



Ventura Unified
SCHOOL DISTRICT

VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 22, 2022
ADOPTED 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 22, 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/81880140521?pwd=VUFBQytWSXNrMWZ2UkVleW1RQTRFZz09>

Those in attendance were:

Board President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Vice President	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
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. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as Amended the agenda with the following changes: Item # 11, Good News introduction of the new Deputy Director of Special Education will need to be postponed and item # 16.a will be pulled and brought back at a future board meeting.

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

Noes: None. Absent: None. 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 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:03 p.m.

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

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

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

At 7:04 p.m., Board President Matt Almaraz called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the public employment/appointment, pursuant to government code section 54957(b), of Dr. Soledad Molinar as the new Director of Elementary Education.

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice congratulated Ventura High School student Sara Milesi, who was selected as a First Dean's List Finalist at the Ventura County Regional Robotics competition held in Port Hueneme March 9-12. Sara has been a member of team 3925 since her freshman year and has been invited to the World Championship in Houston in April, where she will compete with finalists from across the globe to become one of ten Dean's List winners for 2022.

Student Board Members Ella Haas, representing Buena High School, Logan Bobis, representing Ventura High School, and Nina Segura, representing VACE, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following people gave public comments via email or live via Zoom*:

1. Ruben Galindo* regarding the need for new leadership in the VUSD Technology department.
2. Carol Peek* thanking the VESPA negotiations team and all Education Support Professionals for everything they do for our sites.

ACTION ITEMS

14.a Administrative Recommendation for Student Expulsion

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the administrative recommendation for student expulsion regarding student #22-09.

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

14.b Approval of A-G Improvement Grant

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, reviewed A-G plan requirements, timelines, eligible expenditures, and shared an overview of how VUSD plans to use the \$1,093,980 grant allocation.

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the A-G Improvement Grant as presented.

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

14.c Approval of K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2021-22 School Year

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement for the 2021-22 School Year as presented.

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

14.d Consideration for Approval to Enter into a Contract with Hanover Research

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to enter into a contract with Hanover Research as presented.

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

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

14.e Consideration of New Position - Director of Expanded Learning

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Director of Expanded Learning position as presented.

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

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

14.f Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - 2022 Summer School and 2022 Extended School Year Programs

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Ventura Unified School District and Ventura Unified Education Association Memorandum of Understanding for the 2022 summer school and 2022 extended year programs as presented.

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

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

14.g Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Educational Support Professional (VESPA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - 2022 Summer School and 2022 Extended School Year Programs

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Ventura Unified School District and Ventura Educational Support Professionals Association Memorandum of Understanding for the 2022 summer school and 2022 extended year programs as presented.

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

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

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

15.a Consideration for Review of History Social Science Instructional Materials for Grades 6-8

Dr. Greg Bayless, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, gave a presentation on new Middle School History-Social Science (H-SS) Curriculum and a brief overview of the pilot/adoption process was discussed. Dr. Bayless noted that the state of California has approved the use of six H-SS materials and that two of those, National Geographic Learning and Teachers' Curriculum Institute, were the two chosen as part of the pilot program. A set of criteria for evaluating the curriculum was discussed for both the state of California and for VUSD's pilot/adoption recommendation criteria. The committee recommended unanimously to recommend the Teachers' Curriculum Institute as the new MS H-SS Curriculum. The committee recommended purchasing the digital licenses for English/Spanish and class sets. This item will be brought back to a future meeting for Board approval.

15.b Student Voice Update

The Board requested that the Student Voice Committee Board Appointees, schedule a planning meeting with students for their input and then bring back a plan for Board consideration at a future Board meeting. A few principals shared how they have implemented student voice on their campuses.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

16.a Salary Schedule Review - Principals

This item was pulled and will be brought back to a future board meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items 17 - 21 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 17.a Pacific High School "Endangered Animals" Mural
- 17.b Approval of 2021/2022 District Industry Advisory Board Roster
- 17.c Overnight and Out of the Tri-County Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 18.a Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 and/or 2022-23 School Year
- 18.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Reemployment of Adult Education Teachers and Substitutes
- 18.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 18.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-22 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

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

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 20.a Award of Bid E22-1 Related to Telecommunication Services
- 20.b Award of Bid E22-2 Related to Telecommunication Services
- 20.c Ratification of Change Orders
- 20.d Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 20.e Ratification of Check Payments

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

- 21.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg noted that he took part in delivering Gratitude Awards last week and shared that it was great to see staff recognizing each other. Dr. Dannenberg spent time in Ms. Laurie Curtis-Abbe's class at Anacapa as they were preparing for their trip to the Museum of Tolerance. He attended the Social Justice presentation on Asian-Pacific Islanders and commends staff for putting that together. Lastly he attended the Eastside Community Council meeting. Dr. Dannenberg shared that council member Mike Johnson, who is also on the Declining Enrollment Committee, shared that VUSD will be/or needs to be closing down schools. Dr. Dannenberg shared his concerns as the Board has not heard any information regarding that. He therefore requested a Declining Enrollment committee update at a future board meeting.

Trustee Velma Lomax shared that she is on the Declining Enrollment Committee and that although closing schools is a possibility for anyone in Declining Enrollment, it was not discussed for VUSD. She stated that a chair and co-chair were just elected and the committee has not been given a charge of exactly what they are expected to do. Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez added that the Declining Enrollment Committee Chair made the same statement as Mike Johnson at a different meeting she attended with him this week.

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that our LCAP meeting is tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend. Ms. Callahan noted that there is a lot of interest around Declining Enrollment. Ms. Callahan shared that she was attending the Board meeting tonight in person at VACE in preparation for when we all return to in-person meetings. Lastly, she attended the CALSA Leadership network with her daughter and hopes that we will send a team next year to attend.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez noted her participation in California School Board Association's (CSBA) Legislation Action Week where she had the opportunity to meet with Jacqui Irwin's Team, Steve Bennet and Senator Lemon. They discussed important legislation that is impacting our schools. Ms. Rodriguez took part in the art show committee. She noted that there will be a VUSD art show at the museum on June 4 with 75 pieces showcased. Lastly, she attended the Ethnic & Social Justice class where she had a great discussion with students.

Trustee Matt Almaraz noted his attendance at the Legislation Action Week along with Trustee Rodriguez.

COMING EVENTS

- LCAP Meeting: March 23rd at 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
- African American Parent Committee Meeting: March 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
- Special Ed District Advisory Committee Meeting: March 25th at 9:00 a.m.
- Declining Enrollment Committee Meeting: March 29th at 5:30 p.m.
- Teacher of the Month: April 1st at Pacific High
- Spring Break: April 4th – 8th - No School

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Student Data - TBD
- Board Priorities - TBD
- Student Voice - TBD
- Declining Enrollment Committee Update - TBD

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

Trustee Callahan encouraged the public to attend one of the So Cal Gas Forums, offered both in-person and virtually. She shared that information was shared out through Parent Square.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez noted that March is a long month in the school year and asked that everyone be extra kind to all staff when visiting sites.

Dr. Rice shared that he had a great time distributing Gratitude Awards this morning. He gave a special shout out to Principal Tyner at Pierpont who was one of the recipients. He shared that the entire school came outside to congratulate Mr. Tyner and that it was a lot of fun.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board returned to Closed Session at 9:35 p.m. No action was taken.

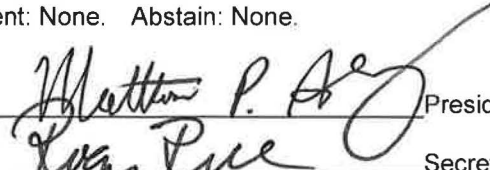
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m. to our next Regularly Board Meeting to be held on April 12, 2022.

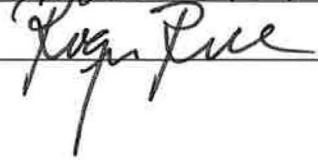
Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax

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

APPROVED



President



Secretary