



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 13, 2022  
ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the ESC Board Room, where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment in person. The public streaming of the Regular Board meeting was made at <https://www.youtube.com/@VenturaUnifiedSchoolDistrict/streams>. 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. Antonio Castro
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Greg Bayless
Asst. Supt/Human Resources	Ms. Gina Wolowicz

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Velma Lomax\*. Abstain: None.

\*Ms. Lomax was absent from the vote.

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

There was no public comment on closed session items.

**Motion to go to Closed Session**

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:05 p.m.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Velma Lomax\*. Abstain: None.

\*Ms. Lomax was absent from the vote.

**REGULAR SESSION - Board Room - 7:00 p.m.**

At 7:13 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez 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, pursuant to Government Code Section 54857(b), of Mr. Ahsan Mirza, as the new Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

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

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

It was moved by Ms. Velma Lomax, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the public employment, pursuant to Government Code 54957(b), of Ms. Bobbi Powers as the new Director of Secondary Education.

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

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

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### 11.a Presentation of Outgoing Board Member, Ms. Velma Lomax

The Board of Education, along with Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro, had the honor to recognize and present a gift of appreciation, to outgoing Board Member Ms. Velma Lomax after 29 years of service on the Board of VUSD.

The following people gave a public comment regarding Item 11.a, presentation of outgoing Board Member, Ms. Velma Lomax:

1. Carol Peek
2. Diane Perez
3. John Walker
4. Debbie Golden
5. Kathy Asher
6. Marianne Quiroz
7. Sara Melessy
8. Matt Almaraz
9. Darcey Duffy
10. Matt Levere
11. James Forsythe

### 11.b Oath of Office

The following individuals took an Oath of Office:

1. Mr. James Forsythe, new Board Trustee for Trustee Area 1, elected to a four-year term.
2. Mr. Calvin Peterson, re-elected Board Member for Trustee Area 5, elected to a four-year term.
3. Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, re-elected Board Member for Trustee Area 4, elected to a four-year term.

## Superintendent's Report

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for November. The Gratitude Awards were designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators associated with VUSD. There were a total of 33 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Four individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Student Board Members Nathan Arthur, representing Buena High School, Gino Cesares representing Pacific High School, and Mateo Navarro, representing Ventura High School, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

## Correspondence

### 13.a Ventura County Office of Education

Board President Sabrena Rodriguez noted correspondence received from Ventura County Office of Education, which included the 2021-22 William's Settlement Report and the William's Lawsuit Settlement.

## Public Comments

The following individuals gave a Public Comment:

1. Kai Cruz thanked the district for coming to a Tentative Agreement.
2. Steve Strong thanked the Board for listening to the unions and reaching a Tentative Agreement; he also gave kudos to Special Education Director, Mr. Neil Virani.
3. Ben Kohn regarding agenda item #16.e sharing that he does not approve of the supplemental novel *Stamped*.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### 15.a Annual Organizational Meeting of the Governing Board - Election of Officers

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to approve Sabrena Rodriguez as the President of the Board of Education until the next Annual Organization Meeting to be held in December 2023.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to approve Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, as the Vice-President of the Board of Education until the next Annual Organization Meeting to be held in December 2023.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

### 15.b Selection of Dates and Times of Regular Scheduled 2023 Board of Education Meetings

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to approve the 2023 Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2023 regularly scheduled Board Meetings as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

### 15.c Certification of School Board Representation for the County Committee on School District Organization

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Mr. James Forsythe as the School Board representative to vote in election for members of the County Committee.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

### 15.d Board Representation of Board Appointed Committees

The Board of Education led a discussion regarding which committees they would like to be involved with. There was Board consensus to bring a final draft back to the January 10, 2023, Board of Education meeting for final approval.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 16.a Certification of Signatures

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Certification of Signatures as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

**16.b 2022-23 First Interim Financial Report**

Ms. Anna Campbell, Director of Fiscal Services, presented an overview of the first interim report. A Positive Certification was requested.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the 2022-23 First Interim Financial Report as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

**16.c Revisions to Exempt Salary Schedule**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the revisions to the Exempt Salary Schedule as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

**16.d Approval of Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Waivers**

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Waivers as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

**16.e Consideration of a Supplemental Novel Recommended by the Supplemental Novel Adoption Committee (Full-Committee Review - First Read)**

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Greg Bayless, shared information regarding a supplemental novel titled *Stamped*, being recommended by the Supplemental Novel Adoption Committee. Dr. Bayless noted that this novel would not be mandated and is not part of the curriculum. Dr. Bayless added that there would be training for teachers who offer this book and it would only be offered in a stand-alone Ethnic and Social Justice Studies (ESJS) High School course. There was Board consensus to bring this agenda item back for approval as our next regularly scheduled board meeting, allowing time for the supplemental book to be available to parents for review.

**16.f Consideration of Resolution #22-44, Continuing Board of Trustees Authority to Hold Virtual Meetings Pursuant to AB 361**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #22-44, continuing Board of Trustees authority to hold virtual meetings, pursuant to AB 361.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe

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

**16.g Consideration of Resolution No. 22 -45, in Response to the Demand for Cure and Correction from the Law Firm Bamieh & De Smeth, PLC, Regarding the Board's Closed Session Meeting Held on May 24, 2022**

Resolution No. 22-45 was read in it's entirety by Board President Sabrena Rodriguez.

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #22-45, in response to the Demand for Cure and Correction from the Law Firm Bamieh & De Smeth, PLC, regarding the Board's Closed Session Meeting held on May 24, 2022.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe  
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

#### CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**17.a Attendance Awareness Poster Contest**

Ms. Maria Elizarraras, Director of Student Support Services, and Ms. Cheryl Burns, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, shared information on a recent Attendance Awareness Poster Contest within VUSD and highlighted the winning posters in four categories: grades Tk-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-12, and staff entries.

**17.b Consideration of Restructuring Fine Arts and Applied Arts Credits**

Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, shared information about restructuring VUSD Fine Arts and Applied Arts graduation requirements. Dr. Bayless noted that currently, students must have 10 units (one year) of fine arts and 10 units (one year) of applied arts to graduate. Dr. Bayless would like to change the requirement to state that students must have 20 units (two years) of either fine arts or applied arts or a combination of both. The rationale behind this change is that it would increase the following: alignment to the California Dashboard College/Career indicator; alignment to UC A- G; CTE Pathway completion; UC A-G rates above the minimum; elective access for SPED, EL, and credit recovery students; multi-year arts; and decrease requests to waive local graduation requirements.

#### CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

**18.a Ventura County Office of Education Williams Settlement Report 2021-22**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Ms. Gina Wolowicz noted the receipt of the 2021-22 William's Settlement Report and shared that we are in compliance in all categories.

**18.b Ventura County Office of Education Quarter 1 Williams Report 2022-23 Fiscal Year**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Ms. Gina Wolowicz noted the receipt of the Quarter 1 Williams Report for the 2022-23 school year. Ms. Wolowicz shared that there is only one school listed and they were in compliance in both categories.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent item #22.a was pulled in order that Trustee Callahan could recuse herself from the vote. Consent item # 23.a was pulled as Trustee Forsythe is new to the Board and did not attend the previous Board Meetings. Items 22.d through 22.f and 22.h through 22.k, were pulled for a separate discussion.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent item #22.a as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe  
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Ms. Amy Callahan.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent item #23.a as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson  
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Mr. James Forsythe.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items 19.a through 21.b and 22.b through 22.l as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe  
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

**CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

- 19.a Overnight, Out of the Tri-County and Ratification Field Trips

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated**

- 20.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year
- 20.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2022-23 School Year
- 20.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year
- 20.d Approval of Administration's Recommendation of Employment Status Changes for 22-23 School Year

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified**

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

**CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES**

- 22.a Ratification of Purchase Orders, Contracts, and Checks - Limited
- 22.b Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 22.c Ratification of Check Payments
- 22.d Permission to Solicit Bids for C3-24 Pacific HS Temporary Portables
- 22.e Permission to Solicit Bids for C4-24 CalSHAPE Plumbing at Various Sites
- 22.f Permission to Solicit Bids for C5-24 CalSHAPE HVAC Maintenance at Various Sites
- 22.g Ratification of Change Orders
- 22.h Notice of Completion for C6-23 Roofing at Various Sites - EP Foster Annex
- 22.i Notice of Completion for C2-23 ATLAS K-8 Conversion
- 22.j Award of Construction Management Contract for C1-24 Fencing at Various Sites
- 22.k Permission to solicit bids for C2-24 Juanamaria HVAC
- 22.l Will Rogers Elementary School "We Are the Change" Mural

**CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT**

- 23.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

**BOARD REPORTS**

President Sabrena Rodriguez shared that the Board attended the California School Board Association Annual Education Conference (CSBA AEC) conference earlier this month and asked Board Members to send in their

reports to Ms. Amy Dahm to become part of the minutes. Ms. Rodriguez also shared that she met with a solar panel company and brought pamphlets to share with the Board.

Trustee Amy Callahan noted that she attended the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting along with Trustee Dannenberg.

**COMING EVENTS**

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro shared the following coming events:

- African American Parent Committee (AAPC): December 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- Winter Break – December 19 through January 2
- Parent Advisory Committee Meeting (PAC) – January 3 at 9:30 a.m.
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) – January 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Board President Sabrena Rodriguez shared that Buena High School’s drama club is having their production of a "Not so Silent Night" and Cabrillo Middle School is having an upcoming music performance.

**FUTURE BOARD ITEMS**

- Board Travel & Expenses - January 10
- Emergency Preparedness, March 14

There was Board consensus to add the following future agenda items:

- Bond Updates - January 10
- Staffing Updates - January 10

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

Board Member Mr. James Forsythe thanked the Board and staff for welcoming him and his family to VUSD and for help with the onboarding process.

Board Member Ms. Amy Callahan wished everyone happy holidays. Ms. Callahan gave a shout-out to all staff involved in negotiations with a special thanks to Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Board Member Dr. Jerry Dannenberg thanked Ms. Anna Campbell, Director of Fiscal Services, for all of her hard work on the budget.

Board Member Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez thanked all staff who attended the recent CSBA AEC conference. Ms. Rodriguez also thanked the community and shared her appreciation for the vote of confidence on Measure E and the bond moving forward. Lastly, she wished everyone happy holidays.

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro gave thanks to the Board and Staff for all of their hard work.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no reason to return to closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 p.m., until the next regularly scheduled board meeting to be held on January 10, 2023.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe  
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

APPROVED  President  
 Secretary