



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
May 23, 2023  
ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The Special Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at the ESC Board Room, where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment in person.

Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Vice President	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
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

At 4:00 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Ms. Amy Callahan, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe 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. James Forsythe  
Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Public Comments**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**8.a Consideration of Purchase of Electric Vans (First Reading)**

Mr. Arie Wiberg, Director of Transportation, noted that the VUSD Transportation Department currently runs three van routes for smaller groups of students that do not require a full-size school bus. Mr. Wiberg asked the Board to consider the purchase of three electric nine-passenger vans that are ADA compliant and could be driven by bus driver trainees with a regular Class C driver's license. Mr. Wiberg shared that the cost of each van is approximately \$90,000. There was Board consensus to bring this item back to the June 6 Board meeting for approval.

**CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES**

**9.a Solar Study Presentation**

Mr. Ahsan Mirza, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, introduced staff from ENGIE Services to present their findings on a solar study of Ventura Unified School District. The presentation included an overview of electricity expenditures for each school site, a review of interior lighting and control changes for many of the sites, retrofitting existing sports field equipment with new LED fixtures at Buena and Ventura High School, the installation of solar

photovoltaic systems across 25 sites, and a review of the benefits of all changes. A scope of work at each site was presented and it was noted that site staff feedback was included in the placement of the solar panels. ENGIE staff noted that this project would reduce approximately 70% of our electricity usage.

The cost of the project is approximately \$35 million. Staff from ENGIE provided a preliminary financial analysis using a tax-exempt lease purchase and a cash contribution over the course of 30 years. ENGIE staff noted that an application to Edison was submitted before April 14, 2023, but did not include battery storage; this information will be added in the next phase of the project. Currently, 20/25 sites have been approved.

There was Board consensus for staff to continue moving forward on this project and to bring back a recommendation to the Board at a future board meeting.

**9.b Budget Study Session**

Board Members and District Staff took part in a study session regarding the Ventura Unified School District Budget. Topics discussed include LCAP goals/funding, grant funding, Board Priorities moving forward in Declining Enrollment, and threshold/procedures for contract approvals.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent items 10-11 as presented.

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

**CONSENT - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

- 10.a Overnight and Out of the Tri-County Field Trip
- 10.b California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Applications for Renewal of Multi-School Membership

**CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT**

- 11.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

**Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

None.

**Motion to go to Closed Session**

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session.

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

There was no action taken in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., until the next regular scheduled board meeting to be held on June 6, 2023.

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

APPROVED

  
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President

  
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Secretary

