

Ventura Unified
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 8, 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, March 8, 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/88442032262?pwd=TjNMR3htYzVoY3hXdGRtY0NaZFZlQT09>

Those in attendance were:

Board President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Vice President	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
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
Asst. Supt./Human Resources	Ms. Gina Wolowicz
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. 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. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. Abstain: None.

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

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

A moment of silence was held for Mr. Tony Rojelio. Mr. Rojelio began his career with VUSD in 2002 as a School Bus Mechanic and recently retired in 2021. Mr. Rojelio was a retired US Marine and Vietnam Veteran. He was known for his stories and how he made everyone's day better with a smile and a friendly "Good Morning." VUSD transportation staff will always keep his stories, the sound of his laughter, and his smile in their hearts.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the public employment/appointment, pursuant to government code 54957(b), of the new Deputy Director of Special Education, Ms. Maya Vega-Manriquez.

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice thanked the Board for their support in the appointment of Dr. Vega-Manriquez. He is excited to add her to the VUSD team and looks forward to having her join us at the next Board meeting for introduction.

Dr. Rice shared that VUSD received a grant notice for the expanded opportunity program in the amount of over \$800,000.

Dr. Rice thanked Dr. Rene Rickard and Mr. Joe Bova for hosting the Rotary East Meeting last week at Sa'Aliyas Ranch, where Rotary members toured the ranch and explored opportunities for partnership.

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to Principal Anna Winslow for being re-certified as a Lighthouse School in the State of California. He thanked Ms. Winslow and her team for the wonderful work they do with the program.

Dr. Rice took the opportunity to recognize the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for the month of February. The Gratitude Awards were designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators associated with VUSD. There were a total of 75 submissions who will receive a certificate of acknowledgement. Five individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Student Board Members Karyme Fierros, representing Foothill Technology High School, and Danielle Shew, representing El Camino High School, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

Dr. Rice noted that Ventura Unified School District received correspondence from Ventura County Office of Education. The first was the approval of the 2020-21 VUSD audit extension. The second was the approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the agreement with the Ventura Unified Educators Association (VUEA) bargaining unit.

President Matt Almaraz shared that the board also received form 700 notices from the County of Ventura.

Public Comments

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

1. Deborah Meyer-Morris regarding item 16.b, asking why special education students are not excluded from the A-G requirements.
2. Christina Vanarelli* regarding item 17.a. and disagreeing with the written description of the agendized item.

ACTION ITEMS

14.a 2021-2022 Second Interim Financial Report Presentation

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as presented the 2021-2022 Second Interim Budget with a positive certification

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

14.b Ventura County SELPA Contracted Services

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the renewal of the contracted services through the Ventura County SELPA for general education behavior team as presented.

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

14.c Consideration of Resolution #22-06 Regarding Release of Certificated Temporary Employees for the 2022-2023 School Year

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as presented, Resolution #22-06, regarding the release of certificated temporary employees for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

14.d Consideration of Resolution #22-09 Regarding Reassign and/or Reduce Certificated Management Employees for the 2022-2023 School Year

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as presented, Resolution #22- 09 to reassign and/or reduce certificated management employees for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

14.e Consideration of Resolution #22-10, Continuing Board of Trustees Authority to Hold Virtual Meetings Pursuant to AB 361.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as presented, Resolution #22-10, continuing the Board of Trustees authority to hold virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361.

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

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

15.a City of Ventura Proposed Cannabis Locations Near VUSD Schools

Board President Matt Almaraz led a discussion with the Board concerning the City of Ventura's proposed Cannabis locations near VUSD schools. Dr. Rice shared a list of the proposed locations for Cannabis Business Permits that were posted on the City of Ventura's website. Dr. Rice and Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez, displayed two different maps of the proposed locations respective to our school sites. Trustee Rodriguez noted that the City of Ventura plans to choose two locations for a business permit during phase one, and an additional three locations during phase two, for a total of five new Cannabis locations.

The Board shared their concerns for five of the proposed locations, two on Main street between Cabrillo Middle School and Ventura High School, one on Mills Rd close to Pacific High School, and two on Victoria close to Montalvo School. There was consensus for Dr. Rice to write a letter to the City regarding these concerns.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a Consideration for Review of K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2021-22 School Year

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, gave a brief update on the K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Castro noted that the SPSA aligns with our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) priorities. This item will be brought back to a future meeting for Board approval. Once approved, the SPSA will be posted on the VUSD website and hard copies will be available upon request.

16.b College & Career Readiness

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Dr. Greg Bayless, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, gave an update on the College and Career Readiness/Indicator and on the UC/CSU, A-G Community College Dual Enrollment Career Technical Education (CTE). Dr. Bayless showed a comparison of VUSD graduation

requirements versus California State graduation requirements and explained the UC/CSU A - G minimum requirements. He noted that for all A-G courses, a grade of C or better is required and a final GPA of 2.5 for CSU and 3.0 for UC. Dr. Bayless also reviewed several reasons why students graduate without meeting A-G requirements.

Dr. Bayless and Dr. Rene Rickard, Chief Innovation Officer, reviewed information regarding CTE courses in VUSD. They noted that all CTE courses in VUSD are UC A- G approved and some courses also provide Honors or AP credit. They noted that in order to be counted as a CTE pathway completer, students must complete both a year-long Concentrator and a year-long Capstone course for a total of two years. They noted that Introductory courses do not count for CTE completion status.

Questions were asked regarding how CTE/A-G affects our Special education students. Dr. Rickard shared that there are many students with IEP's who participate in CTE pathways and are very successful. Superintendent Dr. Rice also shared that he has directed staff to hire staff at Sa'Aliyas farm that are qualified to teach special education students.

16.c High School Bell Schedule Changes 2022-23

Dr. Greg Bayless, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, presented information on Senate Bill (SB) 328 and site-based decision making determinations impacting the 2022-23 high school bell schedules. SB 328 is a new law starting in the 2022-23 school year, in which high schools may start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Dr. Bayless noted that per Article 27 of the VUEA/VUSD contract, school site employees (VUEA/VESPA) determine the bell schedule at each site. Dr. Bayless also noted that yearly Instructional minutes must add up to 64,800 with a minimum of 180 instructional days (state of CA) and the daily instructional minute average shall not exceed 365 minutes (VUEA/VUSD Article 8J). Dr. Bayless reviewed the High School schedules for Buena, Foothill, and Ventura High for the 2021-22 school year and the changes that will be made to the 2022-23 school year.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

17.a Washington School Property Discussion

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave a brief history of the Washington School Property which was used by Ventura Unified School District as a school site from 1924-1980. Dr. Chandler noted that in 1999, VUSD entered into a lease with Ventura County Christian School (VCCS) for 20 years. The lease was then extended for two years, and in October 2021 was extended through June 2022. In the original lease with VCCS, it was agreed upon that VCCS would put money into building improvements in lieu of rent. However, VUSD did not find any records with the state architects that building improvements have been done and found only three building permits with the City of Ventura. Dr. Rice shared that VUSD is currently in the process of negotiating with VCCS for a fair market price and is negotiating another lease extension, allowing the Board, District and VCCS additional time to make further decisions.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent item #'s 18 to 22 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 18.a Poinsettia Elementary School 'Roar Respect' Mural
- 18.b Pacific High School 'Los Colores de la Cultura' Mural
- 18.c Administrative Recommendation to Waive Board Policy 6146.1(High School Graduation Requirement)
- 18.d Overnight, Out of the Tri-County and Ratification Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.e Approval of Administration's Recommendation of Employment Status Changes for 21-22 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

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

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a Permission to Solicit Bids for C6-23 - Roofing at Various Sites
- 21.b Permission to Solicit Bids for C7-23 - Juanamaria Asphalt
- 21.c Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 21.d Ratification of Check Payments

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

- 22.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Velma Lomax noted her attendance the Declining Enrollment Committee last week, where they nominated a chair and co-chair. Ms. Lomax also attended the Ventura County School Boards Association (VCSBA) meeting last night.

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg noted his attendance at the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting where they discussed the three summer sessions that VUSD will be offering. He also attended the VCSBA meeting last night and the teacher of the Month celebration that took place recently at Junipero Serra.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez noted her attendance at the Special Education Department Advisory Committee (SEDAC) meeting and the Ethnic & Social Justice Steering (ESJS) Committee meeting. Ms. Rodriguez shared that she enjoyed being a volunteer at the Ventura High School Senior Ball and that it was great seeing all of the students. Ms. Rodriguez also attended the VCSBA meeting last night, took part in Read Across America week and attended AVID at Foothill High School.

Trustee Matt Almaraz noted his attendance at the VCSBA meeting last night. He also attended the Declining Enrollment Committee meeting last week where they names James Forsythe as Chair and Mike Johnson as Co-Chair.

COMING EVENTS

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice shared the following coming events:

- Special Board Meeting: March 14 - Board Priorities
- LCAP Meeting: March 23 at 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

- Teacher of the Month: April 1 at Pacific High
- Spring Break: April 4 – 8 - No School

Trustee Lomax shared that she will be involved in the Robotics competition this weekend.

Trustee Rodriguez shared that there are several middle school music programs coming up this week on Wednesday and Friday as well as a music festival on March 14.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

There was Board consensus to add an item to the Special Board meeting on March 14th, for Board consideration to authorize VUSD staff to write a letter to the City of Ventura regarding potential use of City Council Chambers for Board Meetings.

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

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that her thoughts go out to all who are involved with the war going on in Ukraine and she hopes that we can all have peace soon.

Trustee Matt Almaraz shared that he would like to see a Resolution passed asking for peace and denouncing war. He also wished his niece a happy 6th birthday and his grandfather a happy 97th birthday.

Trustee Velma Lomax shared that the County Board of Supervisors has designated the month of March as First Robotics Month.

CLOSED SESSION

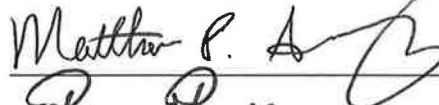
There was no reason to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

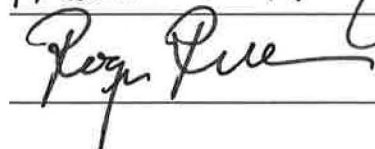
It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m. to the next Regular Board Meeting to be held on March 22, 2022.

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

APPROVED



President



Secretary

Dahm, Amy

From: Public Comment
To: morrispartyof4@
Subject: RE: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Fwd: BOE Agenda 3.8.22; public comment 16.b A-G, CTE

From: morrispartyof4@
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 3:54 PM
To: Public Comment <public.comment@venturausd.org>;
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Fwd: BOE Agenda 3.8.22; public comment 16.b A-G, CTE

Dear Superintendent and Board of Trustees:

Unfortunately, I can not give this public comment in person due to a conflict, however, this is equity item was one main platforms from my 2018 school board campaign. When I received this agenda I sincerely expected to see the exclusion of special education students from A-G classes, guided studies chocking out MS and HS electives, and CTE pathways that don't lead to gainful employment discussed, however, none of these issues were.

In Ventura County in 2019 -2020 this was the picture of A-G completion by SpEd students versus all others, notice it is the bottom most ballon with only 9% of females and 8% of males completing coursework to enter CSUCI or UCSB systemwide 4 yr public universities out of high school. However, based on the scant information I was able to locate on the CDE Dashboard and elsewhere, VUSD's rates are lower.

At its next board meeting in two weeks the CSU is planning to eliminate SAT/ACT testing for admissions and adopt new admission criteria. However, completion of A-G is a baseline requirement, without completing these courses OVER 90% of special education students are in eligible to apply. This includes students who are disabled due to medical conditions, hearing, blindness and mobility charges, as well as students with more invisible disabilities like autism or mental health issues.

Under the proposed new admissions criteria to CSU all college bound students will need to have access to rigorous coursework, and three years of math, dual enrollment and AP classes in order to be compatible for admission as many schools and programs are impacted.

However, SpEd students were not only left out of the graphic regarding barriers to A-G completion and career readiness, their warehousing in guided studies, a sham elective that they are forced to take in lieu of an actual elective in MS and HS prevents them from accessing 4 years of potential A-G electives in HS, yet it was not even referenced as a barrier for A-G completion experienced by disabled students. This omission is quite telling because it continues to reflect that out dated bias, structural and institutional barriers and prejudice against disabled students in VUSD which prevents them being seen as lawyers, scientists, teachers, or any other careers that require a college degree.

Guided studies is not an elective, especially when it is one teacher who is not a math specialist sitting in a classroom with 25 students of varying math abilities, a muktitude of disabilities for 45 minutes unable to provide meaningful math intervention for them.

I can say this with all sincerity as the parent of a student who was forced into guided studies as an elective, but was still unable to get meaningful help for math learning disability while taking A-G math courses. As a result, we still had to pay a private math teacher to help her learn the curriculum and do her homework twice a week for four years of high school. Meanwhile, she tested into honors English, and the guided studies teacher couldn't help her with that homework either. My point is there is no such thing as an average disabled student. Students are as unique as their disability profiles, and as is required by their IEPs, are entitled by law to an IEP that is designed to meet their unique educational needs. It is time for VUSD to reframe its guided studies warehouse class and stop segregating SpEd students by denying them space in their schedules to complete A-G courses, including electives. Access denied is opportunity denied.

Also, pupil services needs to break out of its silo and start collaborating with Kerry Newlee and Marcus about UDL and breaking down these types of institutional barriers that are so entrenched in VUSD ableist policies that SpED students' unique barriers to A-G completion aren't even noticed.

Sincerely,
Deborah

Deborah Meyer- Morris, M.A.
Attorney


Ventura, CA 93004