



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 11, 2023
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the ESC Boardroom, 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. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to adopt the agenda as amended with the following change: Item #16. a, omit "First Reading."

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson, Mr. James Forsythe
Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan*. Abstain: None.
*Ms. Amy Callahan was absent from regular session.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

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

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

At 7:00 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 Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the public employment/appointment, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b), of Ms. Sonia Magana, as the new Director of Fiscal Services.

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

*Ms. Amy Callahan joined closed session via teleconference.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro shared that Ventura High School student Sadie Engelhardt is the 2022-23 Gatorade California Girls' Track and Field Player of the Year and was named Player of the Year for Girls' Cross Country.

Board President Sabrena Rodriguez introduced Ms. Vanessa Contreras, the new principal at E.P. Foster. Ms. Contreras took a moment to thank Dr. Castro and the Board.

Correspondence

12.a 2022-23 External Financial Audit Correspondence

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mr. Ahsan Mirza, shared information regarding a 2022-23 audit planning communications letter from the District's external financial auditor, Clifton Larson Allen LLP.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Anthony Ventura shared that he looks forward to a future study session on PLA's.
2. Jackson Toro noted that he would like the Washington School to be preserved and shared concerns about redeveloping the land for housing due to increased traffic in the area.
3. Steven Weed would like the supplemental curriculum *One Legacy* added to freshman health classes, which includes information on being an organ donor.
4. Mandy Jacob against the closing of Washington School.
5. DeeDee Beaman shared questions regarding Washington School, specifically why VCCS has not been allowed to purchase the school site and restore the historic building.
6. Ellen Henderson listed a timeline of events regarding Washington School and stated that Washington School was told verbally that they could purchase the school site.
7. Erika Santoro shared that the Washington School site was not a good location for low-income housing and that VUSD should look for a new location. She also stated that Washington School should be added on to the national registry.

ACTION ITEMS

14.a Consideration of Approval for the DRAFT 2024-25 School Year (SY) Calendar (First Reading)

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Gina Wolowicz, shared that the Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA), Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA), and Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) Calendar Committee worked on the development of the 2024-25 school year (SY) calendar. Ms. Wolowicz noted that the draft 2024-25 school year calendar has a one-week shift to the start and end date of the school year. Ms. Wolowicz shared that this would allow secondary students to finish their first semester before leaving for Winter Break and would conform to most school calendars in the county. Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, noted that this would also allow more instructional time before students took the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test and Advanced Placement (A/P) exams.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the draft 2024-25 School Year Calendar as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. Abstain: None.

14.b Substitute Teacher Incentive Rate (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the substitute teacher rate increase for the 2023-24 school year as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. Abstain: None.

14.c Consideration of Resolution #23-20: Authorizing an Agreement for HVAC Energy Conservation Services and Delegating Authority to Take Related Actions (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-20, authorizing an agreement for HVAC Energy Conservation Services and delegating authority to take related actions as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. Abstain: None.

14.d Emergency Treatment Use of Naloxone Hydrochloride (Narcan) or another Opioid Antagonist (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the amended Board Policy 5141.21, which adds the emergency treatment use of Naloxone Hydrochloride (Narcan) or another Opioid Antagonist, as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. Abstain: None.

14.e Request for Approval of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000 (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the contracts over \$25,000 as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan. Abstain: None.

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

15.a 2023 Board Meeting Times

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro discussed the start times for future Board meetings in 2023. Dr. Castro proposed moving our regular meeting time to 6:00 p.m. from our current 7:00 p.m. start time and our closed session start time to 4:30 p.m. from 5:30 p.m. There was Board consensus to move forward with these changes.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a Secondary Student Cell Phone/Earbud Policies and Enforcement

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, presented a new initiative regarding secondary student cell phone and ear-bud policies and enforcement for the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Bayless noted that our current VUSD Board Policy 5131.8 states that devices shall be turned off during instructional time. Dr. Bayless reviewed the goals of this initiative, which includes creating optimal environments for teaching and learning, to decrease distractions and conflicts, and to have all messaging focus on learning, learning environments, and respect. Dr. Bayless noted that there has been a lot of positive parent feedback and that the district is working on clear communication with students and parents.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

17.a Report Regarding Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures Quarterly Report Pursuant to AR 1312.4 for Quarter Ending June 30, 2023.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Gina Wolowicz, noted that no complaints were filed with any school in the district for the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent items #18 - 22 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

18.a Overnight and Out of the Tri County Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment of Adult Education Teachers
- 19.b Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 19.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 19.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 School Year(s)
- 19.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments for 2023 Summer School and Extended School Year Assignments

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

20.a Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 21.b Ratification of Check Payments
- 21.c Ratification of Change Order #1, C2-24 Juanamaria HVAC

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

22.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Calvin Peterson shared that he was sitting during the flag salute because he was in pain from recent knee surgery. He also stated that he would like the Board Priorities on the Boardroom walls when school returns.

COMING EVENTS

Dr. Castro shared the following coming events:

- VUSD All-Staff Celebrate Event: August 22 at BHS Stadium, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- First day of school: August 23
- Back-to-School Nights: August 30 – September 28
- Labor Day: September 4 – District Closed

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- PLA: SBM - TBD
- Agenda/Meeting Structure - TBD
- Surplus Properties - TBD

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

Trustee James Forsythe emphasized to the public that the calendar change is for the 2024-25 school year.

Trustee Peterson complimented the staff for aligning our agendas with the Board Priorities.

Trustee Rodriguez thanked all VUSD staff who are working this summer.

Dr. Castro thanked the Board for giving staff clear expectations and noted that by aligning our priorities, it is making our meetings more efficient.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to return to closed session.


ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 1 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m., until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on August 8, 2023.

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

APPROVED



President


Secretary

