



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 29, 2021
APPROVED MINUTES**

OPENING PROCEDURE - Christa McAuliffe Room - 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The Special Board of Education meeting was held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at Ventura Unified School District, 255 W. Stanley Ave., Suite 100 in the Multipurpose room. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment via the public comments email address or in person at the address above. President Lomax called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. 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

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan 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 and Public Comment on Closed Session Item

The following individuals gave a public comment via email:

1. Sarah McLaughlin with concerns regarding board resolution #21-26 and continuing to hold board meetings virtually.
2. Sandra Martinez with concerns about continuing to hold board meetings virtual.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 9:09 a.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 - Christa McAuliffe Room - 2:50 p.m.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

ACTION ITEMS

11.a Consideration of Resolution #21-26, Continuing Board of Trustees Authority to Hold Virtual Meetings Pursuant to AB 361.

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #21-26, continuing Board of Trustees authority to hold virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 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: [Sarah McLaughlin](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Confused About Board Resolution #21-26
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:29:31 PM

Board of Trustees,

I am reviewing Resolution #21-26 and I am unclear about the need for board meetings to continue virtually. According to the text from the resolution, what you are describing is EXACTLY what a classroom is:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Ventura Unified School District finds that the Governor's March 4, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic remains active.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Ventura Unified School District finds that due to the state of emergency meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person due to the prevalence of the Delta variant, the indoor setting of meeting facilities, the potential presence of unvaccinated individuals attending meetings, the potential for noncompliance with mask wearing requirements, and desire to protect the health of immuno-compromised trustee(s), staff and the public.

Classrooms are generally indoors, have potential for noncompliance with mask wearing, have the potential of unvaccinated individuals (ALL elementary classes), and staff that may be immune-compromised. So what I hear you saying is that the health of teachers and staff that have contact with students do not matter and your health is more important than ours. This is the message that you are sending to the staff of Ventura Unified School District.

Sarah McLaughlin

From: [Sandra Martinez](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- VUSD board decision
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:46:03 PM

To the VUSD Board of Trustees:

My email is in regards to the following statement made by you, the Ventura Unified School District Board of Trustees...

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Ventura Unified School District finds that due to the state of emergency meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person due to the prevalence of the Delta variant, the indoor setting of meeting facilities, the potential presence of unvaccinated individuals attending meetings, the potential for noncompliance with mask wearing requirements, and desire to protect the health of immuno-compromised trustee(s), staff and the public."

I am appalled at the audacity of your statement and once again, feel completely disregarded and disrespected as a veteran elementary school teacher in this district. The words you used in the above statement describe exactly what every single teacher in this district is dealing with on a daily basis...we are at risk every day from this state of emergency, from this Delta variant. We meet in person every day in an indoor setting with the presence of unvaccinated individuals with the potential of noncompliance of mask wearing. We work with AND live with high risk immuno-compromised people.

If we as teachers are required to work in the above said atmosphere for 180 school days this year, then I would like you to join me. I am extending an invitation to each and every one of you to come and join me for one day in my classroom and shadow me. Please. In addition, you could meet with many of my coworkers during our 15 minute lunch break who share the same sentiments as me.

Thank you,

Sandy Martinez
J Serra School

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]