



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 9, 2021
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, February 9, 2021, 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 special Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel. 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
Asst. Supt. /Certificated HR	Dr. Jeff Davis
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

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 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 on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 6:01 p.m.

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

At 7:00 p.m., Board President Velma Lomax called the regular meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice gave a shout out to the following:

- Teachers and support staff for the amazing work they are doing. Dr. Rice stated that he appreciated their hard work and dedication.
- Principal Carlos Cohen and the Ventura High School staff who received a six-year accreditation status through June 30, 2027, by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).
- Cabrillo Middle School students Kiran Maserang, Brynn Gray, Emily Gonzales, Bea Barnes and Lucca Boccali, for being accepted into the prestigious All-State Honor Band.
- Ventura High School students Mattie Rowlands, Nikhil Maserang and Kyler Shinn for being accepted to the prestigious All-State Symphony Orchestra.
- Ventura High School students Kate Fallon, Lizbeth Ramirez, Martie Pecht, Adam Van Leeuwen and Josh Stuart for being accepted into the All-State Band.
- Mr. Hunt and Mr. Boccali for the stellar work they do for their students and their community.
- Buena High School's Drama Department for their Production of School Picture Day, led by Mrs. Karen Rodriguez; it was absolutely hilarious and the characters were incredible.
- Ms. Lauri Curtis-Abbe for inviting him to attend a virtual fieldtrip with her students to the Peterson Automotive museum.
- Ms. Sarah Page and Ms. Darcey Duffey for their commitment to the AVID program at Foothill Technology High School.

Student Board Members Elizabeth Ferris representing Foothill, Ulises Mercado (subbing for Emanuelle De Jesus) representing Pacific and Danielle Shew representing El Camino, gave a brief update on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment via e-mail:

1. Bonnie Galindo encouraging the Board to choose Montalvo Arts Academy as the new East end K-8.
2. Anne Garo sharing that the Montalvo Staff is in favor of making their school the new K-8.
3. Cassie Lawhead encouraging the Board to choose Montalvo as the new East end K-8 school.
4. Cody Foster requesting the Board to hold off on returning secondary students to the classroom until teachers have had the chance to become vaccinated; to increase secondary small groups; and to use inclusive language during Board meetings.
5. Andrew Skeath sharing strong support of Montalvo being chosen for the East end K-8.
6. Trinity Durborow sharing recommendations for the LCAP.
7. Erin Slack in support of making Montalvo a K-8.
8. Annette Walters sharing the difficulties with Hybrid learning and urging the Board to opt for an a.m./p.m. model in the fall if we are still unable to return to full time in-person learning.
9. Alfonso Valdez urging the Board to return to in-person learning as children's mental health is at risk.

The following individuals gave a live public comment via Zoom:

1. Karen Rodriguez requesting the Board review the Zoom camera policy and consider making it mandatory for students to leave their cameras on during class.
2. Johnny Kubelka asking the Board to focus on improving our Distance Learning program in order to inspire our students and get them engaged.
3. Alfonso Valdez sharing the difficulties with Distance Learning for his three children and urging the Board to return to in-person learning.

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

14.a Consideration to Approve the Board of Education Governance Handbook (Action Requested)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the adoption of the Board of Education Handbook.

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

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

14.b **Ballot for California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly (Action Requested)**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve cast their vote for Jeri Mead and Mathew Almaraz as representatives to the CSBA Delegate Assembly from Subregion 11-B.

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

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

15.a **Career Technical Education (CTE) Update**

Dr. Rene Rickard, Chief Innovation Officer, shared that courses in Career Technical Education (CTE) provide numerous benefits including providing students with hands on learning experiences, helping students make informed decisions about their paths after graduation and to prepare for skill-based careers. Dr. Rickard added that CTE courses are taught by credential teachers with industry experience, are UC A-G approved and students are able to earn industry certifications that lead to employment opportunities.

CTE Pathways currently available at our high schools are: (<https://vusdcareereducation.org>)

- Buena High School offers CTE Pathways in Cabinetry, Millwork and Woodworking, Welding, Auto, Drama and Stagecraft, Environmental Resources, Culinary and Video Production.
- Ventura High School offers CTE Pathways in Cabinetry, Millwork and Woodworking, Welding, Auto, Choreography, Environmental Resources, Patient Care, Robotics, Culinary and Video Agriculture.
- Foothill Tech High School offers CTE Pathways in Bioscience, Design Tech Academy, Education, Software and System Development and Visual Commercial Art.
- El Camino High School at Ventura College offers CTE Pathways in CAPS Media.
- Pacific High School offers CTE Pathways in Graphic Arts.

Mr. Joe Bova, CTE Principal on Special Assignment, highlighted the Automotive Pathway at Ventura High, the Culinary Pathway at Buena High, and the Bioscience Pathway at Foothill.

Mr. Mike Etchart, Agriculture Teacher and Farm Manager, gave an update on Sa'aliyas Ranch, which will be part of an Agriculture Pathway and will include a five-acre working farm behind Pacific High School. Over 300 avocado trees, 200 citrus trees and a green house have already been ordered and he is preparing to purchase an aquaponics system. More information can be found on their website at <https://saaliyasranch.com>.

Dr. Rickard shared that CTE has received incentive grants for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year totaling \$1,274,226 and a Smart Farm grant totaling \$200,000 over three years to develop agriculture curriculum for programs at Sa'aliyas Ranch. CTE has also received several strong workforce grants totaling \$2,225,157. Lastly, CTE has been awarded a \$6,455,912.22 Facilities Grant, but this has not yet been funded by the State of California.

Upcoming CTE events include:

- "VUSD's Got Skills- Let's Share Them" video contest which ends on February 16, 2021; fifteen, one hundred dollar prizes will be awarded.
- Industry Advisory Board Meeting on March 11, 2021.

15.b **Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)/Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan Process Update**

Dr. Soledad Molinar, Director of Multilingual and Multicultural Programs gave an update on our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Dr. Molinar shared VUSD's LCAP Goals: Increased student achievement for all students while decreasing performance gaps, provide a safe and secure environment for all staff and students and to increase parent and community involvement.

Dr. Molinar shared that the LCAP Process includes four phases. First is the Development Phase which we are currently in. At this phase, VUSD engages stakeholders, conducts a data analysis and reflection process, and writes the Plan. The second is the Adoption Phase where a Public Hearing is held to solicit public input and a public meeting is held to adopt the LCAP, the budget, and to report on local indicators. The third phase is the review and approval phase followed by the fourth phase, implementation.

Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (K-5), gave an update on the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP) Process. Ms. Wolowicz shared ways in which stakeholder engagement, collaboration, communication and customer service are provided. This includes Webinars; public streaming of Board meetings, events and advisory meetings; VUSD Call Center; Mucho mas que miercoles; Special Education Advisory Committee meetings; regular paraeducator meetings, and a tiered system of re-engagement. Ms. Wolowicz also discussed the many professional developments that have been offered, initial learning loss strategies that are currently in place, and next steps.

15.c **African American Parent Council Update**

Dr. Soledad Molinar, Director of Multilingual and Multicultural Programs, introduced members of the African American Parent Council (AAPC) including Ms. Robin Freeman, Mr. Clinton Cody, Ms. Dakota Corey, Ms. Bobby Richards and Ms. Leisa Oden -Kurz. Dr. Molinar shared that the AAPC was created 2019 and began by inviting all families with Black and African American students to come together to review models used by other Districts, create agreements, name the group, and define membership and a mission statement.

Mr. Clinton Cody shared the AAPC Mission Statement: "African American Parent Council (AAPC) is a group of parents committed to holding VUSD accountable for:

- Nurturing students for academic success
- Promoting positive educational and social experiences for our children
- Building relationships with the community to support our children
- Celebrating the strengths and unique experiences of Black students in VUSD. "

The AAPC helps VUSD Black students to connect with other organizations in our community to build relationships with other Black students. One way they have done this is by partnering with Oxnard Union High School District for fieldtrips with the Black Student Union and Young Black Scholars. Ms. Freeman shared that last year she worked with Dr. Cortes and they were able to purchase a variety of Black Literature to share with the AAPC and provided copies for each school library. Last March, the AAPC had their first "Making Family Connections Potluck," which allowed for families to come together and make connections. The AAPC continues to focus on family leadership, more opportunities for family connections, further learning opportunities, social emotional learning and providing safe spaces, data collection and target supports, professional development and policy review.

Board Members asked the members of the AAPC what VUSD could be doing right now for our students. The AAPC shared that we need representation of Blacks in our curriculum, to be more innovative in the classroom, continued staff trainings, to build relationships with members of the communities and to make the resources on our website more transparent for parents.

15.d **Consideration to Revise Board Policy 6145 Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities (Action Requested)**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the revision of BP 6145 Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities to extend the Athletic Probation period for ineligible students per California Assembly Bill AB 908.

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

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

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

16.a Educational Options: East Ventura K-8 Program

Ms. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services shared that Atlas & Montalvo presented their petitions to become the VUSD East end K-8 site during the February 12, 2020 board meeting. Ms. Chandler gave the Board the opportunity to ask any questions they may have before bringing the agenda item back as an action item on the next Board meeting scheduled for February 23, 2021. Principal Winslow from Atlas and Principal Caudill from Montalvo both addressed the Board as to why they would like to be chosen as the site for the future East Ventura K-8.

16.b Surplus Consideration of District Properties

Ms. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, shared that the Board received the 7-11 Committee's Report and recommendations on surplus property during the November 10, 2020 board meeting. Since that time, VUSD has retained an experienced School District real estate advisor, Mr. Jerry Suiche, to help VUSD make informed decisions on the surplus properties by undertaking a Due Diligence Investigation. Once this process is complete, the findings will be brought back to the Board for their consideration. Ms. Chandler shared eight items that will be part of the Due Diligence Investigation. The Board added that they would like to have a timeline for potential entitlements included in the findings.

ACTION ITEMS

17.a "Sunshine" of Initial Contract Proposals from Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) to Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) for Collective Bargaining

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the adoption of the contract proposals presented from VUSD to VESPA.

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

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

17.b "Sunshine" of Initial Contract Proposals from Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) to Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) for Collective Bargaining

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 adoption of the contract proposals presented from VUSD to VUEA.

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

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

17.c Approval of K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2020-21 School Year

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2020-21 School Year.

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

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

17.d Approval of K-12 Schools and Adult Education Comprehensive Safety Plans for the 2020-21 School Year

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the K-12 Schools and Adult Education Safety Plans for the 2020-21 School Year.

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

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

17.e **Approval of New and Revised Career Technical Education (CTE) Courses**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the New and Revised Career Technical Education (CTE) Courses as presented.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as Amended consent items 18 to 22, pulling item 22.a. to address the Roll Call.

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

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 18.a Consideration of Early Intervention Center Playground Mural

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year
- 19.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2020-21 School Year
- 19.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2020-21 School Year
- 19.d Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year
- 19.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year
- 19.f Approval of Administration's Recommendation of Employment Status Changes for 20-21 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 20.a Classified Personnel Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a Checks for January 2021
- 21.b Ratification of Purchase Orders (January 13, 2021 to January 26, 2021)

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

- 22.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes
- 22.b Board Appointed Committees
- 22.c Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg shared that he attended the LCAP meeting on February 9. Dr. Dannenberg also continues to enjoy the AVID mentor program that is held on the first Friday of the month. Lastly, he attended the new Budget Oversight Committee last week and shared that VUSD is going to have to make a more than 10 million dollars in cuts over the next few years. He emphasized the importance of looking at ways we can cut expenses to make it as easy as possible.

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that she attended the Ventura County School Board Association (VCSBA) School Budgets and Financing Session with the other members of the Board. Ms. Callahan attended the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) where there was a lot of discussion around counseling and what school would look like for the fall. Lastly Ms. Callahan took part in both sessions of the LCAP meeting and looks forward to having more people to take part in future meetings.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that she attended the AVID mentor program this past week where they talked about bucket lists. She shared that it was very powerful to hear the students ideas as well as their mentors and thanked Ms. Sarah Page and Ms. Darcy Duffy for having those conversations. Ms. Rodriguez also attended her first California School Board Association Board of Director's meeting two weeks ago. The group spent one day discussing Governance issues and how to work together as a Board and the second day discussing legislation and how we can work together to lift up all the school districts.

Trustee Almaraz shared that he attended the VCSBA's School Budget and Finance meeting and gave kudos to the Board as they were the only one that had their entire Board in attendance including Dr. Rice. He attended the Athletics Committee Meeting and wanted to thank Dr. Jeff Davis, Mr. Eric Reynolds, the athletic directors, high school principals, Ms. Tina Perez, Desmond Webster and Dr. Greg Bayless for what they have been doing to put together the best opportunities for our sports teams this year. Soon Cross Country will begin, with the guidelines of no more than 14 athletes participating and only two teams competing at a time. The committee is currently looking into using some of our sites for the runners to use as they typically use our city/county parks which are not available. Mr. Almaraz attended the CSBA New Beginning Workshop. Mr. Almaraz listened to Ventura High alum, Mr. Ramsey Jay Jr. who was the host of the BOSS awards (Business of Students of Success) and learned all about the difference he is making in the community. Mr. Almaraz watched the Ventura High School Cheer performance this past Saturday night. He attended the Chamber of Commerce Board elections and Michelle Newell from Renewal Energy was voted in as their new President. He attended last night's City Council meeting, along with other Board members. He was on a townhall meeting with Assembly Member Steve Bennett, Senator Monique Limon and Congressman Salud Carbajal that talked about vaccines. He attended the Mental Health Partnership meeting today where Mr. Ken Barrow from the Diversity Collection spoke about some of their amazing services such as the Rainbow Umbrella and their Aids and HIV Education and Prevention Program. Also at the meeting today was Schools on Wheels with Regional Coordinator Chris Walsh and Allison Maldonado, which provide free tutoring and mentoring to children living in shelters, motels, vehicles and the streets in southern California.

Trustee Lomax shared that she attended many of the committees that have already been discussed. She added that she has been busy working with the Navy and the Department of Defense, procuring over \$245,000 for STEM remote events for students for the rest of this year which includes the Hackathon By The Sea, the Seaglide (under water robots), Lego Build Day and Middle School Exploration. Ms. Lomax is gathering information together and will have Ms. Marieanne Quiroz send it to all VUSD teachers so that students can participate in these wonderful STEM events.

COMING EVENTS

- Ethnic & Social Justice Studies Committee Meeting February 10 at 4:00 p.m.
- President's Day February 15 - No School
- African American Parent Committee Meeting February 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- DELAC Meeting February 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- Lincoln's Birthday February 22 - No School

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Board Policies Update
- Mental Health and Counseling Services
- East End K-8
- 7-11 Discussion on Surplus Properties
- Distance Learning Protocols
- Human Resources Update

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

Trustee Rodriguez thanked all of our staff for doing an amazing job of being available to our students and families. She added that she cannot say enough about their love and support of our communities' kids.

Trustee Almaraz wanted to apologize for a previous comment he made where he said Diversity Collection as he meant to say "Diversity Collective". He also wanted to thank Dr. Rice for his desire to grow VUSD's CTE program and for hiring the prior CTE Director Ms. Rebecca Chandler who is now our Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and our current Director Dr. Rene Rickard. Mr. Almaraz looks forward to seeing everything that Dr. Rice can do when we don't have all of these set backs in our way.

Trustee Lomax also shared that she is excited to see what Dr. Rice can do when he is not facing all of these obstacles. Ms. Lomax thanked TDC Studios for all of there hard work and for always making us look good. Ms. Lomax added that we may want to look into having a workshop or special meeting to meet with the Special Education staff.

Dr. Rice seconded what Trustee Rodriguez shared about the professionalism of our staff, especially our education support providers.

Trustee Callahan thanked all the staff at VUSD and shared that she feels honored to be a part of this community. Ms. Callahan gave a shout out to all of our counselors who are so exceptional and wanted to say thank you as a Board member and as a parent.

CLOSED SESSION

None

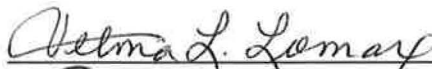
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve that the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:53 p.m. to the next regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 23, 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