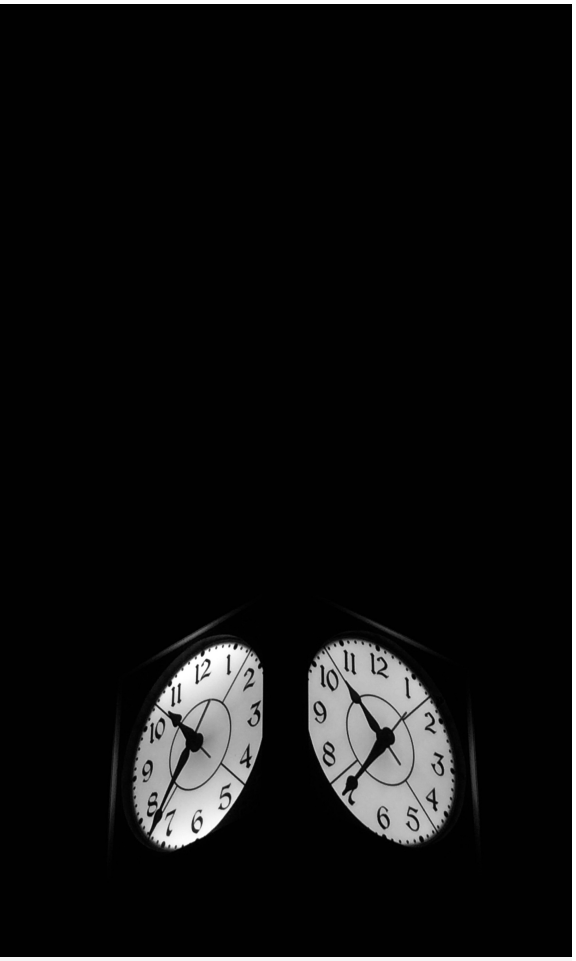


Internal Affairs: Lopsided Time Limits in San Jose Unified's Charter Debate

By Sharon Noguchi

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San Jose Unified goes to pains to insist it's been even-handed in treating charter school applicants.

Here's how that calculation broke down Thursday night, as board President **Pam Foley** managed the clock when the board was weighing the petition of Promise Academy to open a school from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade downtown, in partnership with the Tech Museum of Innovation:

Deputy Superintendent **Stephen McMahon**'s presentation critical of Promise Academy: 10 minutes.

Promise Academy's allotted response: 2 minutes. The academy's Head of School **Anthony H. Johnson** had requested 10 minutes. But Foley refused. At trustee **Kimberly Meek**'s suggestion, Foley relented and allowed the charter 5 minutes.

Speakers from the public: 90 seconds each. Foley cut off most mid-sentence if they went over.

Public comment concluded with San Jose Teachers Association President **Jennifer Thomas**, a Promise Academy opponent: 5 minutes.

Board members were allowed to ask questions of McMahon, Superintendent **Nancy Albarran** and board-contracted Attorney **John Yeh**, all critical of the Promise petition. However, trustees were not allowed to ask questions of Johnson.

Toward the end, Meek asked, "Wouldn't it be lovely if we had taken three hours with a true discussion of what teacher concerns are about, and have the petitioner make adjustments" in the proposal?

Article

Contact author Sharon Noguchi by email at snoguchi@bayareanewsgroup.com.

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