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – April 2015.

(Trustee Field arrived at 3:23 p.m.)

The following additional individuals addressed the Board in support of Com. No. BT1. Resolution – 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – April 2015:

Miss Talar Kossakian, Ms. Rebecca Barberian, Miss Vanna Kitsinian, and Mrs. Alice Petrossian.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD

Com. No. BT1. Resolution – 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – April 2015

Motion by Trustee Veres, seconded by Trustee Santiago, to adopt Com. No. BT1. as follows:

The following resolution is presented by Board Members Veres, Santiago, and Svonkin:

This measure would designate the month of April 2015 as "Los Angeles Community College District Month of Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915."

WHEREAS, During the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923, 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descendants lost their lives at the hands of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in their attempt to systematically eliminate the Armenian race, which constituted one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

- WHEREAS, Armenians have resided in Asia Minor and the Caucasus for approximately four millennia and have had a long and rich history in the region, including the establishment of many kingdoms and also the establishment of the Armenian Empire during the first century B.C.; and
- WHEREAS, Despite Armenians' historic presence, stewardship and autonomy in the region, Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality including but not limited to widespread wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890's, most notably the Hamidian Massacres from 1894 to 1896 and the Adana Massacre of 1909; and
- WHEREAS, Those citizens of Turkey, both Armenian and non-Armenian, who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian Genocide, such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced by violent means and/or imprisonment based on Turkish Penal Code 301, which encompasses the recognition of the Armenian Genocide as insulting Turkish identity; and
- WHEREAS, The United States is on record as having officially recognized the Armenian Genocide in the United States Government's May 28, 1951 written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838, and by Congressional legislation including House Joint Resolution 148 adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247 adopted on September 10, 1984; and
- WHEREAS, In response to the Genocide and at the behest of President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief organization, the first Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to rescue the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities, was founded and provided unprecedented complete access to all U.S. Government documents and files concerning the plight of Christian minorities, over \$117 million of assistance between 1915 and 1930 and rescued over 130,000 orphans of the Genocide; and
- WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent recurrence of genocide; and
- WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and
- WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Community College District has a significant Armenian student population, many of whom have family members who experienced first-hand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and the ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide; and
- WHEREAS, Every student and person, regardless of ethnicity or national origin, should be made aware of and educated about the Armenian Genocide so that it and other state-sanctioned forms of ethnic cleansing may never happen again; and
- WHEREAS, This measure would provide that the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community District deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby designates the month of April 2015 as "Los Angeles Community College District Month of Commemoration for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915" and in doing so will ensure that the Armenian Genocide is properly taught to its faculty, student body, and the community at large through campus-wide educational and cultural events; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District that the Los Angeles Community College District commends its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby commends the extraordinary service which was delivered by Near East Relief to the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and Assyrian Genocide, including thousands of direct beneficiaries of American philanthropy who are the parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of many Californian Armenian-Americans and Assyrian-Americans and reaffirms its commitment to working with community groups, nonprofit organizations, personnel, and the student body to host campus-wide educational events dedicated specifically to these efforts and this important part of American history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby calls on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment, with reparations, of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity; and to work toward a just resolution.

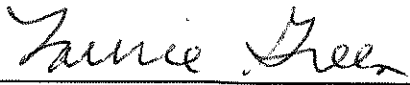
Trustees Veres, Santiago, Eng, and Pearlman; President Svonkin; and Student Trustee Jackson spoke in support of the resolution and discussed the importance of the LACCD to participate in observing the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Student Trustee Advisory Vote: Aye (Jackson)
ADOPTED: 7 Ayes


ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

FRANCISCO C. RODRIGUEZ
Chancellor and Secretary of the Board of Trustees

By: 
Laurie Green
Assistant Secretary to the Board

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:


Scott J. Svonkin
President of the Board

Date October 8, 2014