



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 21, 2021
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, September 21, 2021, 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. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Velma Lomax
Board Vice President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Member	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Antonio Castro
Asst. Supt./Human Resources	Mr. Brett Taylor

Adoption of Agenda

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

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

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

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

At 7:00 p.m., Board President Velma Lomax called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice noted that September 19 through September 25, 2021, is Adult Education and Literacy week and commended VACE for providing services to 8,801 students residing in Ventura County during the 2020-21 school year. Dr. Rice wished everyone a happy Hispanics Heritage Month and shared a statement by Dr. Soledad Molinar. Lastly, he shared that the Governor passed into law Assembly Bill 361, emergency legislation extending the flexibility of school boards to continue holding board meetings virtually, providing an emergency condition exists.

Student Board Members Danielle Shew and Sophia Green, representing El Camino High School, and Senior Class President Marina Wolowicz, filling in for Student Board Member Karyme Fierros, shared brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

Board President Velma Lomax received a letter from County Superintendent Dr. Cesar Morales, approving the Ventura Unified School District's 2021-22 adopted budget and LCAP.

Public Comments

The following people gave a public comment via e-mail or live via Zoom*:

1. Denell Sullada with questions and concerns regarding VUSD Quarantine protocols.
2. Michelle Solorio with concerns over students out on quarantine and school materials.
3. Stephan Weed* with concerns regarding item #17.a and additional items he feels should be included in the ESSER IIII.
4. Dan Nelson* giving a shout out to VUSD nurses and health techs and discussing items currently being negotiated for certificated staff.
5. Sarah McLaughlin* requesting a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for teachers.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

14.a PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks or Instructional Materials or both for The 2021-22 School Year

At 7:30 p.m., a Pubic Hearing was held regarding the sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials or both for the 2021-22 school year.

ACTION ITEMS

15.a Resolution #21-25 Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks or Instructional Materials or both for the 2021-22 School Year

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #21-25, regarding the sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials or both for the 2021-22 school year as presented.

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

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

15.b Revised 2021-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan Annual Update and Budget Overview for Parents

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to revise the 2021-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan Annual Update and Budget Overview for Parents as presented.

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

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

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a 2021 Summer Programs

Chief Innovation Officer, Dr. Rene Rickard, gave an update on the 2021 Summer Programs. Dr. Rickard noted that Ventura Unified School District offered three separate summer options for our families including June Boost, Summer Session, and August Enrichment. Data was shared for each of the summer sessions which included student enrollment data, differentiated by credit/no credit, level of education (elementary, middle and high), and number of small groups offered. Dr. Rickard also shared data on the Extended School Year (ESY) for students in special education whose IEP's included an option for ESY, which showed that nearly half of the 526 students who were eligible for the program enrolled. Dr. Rickard noted that meetings have already begun to review staff survey input regarding the summer programs, discuss 2022 summer program offerings and to work towards streamlining and improving registration and communication processes.

16.b Student Growth Scores

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Antonio Castro, presented on California's newly adopted student growth model approved in May 2021. The growth scores presented were calculated using this new methodology and ELA/Math SBAC assessment data for grades 4-8 from the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018 -19 school years, with the next release of growth scores scheduled for 2024. Dr. Castro noted that this growth data tells us whether one group of students had average growth that was higher/lower/ or similar than the average of another group. Dr. Castro explained why growth data is useful and explained growth model metrics. Data specific to VUSD was shared for both Math and ELA.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

17.a Federal Emergency Relief Funding Plans

Ms. Anna Campbell, Director of Budget and Finance, presented on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds, referred to as the ESSER III, which focuses on learning loss and safety. Ms. Campbell shared that several other LEA Plans are referenced in the ESSER III Plan including the 2021 Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan, the 2021-22 In-Person Learning and Safety Plan, the ARPA ESSER III Safe to Return to In-Person Instruction LEA Plan template, the VUSD COVID-19 Dashboard, the 2021-24 LCAP and the 2020-21 LCAP. A draft ESSER III Expenditure Plan was presented to the Board for feedback. The Board shared they would like continued academic and social/emotional supports for students; additional feedback from stakeholder groups; possible targeted HVAC support for certain sites; and a Special Board Meeting to be held for further discussion.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent Items #'s 18-22 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

18.a Out of the Tri-County and Ratification Field Trips

18.b Consideration for Disposal of Obsolete, Surplus or Unusable Books - Foothill Technology High School

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year

- 19.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments Through Various Education Codes
- 19.f Approval of Variable Term Waiver for Special Education Deaf, Hard of Hearing (DHH) Credential & CBEST

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

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

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a Coalition for Family Harmony MOU for 2021-22
- 21.b Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice MOU for 2021-22
- 21.c New Dawn Counseling MOU for 2021-22
- 21.d School on Wheels Inc. MOU for 2021-22
- 21.e Student Teaching and Practicum Agreements
- 21.f Ratification of Change Order #1, C2-22 Lemon Grove Classroom Playground Project
- 21.g Gifts to School District
- 21.h Ratification of Purchase Orders

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

- 22.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg thanked all VUSD staff and shared that he has enjoyed all of the back-to-school nights. Dr. Dannenberg noted his attendance at the Eastside Community Council Meeting where the new District Attorney spoke about the Center for Social Justice, which provides services to individuals experiencing domestic violence or other types of trauma.

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that she has enjoyed being part of the back-to-school nights and learning more about all of our schools.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez attended the DELAC Committee meeting and enjoyed the information Dr. Molinar provided. Ms. Rodriguez noted that Cynthia Frutos had participated for over a year in the planning of the Center for Social Justice that Dr. Dannenberg referred to. Lastly, she also gave a shout out to Tommy Duncan who was a real force behind that project.

Trustee Matt Almaraz shared that he visited several sites including Foothill, Cabrillo, Ventura and Montalvo and enjoyed being back on campuses again,

Trustee Velma Lomax shared that she has enjoyed attending the back-to-school nights via Zoom. Ms. Lomax also attended the Administrators Agriculture Dinner and shared that VUSD's own agriculture teacher Ms. Amy Lewandowski was the longest seated agriculture teacher in Ventura County.

COMING EVENTS

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice shared the following coming events:

- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: September 24 at 9:00 a.m.
- Parent ADVISORY Committee (PAC) Meeting: October 5 at 9:30 a.m.
- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting: October 7 at 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
- DELAC: October 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- Family Information Night: October 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Buena High School
- Back-to-School Nights:
 - September 22: Buena & Pacific
 - September 23: El Camino & Foothill
 - September 27: Ventura
 - September 30: Citrus Glen, Junipero Serra & Lemon Grove

Trustee Velma Lomax shared that there is an upcoming Ventura County School Board Association (VCSBA) meeting on October 18, 2021.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that she will be attending a Board of Director's Meeting on Thursday.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Redistricting
- ESSER III
- Independent Study

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

None.

CLOSED SESSION

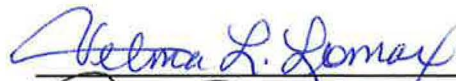
There was no need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

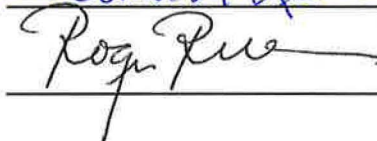
It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., to the next Regular Board Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 12, 2021.

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

APPROVED



President



Secretary

From: [M Solorio](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Quarantine Schooling
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:05:49 AM

Hello,

I am writing to the Board today to address the issue of kids put into home quarantine with no school materials. My 2 children were recently sent home because of a possible Covid contact at school. I was told by the contact tracer to contact my school directly to get assignments, and that every school was doing something different. Especially after programs such as Common Core, which are created to have consistency across classrooms, my first question is **How is it fair for every school to be doing something different?**

I made an email request of one teacher and a verbal request to another teacher to send materials, curriculum, homework or any other materials so that my kids would not fall behind. Only one teacher was able to send materials via school email. The materials sent were obviously from the packets back in Spring 2020 when kids were also sent home with nothing. I would also say that this teacher was going above and beyond in sending materials. This is not the teachers extra responsibility, but should be developed at the district level.

How are we to close the learning gap if kids are sent home on quarantine with no materials, old materials, and handouts? Why do we have 1-to-1 computer access and every kid has a Chromebook but no reason to use it? Why do we have chromebooks, when I am being sent an old photocopy as an attachment that I can only print out? Why have programs like CANVAS that were used during distance learning been left empty are taken apart and nothing assigned? Why are the links on VUSD website listed for Students empty links with no access?

Quarantine is not the same thing as being home sick. My kids were fully able and wanted to continue their studies. This seems exactly how a learning gap widens! Please come up with a better plan.

Michelle Solorio

From: [Denell Sullada](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- VUSD Quarantine Questions/Concerns
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:19:47 PM

Hello,

My daughter is a freshman at Ventura High and I'm writing to express my questions/concerns.

Is there a protocol / requirement for students absent with an illness to submit Corona virus test results? Specifically the concern is a mildly symptomatic student may return to school after a short time being ill without being tested. It seems, under an abundance of caution, that a validating testing requirement for students taking multiple sick days would be beneficial to the school/student body. I understand currently a student returning to school post-illness need not present a negative corona virus test upon re-entry. In order to stop the spread should we not require a test from every student returning?

The VCPH modified quarantine procedure appears to only address unvaccinated students. Evidence is showing and the CDC has stated that vaccinated individuals are being infected and carry the same viral load as the unvaccinated. As such it would seem the quarantine/modified-quarantine protocols should be equally applied to all students regardless of their vaccination status. Why are those vaccinated not required to adhere to quarantine protocols when exposed?

Thank you
Denell Sullada