



April 9, 2025

CUSD Governing Board Votes to Continue Legal Action Against Veolia North America

Statement from Coronado Unified School District Board President Alexia Palacios-Peters

The Coronado Unified School District (CUSD) Governing Board voted in closed session on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, to continue participation in ongoing litigation against Veolia North America. Following a detailed and lengthy discussion with legal counsel, the Board voted 3-2 in favor of remaining in the lawsuit.

Voting in favor were Trustees Renee Cavanaugh, Alexia Palacios-Peters, and Mal Sandie. Trustees Scot Youngblood and Fitzhugh Lee voted in opposition.

The lawsuit was originally authorized during the February 20, 2025, Board meeting, where the contract with Frantz Law Group was approved unanimously as part of the consent calendar.

The Board acknowledges that the initial process to enter into the lawsuit (which was in compliance with both the law and current board policy) could have been more transparent. While all board members were aware of the items included in the February 2025 consent calendar, it would have been better agendaized as a stand-alone action item. As such, the board has directed Superintendent Mueller to draft a new policy regarding potential litigation that will be presented for board approval at a future meeting.

The Board remains committed to transparency and ensuring future legal matters are handled with clear communication and in alignment with updated district policy.

During the April 9 closed session, trustees also expressed concern regarding public statements made by representatives of Frantz Law Group. Mr. Frantz spoke to the media without consent or approval from the board or district staff. We have instructed attorneys representing CUSD to refrain from commenting publicly on behalf of the district and our staff and students.

With respect to the boards' role as financial fiduciaries, the lawsuit was entered into with no financial obligation from the district. CUSD is not responsible for paying attorneys any money other than a portion of what is recovered from the defendants (CUSD would pay thirty percent (30%) of any monetary settlement or recovery).

As a governing body we will continue to oversee the district's representation and participation in the Veolia North America lawsuit as it progresses through the legal process.

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