



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
June 8, 2021
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, June 8, 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 special Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel. Those in attendance were:

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
Outgoing Asst. Supt. /Cert. HR	Dr. Jeff Davis
Incoming Asst. Supt. /Cert. HR	Mr. Brett Taylor
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Antonio Castro
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 4 – 0 to approve as Amended the agenda, pulling item # 19.a.

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 6:01 p.m.

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

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

At 7:01 p.m., Board Vice-President Matt Almaraz called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

11.a **Good News**

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice introduced Ms. Petra McCullough, new Assistant Principal of Anacapa Middle School for the upcoming 2020 - 21 school year. Ms. McCullough thanked the Board and Dr. Rice for this opportunity and took a moment to introduce her family.

Dr. Rice then introduced Ms. Janee Wilcox, new Assistant Principal of Balboa Middle School for the upcoming 2020 - 21 school year. Ms. Wilcox thanked the Board and Dr. Rice for this opportunity and took a moment to introduce her family.

Dr. Rice gave kudos to Dr. Soledad Molinar for the work she has done with Migrant Education. Dr. Molinar shared information about the Migrant Speech and Debate Tournament organized by Ventura County Office of Education under the leadership of Mr. Joe Mendoza and the following Ventura Unified Students were recognized:

- Mr. Mauricio Gutierrez Silva, 1st place winner in the Middle School Debate/Spanish category
- Mr. David de Jesus Gutierrez Silva, 3rd place winner for the High School Debate/Spanish category
- Mr. Mauricio Gutierrez Silva, 1st place in the Middle School Speech/Spanish category
- Ms. Daisy Ramirez Santana, 2nd place in the Middle School Speech/Spanish category
- Ms. Isabella Rios, 3rd place in the Middle School Speech/Spanish category
- Mr. David de Jesus Gutierrez Silva, 1st place winner for the High School Speech/Spanish category

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to all site principals for the amazing job they are doing to celebrate the end of the year promotions and shared that he enjoyed attending Balboa Middle School and Anacapa Middle School promotions earlier that day.

Dr. Rice acknowledged the stellar work that Dr. Jeff Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources has done, and shared that he is moving on to be the Superintendent of Oak Park Unified School District and he looks forward to working together with him in the future.

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to Ms. Nancy Kellogg and Ms. Heidi House for their amazing dedication to the arts. For additional information, please visit <https://sites.google.com/venturaedu.org/vusdelementaryartandmusic/home?pli=1&authuser=1>

Dr. Rice acknowledged the hard work, commitment and professionalism of all employees retiring this year. A presentation was shared that listed all 2021 VUSD retirees. Ms. Andrea Crouch, Director of Classified Human Resources, mentioned that there will be a drive-through retirement celebration on Tuesday, June 15th, at 3:30 p.m. at Ventura Adult and Continuing Education (VACE).

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

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

- Dan Nelson* thanking Dr. Davis for all of his hard work with VUEA, wishing everyone a happy pride month, and thanking friends, family members, and pets for supporting all of us throughout the past year.
- Carol Peek* thanking Dr. Davis for his service, congratulating Liz Morgan for her retirement, and thanking the Education Support Professionals for their dedication, hard work and loyalty over this past year.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

14.a NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding the 2021-22 Proposed Budgets

A notice to the public was given regarding a public hearing to be held on June 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., at 5200 Valentine Rd, Ventura, CA, 93003 or via public streaming available at <http://bit.ly/TDCstudios>, to solicit the recommendations and comments of the public regarding the proposed 2021-22 budgets.

14.b NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

A notice to the public was given regarding a public hearing to be held on June 17, 2021, at 1:10 p.m., at 5200 Valentine Rd, Ventura, CA, 93003 or via public streaming available at <http://bit.ly/TDCStudios>, to solicit the recommendations and comments of the public regarding the proposed LCAP.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

15.a Presentation of the Proposed 2021-22 Budget

Ms. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Ms. Anna Campbell, Director of Budget and Finance, gave a brief overview of the proposed 2021-22 budget. Ms. Campbell reviewed the 2020-21/2021-22 Ventura Unified Budget Cycle Timeline, highlighting a 2021-22 Original Budget Hearing scheduled for June 17, 2021 and the 2021-22 Original Budget Final Report scheduled for June 22, 2021. Ms. Campbell shared data on VUSD's 2020-21 estimated actuals review, the 2021-22 original budget review, the 2021-22 emergency one-time funding and Federal and State COVID-19 related expenses.

15.b Ratification of Agreement Between Ventura Unified School District and Ventura Unified Education Association, COVID: Special Education Release Time Pay-Out November 13, 2020 (Action Requested)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to ratify the agreement between Ventura Unified School District and Ventura Unified Education Association, COVID: Special Education Release Time Pay-Out, November 13, 2020.

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

15.c Certification of Signatures (Action Requested)

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the Certification of Signatures for the new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Mr. Brett Taylor, from June 8, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

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

15.d Resolution #21-14, Urging the Public Utilities Commission, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, and Other State Agencies to Make a Full and Complete Review of the Environmental, Health, and Safety Issues Associated with the Southern California Gas Company's Compressor Site Located within the District. (Action Requested)

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as Amended Resolution #21-14, urging the Public Utilities Commission, the State Department of Toxic Substance Control, and other State Agencies to make a full and complete review of the environmental, health, and safety issues associated with the Southern California Gas Company's Compressor Site located within the district, allowing Dr. Rice to make minor grammatical changes.

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

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a Consideration for Adoption of a Textbook - Calculus for the AP Course

Dr. Greg Bayless, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, brought forth a textbook for the Board's consideration, *Calculus for the AP Course*. This request is generated from a change in the test from the College Board.

16.b Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Timeline Update

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, gave a brief update on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) timeline including a public hearing scheduled for June 17, 2021 and the request of LCAP approval scheduled for the June 22, 2021 Board meeting. The Board encouraged parents to participate in future LCAP meetings and VUSD surveys.

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

17.a Discussion Regarding the Fair Political Practices Act and Government Code Section 1090-California's Conflict of Interest Laws Applicable to Government Officials/Employees.

Dr. Roger Rice, Superintendent, led a discussion with the Board regarding the Fair Political Practices Act and Government Code Section 1090-California Conflict of Interest Laws Applicable to Government Officials/Employees. Due to Trustee Amy Callahan working for Renaissance Learning, Inc., and due to VUSD doing business with Renaissance Learning, Inc., a review was made and it has been determined that both the Fair Political Practices Act and Government Code 1090 will prohibit Ms. Callahan from taking part in any Board of Trustee decision regarding Renaissance.

Board Members noted that Ms. Callahan began her position as a Board Trustee, years after the district entered into a contract with Renaissance.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

18.a Reduction in Classified Positions/Layoff of Classified Employees, 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (Action Requested)

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the reductions of the identified positions and authorize the issuance of layoff notices for the Classified incumbents, pursuant to applicable sections of the VUSD/VESPA contract.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as Amended Consent items #19 c.-22; item # 19.a was pulled prior to going into closed session; item 19.b was pulled for discussion and a separate vote.

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

Board Members led a discussion regarding item 19.b. The following suggestions were made:

- All schools should consider creating a time capsule so that they can document this point in history for future students.
- Time Capsules should be waterproof.
- We need to create a good system to keep track of their locations.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to approve item 19.b as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

19.a Administrative Recommendation to Waive Board Policy 6146.1

19.b Consideration of Cabrillo Middle School Time Capsule

19.c Consideration of Will Rogers Elementary Rock Garden

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

20.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2020-21 School Year

20.b Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year

20.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year

20.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year

20.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments for 2021 Extended Year - Summer School Programs

20.f Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2020-21 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

21.a Classified Position Change

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

22.a Award of Bid C2-22 Lemon Grove (Blanche Reynolds) Playground

22.b Ratification of Final Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims Case No. GD202105

22.c Ratification of Final Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims Case No. WS202105

22.d Ratification of Final Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims Case No. 2021MR4

22.e Checks for April 2021

22.f Ratification of Purchase Orders (April 28, 2021 to May 11, 2021)

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg shared that he enjoyed spending time with the AVID students last week at Arroyo Verde Park for an end of the year celebration. This was the first time he was able to see the students in person this year and stated it was great to see some sort of normalcy.

Trustee Amy Callahan noted that she participated in the LCAP meeting on June 7, 2021. She also shared that the highlight of her year has been attending the Kindergarten and fifth grade promotions and celebrating our students, families and the teachers.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that she also attended the AVID lunch last week and stated it was wonderful to hear the student's excitement and gratitude for where they are heading and for their community that has invested in them to get there. Ms. Rodriguez also attended Cabrillo Middle's School concert last week and was wonderful to see the students performing again. Lastly, she encouraged everyone to visit Nancy Kellogg's website for art projects at <https://sites.google.com/venturaedu.org/elementaryart/home>.

Trustee Almaraz attended the art event virtually and really enjoyed it. Mr. Almaraz has also been attending the promotions and shared how exciting they have been.

COMING EVENTS

- Last Day of School: June 10th
- Teacher of the Month Celebration: June 11th at 8:00 a.m. – Ventura High School
- High School Graduations:
 - Buena: June 9th at 3:00 p.m.
 - Ventura: June 10th at 3:00 p.m.
 - Foothill: June 11th at 10:00 a.m.
 - El Camino: June 11th at 1:00 p.m.
 - Pacific: June 11th at 3:30 p.m.
 - VACE: June 11th at 5:30 p.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Public Hearing: Budget & LCAP - June 17
- Study Session: District Property - July 16
- Facilities Update - July
- Reviewing Board Policy - Naming of Facilities - July
- HR Updates - August
- Fall Reopening - TBD
- SRO's - August

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

Trustee Amy Callahan gave a shout out to her former teacher Mr. Siman on his retirement and years of service.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez gave a shout out to our staff and site leadership for making the end of the year so special for our students. Ms. Rodriguez also thanked our teachers and support staff for everything they have done during this very difficult year. Lastly, Ms. Rodriguez congratulated Dr. Danielle Cortes on her new position.

Trustee Matt Almaraz echoed Ms. Rodriguez in thanking the staff for their hard work over this past year. Mr. Almaraz thanked Dr. Davis for his service and wished him the best in his new position. Lastly, Mr. Almaraz offered his condolences to the family of Suzanne Kitchens who recently lost her battle with cancer.

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice welcomed Mr. Brett Taylor, new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Dr. Rice gave a shout out to all of our site Principals for supporting our teachers and Education Service Providers throughout this difficult year and for helping to make the end of the year events amazing. Dr. Rice gave a shout out to Ms. Anna Campbell and Ms. Rebecca Chandler for their hard work on the budget and in preparing the LCAP. Dr. Rice gave a shout out to Dan and Carol for their support through this very difficult year. Dr. Rice thanked Communications Coordinator Marieanne Quiroz for all of her hard work and expressed his appreciation. Lastly, Dr. Rice thanked Executive Assistant Ms. Amy Dahm for her hard work in keeping all of the end of the year events organized.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m., to the next Regular Board Meeting to be held on June 22, 2021.

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

APPROVED

 President

 Secretary