



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
June 6, 2023  
ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, June 6, 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 Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the agenda with the following change: items 16 through 18 will be moved up in the agenda to follow Public Hearings and precede Action Items.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez\*. Abstain: None.

\*Ms. Rodriguez attended another meeting as a VUSD Board Representative and joined us during Regular Session.

**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 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:32 p.m.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez. Abstain: None.

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

At 7:00 p.m., Board Vice-President Dr. Jerry Dannenberg called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was held for Ms. Vida Martinez.

**Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

None.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro introduced the new Principal of Citrus Glen Ms. Lisa Abeloe. Ms. Abeloe took a moment to thank Dr. Castro and the Board, then introduced members of her family.

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for May. The Gratitude Awards were designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were a total of 12 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Four individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card. Dr. Castro noted that over 600 VUSD employees have been nominated for an award since this program began.

Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared that the VUSD Retirement Celebration was held last week and there were over 50 retirees this year. Ms. Wolowicz gave a shout-out to Ms. Jackie Lopez for putting the event together.

### Correspondence

None.

### Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Anthony Ventura in favor of a PLA so that tradesmen can work locally and have more time with their families. He also listed projects completed by OUHSD and the percentage of local hire for those projects.
2. Pedro Toscano shared that non-union workers are able to participate in PLA's with the proper paperwork.
3. Lexi Zimpleman shared that Ventura High School needs a new pool and the heaters fixed.
4. Patrick Pandolfi shared that Ventura High Schools pool has faulty heaters that need to be fixed ASAP for students to practice.
5. Christopher Young encouraged the district to use local resources to get additional pools for our town.

\*Board President stopped public comment momentarily in order to hold two Public Hearings, items 14.b & 14.c.

6. John Lory advocated for VUSD to improve the pools and invest in VUSD facilities for increased aquatics sports.
7. Heather Lory advocated for a pool upgrade and safer deck and lighting needs.
8. Colin Veccio requested additional funding for the Ventura High School pool.
9. Nathan Joudain shared concerns regarding subject matter being taught in our schools.
10. Matt Cherrie shared that our pools need repair and advocated for stakeholder feedback in the design of future pools.
11. Sheila Murphy\* in support of item 15.b, consideration to purchase electric vans.

### **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

#### **14.a NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding the Consideration of a Possible Energy**

Conservation Contract Pursuant to Government Code Section 4217.10 et seq.

Please take notice that the Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District ("District") will hold a public hearing pursuant to Government Code section 4217.10 et seq. to allow for public comment prior to authorizing the negotiation of a contract with Empowered Solutions, LLC, a Veregy Company to conduct HVAC assessments and maintenance at various District properties funded through California's School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair Program ("CalSHAPE Program"). The Board will consider information and public comment to determine whether the potential contract is in the best interests of the District and whether the anticipated cost to the District for energy or conservation services under the Contract will be less than the anticipated marginal cost to the District of the energy that would have been consumed by the District in the absence of entering into the Contract. Testimony of all interested persons will be heard. Protests may be made orally or in writing. Any protest pertaining to the regularity or sufficiency of the proceedings shall be in writing and shall clearly set forth the irregularities and defects to which the objection is made. All written protests shall be filed with the District on or before the time set for the hearing. The District may waive any irregularities in the form or content of any written notice and at the hearing may correct minor defects in the proceedings. The public hearing will take place on June 27, 2023 at 7:30 PM at the District's Education Service Center Board Room, located at 255 West Stanley Avenue, Suite 100 Ventura, CA 93001.

\*Due to the timing of the Public Hearings, this agenda item took place after items 14.b & 14.c.

**14.b PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding the 2023-24 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)**

A public hearing was held at 7:35 p.m. 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 27, 2023. The LCAP can be reviewed at <https://www.venturausd.org/about/lcap>. There was no public comment.

**14.c PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding 2023-2024 Proposed Budgets**

A public hearing was held at 7:37 p.m. to solicit the recommendations and comments of the public regarding the proposed 2023-24 Budget. The budgets were on display for public review from June 1, 2023 to June 6, 2023 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 2023-24 Original Budget is scheduled for June 27, 2023. There was no public comment.

At 8:45 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called for a short break. The meeting resumed at 9:00 p.m.; Trustee Peterson left the meeting at this time.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**15.a Consideration of the agreement for Parchment K-12 District Records Services and Ventura Unified School District (First Reading)**

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the agreement with Parchment K-12 District Records Services as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

**15.b Consideration of Purchase of Electric Vans**

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the purchase of three electric vans as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

**15.c Consideration for Review of World Language Instructional Materials (First Reading)**

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the World Language instructional materials for Spanish for Native Speakers course as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

**CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**16.a VUSD's Athletic Achievements for the 2022-23 School Year**

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, introduced the following Athletic Directors: Mr. Dave Hess from Ventura High School, Mr. Derek Rusk from Buena, and Mr. Jamaal Brown from Foothill High School. The directors gave a brief update on the amazing things that happened over this past year at their respective sites.

**16.b District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Advisory Report**

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, introduced Ms. Danna Lomax, MTSS Teacher on Special Assignment for Secondary Multilingual and Multicultural Department, who presented the annual District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Report. Ms. Lomax was joined by several members of DELAC including: Rosa Alvarez, Lourdes Cardona, Jaime Honorato, Maria Honorato, Carlos Mora, and Araceli Razo. The DELAC Advisory Report included progress towards DELAC goals and DELAC recommendations for the English Learner programs in VUSD. The information is used by the Multilingual/Multicultural Department and school sites for district planning for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. Ms. Lomax also reviewed the VUSD Multilingual Seal and the California State Seal of Biliteracy data from the past four years broken down by school site.

**16.c 2023-24 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Annual Update and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Federal Addendum**

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, presented the Ventura Unified School District's 2023-24 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) annual update, which included the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Federal Addendum. Dr. Bayless noted that this is the last year of the 2021-2024 LCAP Goals which include 1) Increase student achievement for all student while decreasing performance gaps, 2) Provide a safe and secure environment for all staff and students, and 3) Increase parent and community involvement. Dr. Bayless also reviewed how VUSD is addressing each of the goals and discussed the ESSA Federal Addendum which included information the following funds: Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV.

**CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES**

**17.a Presentation of the Proposed 2023-24 Original Budget**

Mr. Ahsan Mirza, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the 2023-24 Original Budget. Mr. Mirza reviewed reporting requirements, reserve monies, enrollment and ADA trends, revenues and expenditures, ending fund balance, and MYP. Mr. Mirza noted that VUSD increased its reserved funding to 6%, which would be enough to cover one month of employee salaries in case of economic uncertainty. Mr. Mirza noted that VUSD has a projected reduction in ADA over the next three fiscal years, with a loss of revenue of over 7 million dollars annually. Mr. Mirza shared information from the May Revise, including a 50% reduction of the Art and Music Bock Grant, down to 4.5 million from 9 million, and a 31.6% estimated reduction of the Learning Emergency Block Grant (2023 - 2028), down to 12.6 million from 18.5 million. Mr. Mirza noted that there is a positive certification of the budget.

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.

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

**CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated**

- 18.a Ventura County Office of Education Quarter 2 Williams Report 2022-23 Fiscal Year  
Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, noted that VCOE is required to report findings on a quarterly basis and noted there were no visits in Quarter 2.
- 18.b Ventura County Office of Education Quarter 3 Williams Report 2022-23 Fiscal Year  
Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, noted that VCOE is required to report findings on a quarterly basis and noted there were no visits in Quarter 3.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent items 19.a through 22.d, and 22.f through 22.g as presented.

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

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve item 22 e as presented.

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

**CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

- 19.a 2023-2024 Designation of CIF Representatives to their Respective Leagues for Buena, Ventura and Foothills
- 19.b Overnight, Out of the Tri County and Ratification Field Trips

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated**

- 20.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment of Adult Education Teachers
- 20.b Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 and/or 2023/24 School Year(s)
- 20.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 School Year
- 20.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2022-23 School Year
- 20.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments through Various Education Codes
- 20.f Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments for 2023 Summer School and Extended School Year Assignments
- 20.g Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 School Year(s)

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES – Classified**

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

**CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES**

- 22.a Award of Bid C3-24 Pacific HS Site Work for Temporary Portables
- 22.b Award of Bids for FNS 2023-24 Request for Proposals
- 22.c 2023-2024 Annual Fiscal Resolution Adoptions - Business Services
- 22.d Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 22.e Ratification of Purchase Orders, Contracts, and Checks - Limited
- 22.f Ratification of Check Payments
- 22.g Donations to Ventura Unified School District and Schools

**BOARD REPORTS**

None.

## COMING EVENTS

### Graduations:

- FTHS – June 14 at 1:30 p.m. at VC
- Buena – June 14 at 4:00 p.m. at Buena
- Ventura – June 15 at 3:00 p.m. at Ventura
- Pacific – June 16 at 11:00 a.m. at VC
- El Camino – June 16 at 2:00 p.m. at VC
- VACE – June 16 at 5:30 p.m. at VC

### Middle School 8th Grade Promotions

- Balboa – June 13 at 10:00 a.m.
- Cabrillo – June 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- Anacapa – June 14 at 9:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
- Lemon Grove – June 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- Sunset – June 14 at 4:00 p.m.
- DATA – June 15 at 10:00 a.m.

### Senior Award Nights:

- 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 future board agenda items:

- Start time of Board Meetings
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Arts Master Plan
- Governance Calendar

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

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that she received a VUSD Mental Health bag that was passed out at an event a few weeks ago and commended our District for the care they put into them.

Superintendent Dr. Castro thanked the community, staff, students, and families for the amount of energy and positivity they are putting into these last few weeks of school.

## CLOSED SESSION

There was no reason to return to closed session.

## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m., until the next regularly scheduled board meeting to be held on June 27, 2023.

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

APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary