



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 24, 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, May 24, 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/8507255523?pwd=S2t1YUFocVRJbkp0ZEVpSzcrZWowUT09>. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Vice President	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Ms. Velma Lomax
Board Member	Mr. Calvin Peterson
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 Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as Amended the agenda with the following changes: Item 16.a will be moved up on the agenda between items 10 and 11; Item 15.d will move up to 15.a; a moment of silence was added.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

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 go to closed session at 5:33 p.m.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

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

At 7:01 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was held for the victims of the Uvalde School shooting earlier today.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the public employment/appointment, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b), of Mr. Neil Virani, as the new Executive Director, Special Education.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice welcomed Ventura Unified School District's new Board Member, Mr. Calvin Peterson, and thanked all applicants for their interest in serving on the Board. Dr. Rice congratulated Ms. Anna Campbell, Director of Fiscal Services and her team for the amazing work they have done completing the audit. He also congratulated all of the retirees and gave a shout out to Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Ms. Andrea Crouch, and Ms. Jacky Lopez, for their incredible work organizing the retirement celebration that took place yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Rice congratulated Mr. Neil Virani, new Executive Director of Special Education, and shared that he would be invited to our next Board meeting for a formal introduction. Dr. Rice introduced Mr. Robert Ruiz, new Principal at Anacapa Middle School, Dr. Deborah Martinez, new Principal at Montalvo Elementary School, Mr. Thomas Gaeta, new Principal at Sunset School, and Ms. Terri Allison, new Director of Maintenance and Operations.

Student Board Members Karyme Fierros, representing Foothill High School, Sierra Sanchez Rosales, representing Pacific High School, and Sophia Green, representing El Camino High School, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites. Dr. Rice then presented the Student Board Members with a plaque in appreciation and recognition of excellent service. The respective principals took a moment to thank their students for their service. The Board thanked the students and then asked for feedback regarding their experience and suggestions for the program in the future.

Trustee Callahan took a moment to introduce Ms. Aarya Maroly, a DATA Middle School Student, who shared about her entrepreneurship journey to design, create, and sell earrings.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

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

1. Steve Strong regarding special education pay concerns.
2. James Forsythe* thanked Dr. Rice for his service as Superintendent and congratulated him on his retirement. He also welcomed new Board Trustee, Mr. Calvin Peterson.
3. Dan Nelson* congratulated Mr. Calvin Peterson on his new position and shared thoughts on the end of the school year.
4. Carol Peek* congratulated all retirees and thanked them for their service and gave a shout out to all Education Support Professionals. Ms. Peek shared that she is thankful and grateful to be the VESPA President.
5. Matt Almaraz* congratulated Mr. Calvin Peterson on his new position and Dr. Rice on his retirement. He noted that the Board needs to prioritize school safety.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

14.a NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding 2022-23 Proposed Budgets

A public hearing will be held June 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at 5200 Valentine Rd., Ventura, CA, 93003 or via public streaming available at <http://bit.ly/TDCStudios>, to review the 2022-23 Proposed Budgets. The budgets will be on display for public review from June 1, 2022 to June 7, 2022 at 255 W. Stanley Ave., Ste. 100, Ventura, CA 93001 or on the District's website in the Business Services section at <https://www.venturausd.org/services/business-services>

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

A public hearing to review the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) will be held June 7, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at 5200 Valentine Rd., Ventura CA 93003 or via public streaming available at <http://bit.ly/TDCStudios>. This public hearing is being held to solicit the recommendations and comments of the public regarding the proposed LCAP.

ACTION ITEMS

15.a Consideration of Transitional Kindergarten Instructional Materials (First Reading)

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, shared that the current Transitional Kindergarten (TK) curriculum is discontinued and there is no longer access for teachers or families. Dr. Castro noted that the TK program will be expanding over the next three years and new curriculum is necessary. Four programs were reviewed and two were chosen to be piloted. The curriculum chosen by the Pilot Team was *PreK On My Way* (Scholastic).

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Transitional Kindergarten instructional materials as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

15.b Consideration of a Supplementary Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum - Second Step (First Reading)

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Ms. Maria Elizarraras, Director of Student Support Services, and Ms. Cheryl Burns, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, presented information on Second Step, an evidence based social emotional learning (SEL) program for TK-8th grade students. The SEL program aligns with academic standards and SEL competencies. Second Step provides schoolwide practices as all adults have common language and practices and reinforce skills and strategies. A tentative timeline for full implantation was presented.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the supplemental SEL curriculum as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

15.c Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Special Education Teacher on Special Assignment (First Reading)

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Ms. Velma Lomax and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the VUSD and VUEA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Special Education Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for the 2022-23 school year as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

15.d Consideration of Resolution #22 -21, Ordering an Election to Authorize the Issuance of General Obligations Bonds, Establishing Specifications of the Election Order, and Requesting Consolidation With Other Elections Occurring on November 8, 2022. (First Reading)

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Mr. Jon Isom, Financial Advisor, led a discussion on Resolution #22 -21, calling for the placement of a school improvement General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$434.5 million on the November 8, 2022 ballot in order to finance the improvement of classrooms and school facilities within the bond resolution provisions. This election would be under the terms of Proposition 39, which requires a 55% majority vote in order to be approved.

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 1 to approve Resolution #22-21, Ordering an election to authorize the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, establishing specifications of the Election Order, and requesting consolidation with other elections occurring on November 8, 2022 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson
Noes: Ms. Amy Callahan. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

15.e Consideration of Resolution #22-18, Ordering a Regular Governing Board Member Election, Ordering Consolidation with Other Elections, and Constituting "Specification of the Election Order" to be Held on November 8, 2022. (First Reading)

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #22-18 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

15.f Consideration of Board Priorities for the 2022-23 School Year

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 Board Priorities for the 2022-23 school year as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

16.a Presentation of Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 by External Auditor Clifton Larson Allen, LLP

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, introduced Mr. Taylor Ullrich, a representative of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP of Glendora California, to present a formal presentation of the Audit Report. Mr. Ullrich reported that financial statements taken as a whole *present fairly* the financial position in conformity with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principals).

16.b Governors May Revise Budget

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave an update on the Governors May Revise Budget. Dr. Chandler noted that the revenues came in 55 billion more than estimated in January. A comparison of funding from the Governor's Budget and the May Revise was reviewed, showing an increase of LCFF Funding from \$3.3 billion to \$6.1 billion, an increase if COLA from 5.33% to 6.56 %, and an added \$8 billion in one-time discretionary funds. Dr. Chandler reviewed the 2022-23 LCFF funding factors, discussed projected COLA's through the 2024 -25 school year, Expanded Learning Opportunity Program Infrastructure funding, and changes to Universal Transitional Kindergarten, Child Nutrition, and CalPERS employer contribution rates.

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

17.a Discussion of Search for Superintendent

Board President Sabrena Rodriguez, presented a draft Superintendent search timeline, created in conjunction with Trustee Velma Lomax and Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. A community, staff, and Board panel will conduct interviews. New to the process is the addition of a student voice on both the staff and community panel. Interviews are scheduled to take place on June 20 and June 21.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items #18-21 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 18.a Ratification Field Trips
- 18.b Administrative Recommendation to Waive Board Policy 6146.1(High School Graduation Requirement)
- 18.c Administrative Recommendation to Waive Education Code Section 51241 (Permanent Exemption from Physical Education)

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments 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 Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 School Year
- 19.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments for 2022 Extended Year-Summer School Programs

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 20.a Classified Position Changes
- 20.b Revisions to Exempt Salary Schedule
- 20.c Classified Personnel Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a El Camino Eagle Pride Mural
- 21.b Award of Bid C3-23 HVAC at Various Sites (Juanamaria, Junipero Serra)
- 21.c Ratification of Change Orders
- 21.d Notice of Completion for C522 Ranch
- 21.e Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 21.f Ratification of Check Payments

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Velma Lomax noted that she is working with Oak View Community and Supervisor Matt Levere regarding the old Oakview School. She shared that as they get further in the process she will give additional updates.

Trustee Callahan shared that she attended Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) meeting.

Trustee Dannenberg thanked all retirees for giving years of service to the District.

Trustee Rodriguez shared that she attended the final Special Education Department Advisory Committee (SEDAC) meeting, where they had the opportunity to say thank you to Marcus Konantz and to hear suggestions from parents for next year.

COMING EVENTS

- AAPC Meeting: May 25th at 5:30 p.m.
- VHS Spring Music Concert: May 26th at 7:00 p.m.
- BHS Spring Music Concert: June 1st at 6:30 p.m.
- Teacher of the Month Celebration: June 1st at Balboa
- VUSD District Art Show: June 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- LCAP & Budget: June 7 & 28
- Board Travel & Conferences: July 12
- Healthy Schools Program: TBD

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

The Board shared their deep condolences for the families and communities of Buffalo New York and Uvalde Texas.

CLOSED SESSION

None.


ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m., until our next Regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on June 7, 2022.

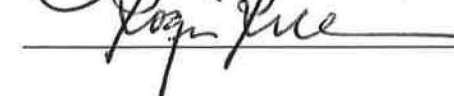
Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Velma Lomax, Calvin Peterson

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

APPROVED



President



Secretary

From: [Strong, Steve](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Special Education Concerns
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:21:32 PM
Attachments: [Good evening VUSD Board members.docx](#)

Good evening VUSD Board members, my name is Steve Strong I am a special Education teacher at Ventura High School. I sincerely appreciate each of you and your commitment to our students. On May 19 2020 Article 31 regarding special education was signed by then A.S. Betsy George and A.S. Jeff Davis, case managers were given 10 days of release time for the assessments, various IEP and case management duties etc., we perform daily beyond our regularly paid hours. As the logistical nightmare of acquiring subs...for the coverage needed an MOU was proposed and agreed upon whereby we would receive paid time for those 10 days. Being under the false assumption that that would carry into subsequent years, and after repeated attempts to navigate the bureaucracy, we received an email today denying our request. I believe the school district missed a golden opportunity to show not only goodwill, faith, care and consideration for the teachers of students with special needs. The logistical nightmare I spoke of earlier has reached critical mass, with the lack of available and qualified subs this year worse than ever.

As teachers of students with special needs I believe we have endured more stress, and anxiety this past few years while trying to care for our "kids" It is apparent in teachers faces every day, as well as the workload that has increased with no end in sight.

A simple gesture to pay the "sub" rate while keeping us in the classroom taking care of our students, is the least the district could have done!

Thank you for listening/reading please email or call me if I may clarify anything more clearly.

(Including that last sentence)

Steve Strong

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Steve.strong [REDACTED]

Steve Strong
Special Education Room 23
Ventura High School
2 N. Catalina St
Ventura, CA 93001

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[REDACTED]