

Ventura Unified
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 10, 2021
UNAPPROVED 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, August 10, 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
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as Amended pulling item 18.c.

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 Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:33 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. A Moment of Silence was held for Ms. Erica Conchas, a recent Foothill Technology High School graduate and the 2020-21 Senior Class President, who passed away on July 30, 2021.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

11.a Good News

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice shared his condolences for the family of Erica Conchas and stated that his thoughts and prayers go out to each of them.

Dr. Rice shared that the National Geographic Association of Ventura awarded a grant of \$100,000 in support of the Ventura River Action Network (VRAN). The focus of the VRAN is on our watershed. Middle and high school teachers will receive training and strategies in protecting our watershed and other resources. He congratulated everyone involved in securing that grant.

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to VACE for being awarded a \$415,000 Workforce Opportunity Act Grant. He thanked Principal Carolyn Vang-Walker for all of her hard work.

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to our Business Department, who has been working diligently towards getting indoor/outdoor furniture to our school sites and maximizing our outdoor spaced due to COVID-19.

Dr. Rice noted a great TK-12 Principal's Meeting that took place yesterday and stated how extremely proud of them he was. During the meeting, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro, along with Ms. Gina Wolowicz and Dr. Greg Bayless, led a great exercise where principals got the chance to share what they needed in order to be successful. It was a great way to collaborate with all team members.

Dr. Rice noted that this Thursday, August 12, is the VUSD Leadership Team meeting, which is an opportunity for members to challenge and inspire each other and an opportunity to build team work.

Lastly, Dr. Rice shared that he has been invited to Sa'Aliyas Ranch on August 30 to plant the first trees. He gave a huge shout out to Mr. Mike Etchart, Dr. Rene Rickard, Mr. Bill Elsenbaumer and the whole facilities team. He looks forward to students being able to take field trips there soon.

Board President Velma Lomax gave a shout out to Bill Elsenbaumer, the entire maintenance department, and Ms. Natali Gerardi for coming to the rescue for teachers who were scheduled to have sea glide training at a pool in the port, which had to be drained at the last minute. Not only did VUSD come through with a site for the pool, but facilities picked up and delivered three pallets of materials.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

None.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

14.a School Reopening Update

Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, Dr. Antonio Castro, gave a school reopening update. Dr. Castro noted that the Seamless Summer Feeding Option flexibility has been extended through the 2021-22 school year, giving free breakfast and lunch to all students. Additional costs are being covered through an increase in Prop 98 funding. This change eliminates the need for families to complete the federal food and nutrition forms. However, in order for VUSD to verify income status, which is important for other sources of funding that supply services to our students and families, we need to have families complete the LCPP Alternative Income form, also known as the "pink form."

Dr. Castro shared that all VUSD parents have received a 2021 In-Person Learning and Safety Plan and highlighted several of the items in the plan including that masks are required for all students and staff when indoors and are optional when outdoors and there are no requirements for physical

distancing. VUSD will begin the school year, allowing only essential personnel on campuses. Asymptomatic and fully vaccinated contacts, may not need to quarantine.

Dr. Castro shared that provisions for Distance Learning no longer apply, although engagement strategies through Independent studies may be similar. Independent Studies remains a voluntary program and extends from TK through 12th grade. Homestead will serve TK -8 independent studies programs. The FLEX program, typically for high school students only, has been extended to middle school students for the 2021-22 school year.

Dr. Rice interjected that he just received word that Governor Newsom will be announcing tomorrow a requirement for vaccinations for all teachers/staff or weekly tests.

14.b Presentation of Proposed Changes, Deletions or Additions to Board Policies and Administrative Regulation related to Educational Services:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Antonio Castro, shared that Board Policy 6175 on Distance Learning will be deleted. Board Policy and AR 6158 on Independent Studies has been revised for your review per AB 130. BP and AR will be brought back to the next Board meeting for board approval.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

15.a Consideration for Approval of Resolution #21-20, Reconfirming Acceptance of the Advisory Committee Recommendation Regarding District Real Property; Declaring Property Surplus; Declaring Intention to Offer Property for Sale; Authorizing the Solicitation of Sale Through a Bid Process (Action Requested)

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to approve Resolution #21-20 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 Permission to Declare an Emergency for Fire and Smoke Remediation, Repair Work, and Acquisition of Temporary Classrooms at Mound Elementary School (Action Requested)

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 unanimously declare the fire damage remediation and repair work in addition to procurement and installation of two temporary classrooms at Mound Elementary School as an emergency.

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

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

15.c City of San Buenaventura School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement for 2021-22

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave an update on the City of San Buenaventura School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement for 2021-22, which is up for renewal. Dr. Chandler shared that VUSD typically hires three School Resource Officers. The SRO's are trained in restorative practices, receive training in campus safety, dispute resolution, and educating and mentoring students. Data collection and progress monitoring have been added to the contract. The total cost of the contract is a little more than \$800,000, with VUSD paying a little more than half of that amount and the community of Ventura paying the difference. Dr. Chandler shared that SRO's are in addition to school counselors and social workers.

Ms. Cynthia Frutos, Director of Student Support Services, highlighted our SRO's Matt Thompson, Tony Gomez and Jayme MacLellan, who have been with VUSD for years. She shared that every year, the SRO's receive an additional 60 hours of required educational training and professional development. Ms. Frutos noted that our SRO's are now wearing a different type of uniform, which is

less threatening. Emily Graves, VPD's PIO, has created amazing videos with our SRO's on topics such as stranger danger, bike safety, and anti-bullying, which are posted on the VUSD website as well as the VPD's website. School Principals also use SRO's for bully prevention assemblies.

15.d Disposal of Obsolete and Surplus Buses and Vehicles (Action Requested)

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 disposal or sell of obsolete and surplus buses and vehicles 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 CALENDAR

Consent Item 18.c was pulled at the beginning of the board meeting. Board Trustee Amy Callahan requested that the following consent items be pulled for a separate discussion and vote: # 18.a, 18.b, 18.e, 18.f, 18.g, and 18.i.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent items # 16.a through 17.a, 18.d , 18.h, and 19.a as presented.

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

Item #18.a was pulled for additional discussion regarding the student information that will be shared for research and for clarity on the cost of the contract. Legal Counsel, Mr. Anthony Ramos, shared that CORE has executed a Student Data Privacy Agreement and it is incorporated into the contract.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent item #18.a as presented.

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

Item #18.b was pulled for additional discussion to clarify that library support services are supporting VUSD first before supporting other districts. Dr. Bayless clarified that it is often only for an hour here and there throughout the year outside of contract hours or flexed with contract hours to provide consulting.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent Item # 18.b as presented.

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

Item #18.e was pulled for questions regarding change orders and clarification as to why initial bids do not foresee all the issues that could arise. Dr. Chandler explained that often times, problems cannot be foreseen until they are in the process of the construction. Also, due to COVID, prices of materials have gone up.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent Item # 18.e as presented.

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

Item #18.f was pulled for additional discussion regarding the change orders that increased the final cost. Mr. Bill Eisenbaumer shared that additional items were found once they started blasting, sanding, and grinding on the deck.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent Item # 18.f as presented.

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

Item #18.g was pulled regarding the student desks that were listed for disposal or recycling asking if there is any way we can save them. Ms. Campbell shared that often times these desks are broken. The first step is to reuse, then second step is to recycle.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Consent Item # 18.g as presented.

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

Item 18.i was pulled for clarification on some of the Purchase Orders listed, as some of them are very large, including a purchase order for indoor furniture for over two million dollars. Dr. Chandler explained that many purchase orders are opened at the beginning of the year and any unused funds are released at the end of the year back into the budget. Dr. Chandler clarified that the indoor furniture needed to be purchased due to the social distancing requirement in the classroom.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 1 to approve Consent Item #18.i as presented.

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

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

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

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 17.a Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 18.a CORE Districts Agreement for 2021-23
- 18.b Moorpark Unified School District Library Support Services Agreement for 2021-22
- 18.c Student Teaching and Practicum Agreements
- 18.d Ratification of Change Order #1, C1-22 Lemon Grove Classroom Conversion Project
- 18.e Ratification of Change Order #1, C4-22 Ventura HS and Buena HS Pool Deck Repairs
- 18.f Notice of Completion for C4-22 Ventura HS and Buena HS Pool Deck Repairs
- 18.g Disposal of Obsolete and Surplus Equipment
- 18.h Ratification of Purchase Orders (July 7, 2021 to July 27, 2021)

CONSENT – SUPERINTENDENT

- 19.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

None.

COMING EVENTS

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice shared the following coming events:

- DELAC Meeting: August 19th at 6:30 p.m.
- SoCal Gas Community Forum August 21st 10:00 a.m.
- Celebrate: VUSD All-Staff Welcome Back Event at Buena, August 24th at 8:00 a.m.
- First Day of School: August 25th
- Parent Advisory Committee Meeting: September 7th at 9:30 a.m.
- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting: September 22nd at 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
- African American Parent Committee Meeting: September 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- HR Updates - August
- Chaperone Policy/Overnight Fieldtrips - September
- Redistricting - October

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

Trustee Amy Callahan shared her heartfelt sympathy with the Conchas family sharing that she would be contributing to their Go Fund Me account. She also gave a shout out to the Mound community and stated that she was here to help if needed.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez encouraged family, students and staff who have concerns with what this school year is going to look like, to please reach out to their principals. Ms. Rodriguez also encouraged everyone to watch the Public Health Webinar next week.

Trustee Matt Almaraz thanked Dr. Rice regarding the Declining Enrollment Committee that is coming together. He also asked parents to please read their back to school packets as information is changing daily.

Trustee Velma Lomax shared that she can hardly believe we are about to start school. She also shared that Vitamin D deficiency is on the rise due to a lot of people staying in doors due to COVID. Please encourage your family and children to get some sunshine.

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to Ms. Cynthia Frutos, Director of Student Support Services, who was selected as the new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for Fillmore Unified. He shared with the Board and the community how loved, appreciated, and cared for, Ms. Frutos was to VUSD and he wished her the best of luck.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to go back to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m., to the next Regular Board Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 24, 2021.

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

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

APPROVED

Velma L. Lomax President

Roger Rice Secretary