



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 25, 2022
APPROVED MINUTES**

Call to Order

In accordance with Governor Newsom's executive orders of social distancing due to the COVID-19, the Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, as a teleconference/video conference meeting where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment via the public comments email address or live via the Zoom platform. The public streaming of the Regular Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83437113303?pwd=dHo4Z2NjRDY2VzhwN2E3Ymd3TlFQUt09>. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Vice President	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Board Member	Ms. Velma Lomax
Superintendent	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Antonio Castro
Interim Asst. Supt./HR	Dr. Ellen Smith
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 6:02 p.m.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

REGULAR SESSION - Ron Halt Classroom - 7:00 p.m.

At 7:10 p.m., Board President Matt Almaraz called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to appoint Ms. Gina Wolowicz as the new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Dr. Roger Rice, gave a shout out to everyone who applied for the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources position and congratulated Ms. Gina Wolowicz. Dr. Rice then introduced Dr. Ellen Smith, who will be working as Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources throughout the transition time.

Dr. Rice introduced the new Principal of Sheridan Way, Dr. Clara Guerrero. Dr. Guerrero thanked Dr. Rice and the Board, then took a moment to introduce her family.

Student Board Members Ella Haas, representing Buena High School, Logan Bobis, representing Ventura High School, and Nina Segura representing VACE, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their sites.

Correspondence

Dr. Rice shared that we received correspondence from Dr. Cesar Morales at Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), giving us a positive certification of the first interim report. He noted that VCOE found a technical error in the first interim report, but were able to make a few corrections that did not change the certification.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment via email or live via Zoom*:

1. Kelly C* shared that she is against the mask and vaccine mandate.

ACTION ITEMS

14.a Approval to Purchase Additional Buses

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, shared that VUSD is currently spending roughly \$170,000 per year to charter buses. Dr. Chandler noted that the purchase of the two buses on the agenda in the amount of \$220,000 each are no longer available. Due to COVID, the costs of charter buses is on the rise and is estimated to now cost between \$250,000 and \$260,000. She noted that charter buses have a lifespan of 20-25 years.

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 1 to approve the purchase of two additional buses with the total cost to be no more than \$250,000 to \$270,000 each.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax
Noes: Ms. Amy Callahan. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

14.b Consideration for Approval to Enter into a Contract with The Career Hub

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to enter into a three-year contract with Career Hub in the amount of \$117,0000; funding to come from the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

14.c Consideration of Resolution 22-02, Approving Adjusted Trustee Area Boundaries

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Scenario one, adjusting the current trustee areas as a result of the 2020 census.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

15.a School Climate and Culture

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, led a discussion regarding School Climate and Culture, including what socioemotional/mental health needs we are experiencing in our schools and how we are addressing them. Ms. Cheryl Burns, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, shared data about Care Solace, a multilingual Care Coordination team that connects students, families and staff with available, verified mental health providers and substance use treatment programs matched to their needs regardless of circumstance. Additional targeted interventions include SAP - topic specific curriculum development, social emotional learning, addition of social workers, Behavior Team, attendance teams, restorative practices/peer panels, and the return of community partners.

15.b Consideration for Review and Approval of School Accountability Report Cards for the 2020-21 School Year Public Announcement

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, shared that the Ventura Unified School District has issued a School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) for each school in the district. A draft SARC will be available to view by February 1, 2022 at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D1fhHL_sxHVM02LhE26uzpfzhXKVKDKN

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

16.a Governor's Budget Proposal for 2022-23

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave an update on the 2022-23 Governor's Budget. Dr. Chandler shared that Proposition 98 reached an all-time high, providing \$16.1 billion in new revenue for K -14 education. She noted that most of the new Proposition 98 revenues are earmarked for specific categorical programs or services. Dr. Chandler also shared that a significant cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is included in the budget, however a large portion of it will need to be spent on the rising costs of STRS and PERS. Dr. Chandler also reviewed the changes in ADA funding

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent item #'s 17-21 as presented.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 17.a Overnight and Out of the Tri-County Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 18.a Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year

- 18.e Approval of Administration's Recommendation of Employment Status Changes for 21-22 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 19.a Classified Position Changes
19.b Classified Personnel Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 20.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
20.b Ratification of Check Payments

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

- 21.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg noted that he attended the Capital Advisor Budget Workshop. He also shared that he had the opportunity to assist in the delivery of Gratitude awards and thanked the district for recognizing our employees.

Trustee Amy Callahan thanked the district for the Gratitude Awards. She shared that she looks forward to the retirement celebrations that will be taking place later this year. Ms. Callahan gave a shout out to Principal Cohen for launching the first GRIT, Girls Re-Imagining Tomorrow Conference, with a cohort of middle school students from DATA. Corporate sponsors and the Mayor of Ventura were in attendance and the students received Patagonia gear and a MAC notebook. She gave a shout out to Atlas and Principal Winslow for what they are doing in honor of kindness week. Ms. Callahan shared that she is looking forward to attending the ESJ Panel on January 27th. Lastly, she shared that Ventura Education Partnership just launched their Arts & Social Justice Grants and encouraged staff to apply.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez noted that she attended a General Plan Advisory Committee meeting for the city of Ventura. Currently they have a draft vision for Ventura, which were built with a lot of community input, and are available on the city's general plan website at <https://www.planventura.com>.

Trustee Matt Almaraz shared that he also attended the Capital Advisors Meeting. He noted his attendance at the California Department of Education kick-off webinar for California School Climate and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Planning webinar.

COMING EVENTS

- African American Parent Committee Meeting: January 26th at 6:00 p.m.
- January 31st: In-service Day – No Students
- Parent Advisory Committee Meeting: February 1st at 9:30 a.m.
- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting: February 3rd at 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- General Obligation Bond - February 2
- Student Board Members - February 8
- Supplement for the Annual Update for the 2021-22 Local Control Accountability Plan - February 22
- Study Session - Budget & Board Priorities - TBD

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS - (No official action will be taken)

Trustee Rodriguez shared that she was thankful to witness gratitude and kindness at our sites over the past few weeks, and was grateful that we are paying attention to the wellness of our staff and students.

Trustee Almaraz thanked the staff for filling in at the sites over the last few weeks.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to go back into closed session.

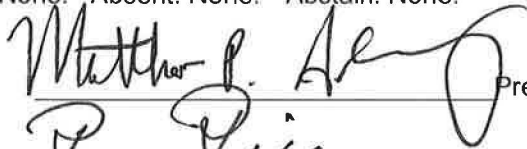
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m. to the next Regular Board Meeting on February 8, 2022.

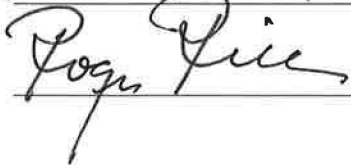
Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

APPROVED



President



Secretary