



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 9, 2023
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at the ESC Board Room, where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment in person. Streaming of the meeting was available 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	Mr. Calvin Peterson
Board Member	Mr. James Forsythe
Superintendent	Dr. Antonio Castro
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Mr. Ahsan Mirza
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 Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe
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 Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:32 p.m.

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

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

At 7:02 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was held for Mr. Barry Tronstad.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, 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 54957(b), of the new Principal of Citrus Glen Elementary School, Ms. Lisa Abeloe.

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

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Carlos Cohen, Principal at DATA Middle School, presented information about the GRIT (Girls Re-Imagining Tomorrow) program, which began at DATA in the 2021-22 school year in collaboration with ePlus and Patagonia. Mr. Cohen shared that the mission of GRIT is to introduce diverse groups of middle school girls to careers in technology, with an emphasis on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. The GRIT program also seeks to build confidence, public speaking skills, online safety, and professional business etiquette. Mr. Cohen noted that DATA is one of only eight schools across the nation to be involved in this program. Several GRIT members shared information on field trips they attended this year.

Mr. Mario Broccoli, Music Director at Cabrillo Middle School, gave an update on the music festivals attended by Cabrillo students this year and shared dates of future events, including the annual jazz dinner fundraiser at Broccoli's restaurant in Ojai on May 20.

Ms. Andrea Crouch, Director of Classified Human Resources, introduced four classified employee who were selected by the Ventura County Office of Education as the County's nominees to the California Department of Education's Classified School Employee of the Year Program. The nominees included: Ms. Bonnie Domme, Ms. Candace Cobos, Mr. Juan Mejia, and Ms. Lydia Ramirez-Valencia.

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for April. The Gratitude Awards were designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were a total of 24 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Five individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Dr. Castro and Board President Rodriguez, presented Student Board Members with a plaque in recognition of excellent service. The respective principals took a moment to thank their students for their service.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Shawn Mahoney in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
2. Crispiu Carrasco in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
3. Alex Perez in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
4. Pedro Raigoza in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
5. Herbert Hardy in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
6. Kevin Hunt in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
7. Carol Peek congratulated the four nominees for Classified Employee of the Year: Ms. Bonnie Domme, Ms. Candace Cobos, Mr. Juan Mejia, and Ms. Lydia Ramirez-Valencia.
8. Ashley Pope thanked the Board for the additional language added to the FCMAT contract and in support of the alternative pathway to a high school diploma for students with cognitive disabilities.
9. Jose Arias in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
10. Rene Daniel in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
11. Nicolas Reyes in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
12. Tim Redondo in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
13. Shane Boston in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
14. Laurie Bennet in support of open competition and against the PLA; she would like item 15.b to be tabled and brought back to a future meeting.
15. Wilfredo Celedon against the PLA.
16. Martin Rodriguez in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.

17. Kristen Ippolito in favor of Narcan being added to our emergency preparedness plan and available in our Middle and High Schools.
18. Rich Nida in support of the Community Workforce Action Plan.
19. Karen Walsh in favor of Loma Vista having an open campus when students are not present.
20. Cherie Egbert shared PTA news stating that she recently attended a California State PTA convention, where three resolutions were introduced.
21. Ryan Grau in favor of competitive bidding and sharing consequences of a PLA.
22. Ina Holladay against the approval of the following supplemental novel: *Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World* by Benjamin Alire Saenz. She also requested a list of supplemental books approved for middle and high school students.
23. Eric Christen against the PLA and in favor of a Board Study Session on this topic.
24. Joshua Medrano shared a letter from Oxnard Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Tom McCoy in support of a Community Workforce Action Plan.

At 9:05 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called for a short break. The meeting resumed at 9:17 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- 14.a **Notice of Public Hearing - Regarding the 2023-24 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)**
A public hearing to review the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) will be held June 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ventura Unified School District Education Service Center Board Room, 255 W. Stanley Avenue, Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93001. The public hearing is being held to solicit input and comments from the public regarding the 2023 - 24 LCAP. Information on the LCAP, including current planning and reporting documents, can be found on the District's website here: <https://www.venturausd.org/about/lcap>.
- 14.b **Notice of Public Hearing - Regarding 2023-2024 Proposed Budgets**
A public hearing will be held June 6, 2023, at 7:35 p.m. at 255 W Stanley Ave, Ventura, CA 93001 or via public streaming available at <https://www.venturausd.org/board-meetings-live>, to review the 2023 -24 Proposed Budgets. The budgets will be on display for public review from June 1, 2023, to June 6, 2023, 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/fiscal>.

ACTION ITEMS

- 15.a **Consideration of the agreement for Consulting Services Between Financial Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and Ventura Unified School District**
Special Education Director Mr. Neil Virani, shared that additional language was added to the contract based upon feedback received by the Special Education Department Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Members.

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the agreement for consulting services between Financial Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and Ventura Unified School District 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.b **Consideration of the Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), by and Between Ventura Unified School District and the Tri Counties Building and Construction Trades Council (First Reading)**
There was Board consensus to bring this item back at a future Special Study Session for further discussion.

- 15.c Consideration of Supplemental Novels Recommended by the Supplemental Novel Adoption Committee**
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 supplemental novels recommended by the supplemental novel adoption committee 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.d Approval of K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2022-23 School Year**
It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the K-12 School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2022-23 School Year 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.e Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators & Annual Statement of Need for 30 Day Substitute Teachers (First Reading)**
It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve a declaration of need for fully qualified educators and annual statement of need for 30-day substitute teachers 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.f Consideration of Resolution #23-16, "California Day of the Teacher" (First Reading)**
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 #23-16, California Day of the Teacher, 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.g Consideration of Resolution # 23-17, "National Nurses' Day" (First Reading)**
It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-17, National Nurses' Day, 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.h Consideration of Resolution #23-18, "Classified School Employee Week" (First Reading)**
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 #23-18, Classified School Employee Week, 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.i Request for Board Approval of Proposed Changes, Deletions or Additions to Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Exhibits related to Educational Services, Human Resources, Business Services, and the Superintendent's Office.**

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the proposed changes, deletions or additions to Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Exhibits to Educational Services, Human Resources, Business Services, and the Superintendent's Office as presented.

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

16.a Alternate Pathway to a High School Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Mr. Neil Virani, Director of Special Education, noted that Senate Bill (SB)181 added language for an alternative pathway to a California High School diploma, which became Ed code 51225.31 on January 1, 2023. Mr. Virani noted that VUSD shall exempt an eligible individual with exceptional needs from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board that are additional to the statewide coursework requirements and shall award a pupil a diploma of graduation from high school. Mr. Virani noted that a requirement for the Alternative Pathway is that students must be eligible to take the California Alternative Assessment (CAA), as indicated in their IEP, and they must take it in 11th grade. Additional eligibility criteria is currently being developed across all Ventura County School Districts.

At 10:30 p.m., per Board Bylaw 9323, which states that Board Meetings shall be adjourned by 10:30 p.m., the Board took action to continue the meeting until no later than 11:15 p.m. It was moved by Calvin Peterson, seconded by James Forsythe, and passed on a roll call vote of 5-0.

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

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

17.a VUSD Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Eric Reynolds, Director of Risk Management, gave an update on VUSD Emergency Preparedness. Mr. Reynolds noted that Comprehensive School Safety Plans have been completed for each school site working collaboratively with VUSD district staff, site staff, site school site councils, law enforcement, and the fire department. Additionally, onsite preparedness includes earthquake, fire and lockdown drills throughout the school year. Mr. Reynolds noted that there are emergency procedure flip charts in every classroom to assist staff in an emergency.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

18.a Discussion of Ventura Unified School District 2024-2025 School Year Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Ms. Gina Wolowicz noted that on May 24, 2023, the calendar committee will meet with VESPA, VUEA, and District Staff to create a 2024-25 school year calendar. Once the committee reaches a consensus, the calendars will be sent to the associations for feedback.

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

19.a Summary of California School Board Association (CSBA) Educator Workforce Housing (EWH)

There was Board Consensus to table this item due to time until our next regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 6, 2023.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items 20 - 23 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

- 20.a Administrative Recommendation for Education Code Section 51241 (Permanent Exemption from Physical Education) and Administrative Recommendation to Waive Board Policy 6146.1 VUSD Local Graduation Requirements
- 20.b Overnight, Out of the Tri-County and Ratification Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES – Certificated

- 21.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2022-23 School Year
- 21.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year
- 21.c Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year
- 21.d Certification of Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
- 21.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

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

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 23.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 23.b Ratification of Check Payments
- 23.c Donations to Ventura Unified School District and Schools

BOARD REPORTS

None.

COMING EVENTS

- Teacher of the Month Celebration:
 - J. Serra, May 10 at 3:00 p.m.
 - ATLAS, May 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting – May 11 at 5:30 p.m.
- Indian Education Honoring Ceremony – May 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- All VUSD Art Show – May 25 at 5 p.m.
- SEDAC Meeting – May 26 at 9:30 a.m.
- VUSD Retirement Celebration – May 30 at 3:30 p.m.
- Senior Award Nights:
 - Foothill HS – May 24 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Ventura HS – June 5 at 6:00 p.m.
 - El Camino HS – June 7 at 5:30 p.m.

- Buena HS – June 7 at 6:00 p.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

There was Board consensus to add the following:

- PLA Study Session
- Opioid Antagonist Protocols

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

Trustee Rodriguez shared that she was wearing a green pin in honor of mental health month and that additional pins were available at the receptionist's desk if anyone would like one. Ms. Rodriguez gave a shout-out to all VUSD Counselors and mental health employees.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on June 6, 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

