



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
June 7, 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, June 7, 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. 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

*Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez was traveling and attended Regular Session via phone.

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 6:02 p.m.

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

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

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the public employment/appointment, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b), of Ms. Lindsay Guzik, as the new Assistant Principal of Cabrillo Middle School.

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice welcomed Principal Mike Wise from Loma Vista and a few of his students who presented on their recent 5th grade outdoor education trip to the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI). The students included Brianna Munoz, Madeline Heller and Jordan McCarthy.

Dr. Rice introduced the new Cabrillo Middle School Principal, Ms. Courtney Johnson, the new Juanamaria Elementary School Principal, Ms. Anna Belitsky, and the new Poinsettia Elementary School Principal, Ms. Melanie Morrow.

Dr. Rice thanked our athletic directors who have worked diligently throughout the year. Mr. Dave Hess, athletic director from Ventura High School, Mr. Sean Strople, athletic director from Buena High School, and Mr. Jamaal Brown, athletic director from Foothill High School, gave a brief update on the amazing athletic accomplishments that happened over this past year at their respective sites.

Dr. Rice acknowledged the hard work, commitment and professionalism of all employees retiring this year. A presentation was shared that listed all 2022 VUSD retirees.

Dr. Rice took the opportunity to recognize the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for the month of April. The Gratitude Awards were designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators associated with VUSD. There were a total of 29 submissions who will receive a certificate of acknowledgement. Four individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

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

1. Jack Malone regarding the need for mandatory masking.
2. Cara Hill regarding the Healthy Schools Program.
3. Linda Blackburn* regarding a Uniform Complaint she filed.
4. Carol Peek* thanking the Education Support Professionals and congratulating the graduating seniors.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

14.a PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

A public hearing was conducted to solicit the recommendations and comments of the public regarding the proposed LCAP. School districts and County Offices of Education are required to develop, adopt, and annually update the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), using a template adopted by the California State Board of Education. Adoption of the Ventura Unified School District LCAP is scheduled for June 28, 2022. The LCAP can be reviewed at <https://www.venturausd.org/about/lcap>. There was no public comment.

14.b PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding 2022-23 Proposed Original Budget

A public hearing was held to solicit the recommendations and comments of the public regarding the proposed 2022-23 Budget. The budgets were on display for public review from June 1, 2022 to June 7, 2022 at 255 W Stanley Ave, Ste 100 Ventura, CA 93001, and on the District's website in the Business Services section at <https://www.venturausd.org/services/businessservices>. Adoption of the Ventura Unified School District 2022-23 Original Budget is scheduled for June 28, 2022. There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

15.a Request for Board Approval of Proposed Changes to Board Bylaw related to Board of Education (First Reading):

There was Board consensus to pull this item until all five Board Members are present to vote.

15.b Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Health Technicians (First Reading)

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Education Support Professionals (VESPA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Health Technicians for the 2022-23 school year as presented.

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

15.c Consideration of Resolution #22-22, Continuing Board of Trustees Authority to Hold Virtual Meetings Pursuant to AB 361.

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice noted that we would be returning to in-person Board meetings at the ESC beginning June 28.

It was moved by Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to approve Resolution #22-22, continuing Board of Trustees authority to hold virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361 as presented.

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

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Advisory Report

Dr. Soledad Molinar, Director of Elementary Education and Multicultural/Multilingual Education, presented the English Language Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Advisory Report. Dr. Molinar was joined by several members of the DELAC committee including Rosa Alvarez, Lourdes Cardona, Jaime Honorato, Maria Honorato, Carlos Meta, Araceli Razo and Danna Lomax. The DELAC advisory report included progress towards DELAC goals and DELAC recommendations for English Learner programs in VUSD. The information is then used by the Multilingual/Multicultural department and school sites for district planning for the upcoming 2022-23 school year.

16.b Healthy Schools Program

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave an update on the Healthy Schools program and shared ways that VUSD is expanding the Healthy Schools activities. Dr. Chandler shared that through Sa'Aliyas Ranch, they are hiring a TK-8 grade TOSA to help develop lessons to be used at the ranch or the school site. In addition, a .50 FTE Support Specialist will be hired to schedule fieldtrips to the ranch, and a Special Education Career Specialist to help integrate the special education classes at the Ranch. Dr. Chandler noted that we still have a .50 FTE Healthy Schools Employee to support classroom education. Dr. Chandler shared that the funding from the CTE grant will allow us to serve all students, where the Healthy School Project was only able to serve students in Title 1 schools. Dr. Chandler noted that fieldtrip funding is written into the CTE grant.

16.c 2021-2024 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Overview and Discussion

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, led a discussion regarding the LCAP including a review of the goals. Dr. Castro noted that the Board took action last year, to approve a 3-year LCAP for 2021-2024. He noted that the LCAP is a living document and therefore brought back to the Board annually for approval. Dr. Castro shared that for the first time, the state has included a Mid-Year Update, which was brought to the Board in February 2022, which included all actions in progress, all expenditures to date, and updated metrics. The LCAP will continue to be updated through June 28, when VUSD will request compliance feedback and approval from Ventura County Office of Education. Dr. Castro noted that a critical element of the LCAP is stakeholder engagement, which is included in the final version of the LCAP.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

17.a Presentation of the Proposed 2022-23 Original Budget

Dr. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, gave a brief overview of the proposed 2022-23 budget. Dr. Chandler reviewed the 2021-22/2022-23 Ventura Unified Budget Cycle timeline and the projected budgets for 2022-23, 2023-34, and 2024-25. Dr. Chandler noted the ESSER III money that is included in the 2022-23 budget. Next Steps are to finalize the 2022-23 budget for review on June 28 and submit to VCOE for final approval on June 30. A revised budget will then be brought back to the Board in August based on actuals from the Governor.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent items 18 to 22 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 18.a 2022-2023 Designation of CIF Representatives to their Respective Leagues for Buena, Ventura and Foothill
- 18.b Overnight and Out of the Tri-County Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year
- 19.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 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 for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2021-22 and/or 2022-23 School Year
- 19.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments Through Various Education Codes
- 19.f Approval of Variable Term Waiver for Speech - Language Credential
- 19.g Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments for 2022 Extended Year-Summer School Programs
- 19.h Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2021-22 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 20.a Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a Award of Bid C8-23 Redbid Asphalt at Juanamaria
- 21.b Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 21.c Ratification of Check Payments

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

22.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez thanked all of the staff and families that came out to support the art show.

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg thanked all of the staff for all of the end of the year events such as the art show and award nights.

COMING EVENTS

- Declining Enrollment Committee Meeting: June 13th at 5:00 p.m.
- VUSD End of the Year Staff Event: June 20th at 5:00 p.m.
- VUSD Summer Programs:
 - June 20th – June 30th
 - July 5th – July 29th
 - August 1st through 12th

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- LCAP & Budget - June 28
- Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Update - June 28
- Universal Pre-K - June 28
- Board Travel & Conferences - July 12
- School Safety Update - July 12
- I.T. Program Audit - August
- Board Self-Evaluation & Survey - TBD
- 5th Grade Outdoor Education - TBD

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

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice thanked everyone involved with putting on all of the end of the year events including the music concerts, art shows, and senior award nights. Dr. Rice also recognized Mr. Anthony Ramos, Legal Counsel for VUSD, who was attending his last Board meeting before he retires. He thanked him for his professionalism and dedication to VUSD and shared his appreciation for all of his 17 years of service.

CLOSED SESSION

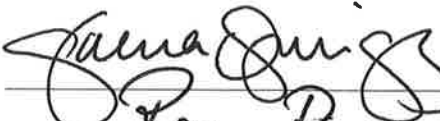
There was no reason to return to closed session.


ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m., until the next Regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on June 28, 2022.

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

APPROVED



President


Secretary

From: [Jack Malone](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Need for mandatory masking in schools
Date: Monday, June 6, 2022 8:58:22 PM

Honorable Ventura Unified School Board,

I am a resident of Board of Education Trustee Area 3 and my daughter attends Foothill Technology High School. She has been a student in the Ventura Unified School District since kindergarten.

Our experience with the Covid-19 pandemic over the last two years and the rise in infections and hospitalizations that we have seen in Ventura County make it clear that use of masks should be required indoors in schools for the remainder of the school year to protect students, teachers, employees, and the community. I'm sure we all agree that it is far better for students to be at school instead of learning remotely, but that doesn't mean that we should ignore reality. Living with Covid-19 does not mean ignoring Covid-19, and simple measures like universal masking when indoors on school campuses can help protect students and the community and keep students learning in person rather than remotely. I have received generic messages from my daughter's school every day for the past few weeks notifying us that one or more students have tested positive for Covid-19. Because there is no contact tracing, we are never informed whether the students who tested positive were close contacts. In fact, the only way we find out if students in her classes have Covid-19 is through word of mouth as students talk to each other or through their social media accounts. Universal masking is even more important when infections are so widespread that the District is unable to perform any meaningful contact tracing in schools.

The latest Covid-19 data released by the County through May 31, 2022 shows a 7-day average case rate of 29.2 per 100,000 people and a 7-day testing positivity rate of 9.7%. Hospitalizations increased 23% since the previous weekly report. Experts have agreed that case and positivity rates are likely greatly underestimated because of under reporting of at-home test results. The next weekly data will be available on June 7, and it may show even higher indications of wide spread within the community.

I am aware that the County has not required masking indoors, but that does not mean that the Board cannot fulfil its duty to serve the students by requiring masks indoors for the remainder of the school year. School attendance is compulsory for children, unlike dining at restaurants and any other recreational or commercial indoor activities. Because school attendance is compulsory, we are obligated to provide a higher standard of protection for students than we are for adults who can make decisions about the levels of risk associated with non-mandatory activities. The County Department of Health has demonstrated a lack of leadership throughout the pandemic that was all too common in all levels of government. At the federal, state, and

local levels elected officials declined to make decisions and instead deferred to guidance from other agencies. The Board has an obligation to protect the students in the Ventura Unified School District. Multiple school districts in California and the UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo have reinstated indoor mask mandates to protect students and the community. I ask that the Board fulfill its duty to the students and require indoor masking for the remainder of the school year.

Thank you,

Jack Malone

Dahm, Amy

From: Public Comment
To: Hill, Cara
Subject: RE: Healthy Schools

From: Hill, Cara <Cara.Hil [REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Public Comment <public.comment@venturausd.org>
Subject: RE: Healthy Schools

To the VUSD School Board Members, I would like to show my support for the Healthy Schools Program in the hopes that you will expand it or at least maintain it for the coming school year and beyond. Specialists, like Ms. Ashley Parrish Decker who bring in cooking lessons, lessons on local agriculture and help us to learn how to garden and maintain a garden are invaluable to our school community. Her program and work help support the health of our students and their families. During Covid, the program still managed family cooking nights and ingredient deliveries! This program is one of the special programs that comes to our Title 1 school whose beneficial results are immediately felt and seen. Our Garden at Sheridan Way is a stunning example of hands on learning across the curriculum. Thank you, Cara Hill

Cara Hill, teacher
Ventura Unified School District

Sheridan Way Elementary School
573 Sheridan Way
Ventura, California 93001
[REDACTED]

For the future of every student

