



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 8, 2023
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, August 8, 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. 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. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve as amended the agenda with the following change: Item 18.a will be moved up in the agenda to proceed items 15.d and 15.e, and the attachment for item 15.g has been updated.

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

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 3 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:32 p.m.

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

REGULAR SESSION

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 Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve the settlement agreement #200006.

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro introduced the new Director of Fiscal Services, Ms. Sonia Magaña. Ms. Magaña thanked Dr. Castro and the Board and shared her excitement to join VUSD.

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for June and July. 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. Nine individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Joshua Duran from the local Carpenter's Union invited VUSD students to tour their facilities and shared that the Women's Auxiliary is collecting back-to-school items if anyone is in need.
2. Ashley Pope would like public comments to be allowed via email and Zoom, and for written comments to be made part of the minutes. Ms. Pope also asked for VUSD to consider purchasing electric lawnmowers that are sensory-friendly.
3. Sarah McLaughlin introduced herself as the new Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) President. She shared that she looks forward to working collaboratively with the Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA), the Board, VUSD staff, and the community.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

14.a NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Notice of Intent to Request Waiver

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District at the District's board meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. on August 29, 2023, will consider seeking a waiver from the State Board of Education of the competitive bidding procedures set forth in Education Code section 17466 et seq. for the following properties: Real property located at 255 West Stanley Avenue, Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93001, known as the Education Services Center; real property located at 264 7 North Ventura Avenue, Ventura, CA 93001, known as Avenue Elementary; real property located at 96 MacMillan Avenue, Ventura, CA 93001, known as the Washington School; the real property located south of Telephone Road, north of Bristol Rd., east of Tamarin, Ventura, CA 93003, known as the Jewett Estate; and the real property located between Foothill Road and Telegraph Road, west of Saticoy Avenue, Ventura, CA 93004, known as the Sudden Estate (collectively, the "Properties") This waiver will give the District the option of using a Request for Proposal (RFP) process if the District decides to pursue selling or leasing the Properties in the future. This waiver application will not require or commit the District to sell or lease the Properties. The RFP process will give the District flexibility when assessing potential sales or leases of the Properties if the District decides to pursue sales or leases in the future. Thus, this public hearing only relates to the waiver action because the Board will not take any further action with respect to the Properties at this time. The Board may take future further action, in open session, if it decides to further pursue selling or leasing any of the Properties in the future. The Board of Education invites public testimony regarding this matter.

ACTION ITEMS

15.a Administrative Recommendation for the Expulsion Readmission of Student

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve the administrative recommendation for the expulsion readmission of student #22-05 as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan, Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

15.b Certification of Signatures (Amended)

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

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan, Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

15.c Approval of Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Waivers

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve the intern provisional permits and waivers as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan, Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

15.d Consideration of Resolution #23-26: Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) Supplementary Retirement Plan (First Reading)

There was Board consensus to bring this back for a second reading at our next Board meeting to be held on August 29, 2023.

15.e Consideration of the Agreement for Administrative Services Between Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) and Ventura Unified School District (First Reading)

There was Board consensus to bring this back for a second reading at our next Board meeting to be held on August 29, 2023.

15.f Request for Approval of New Grounds Mower Purchase (First Reading)

The Board requested additional information on the price difference between electric and gas mowers.

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve the purchase of three mowers from Eberhard Equipment as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Amy Callahan, Mr. Calvin Peterson. Abstain: None.

15.g Request for Approval of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000 - LIMITED (First Reading)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve the contracts exceeding \$25,000 (limited) as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Calvin Peterson. Recusal: Ms. Amy Callahan*.

*Trustee Amy Callahan recused herself from this vote

15.h Request for Approval of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000 (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 contracts exceeding \$25,000 as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Dr. Jerry Dannenberg. Abstain: None.

15.i Consideration of Textbooks (First Reading)

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the textbooks as presented.

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

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

CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

16.a Board of Education Meeting Agenda Structure

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro shared that at a prior Board meeting, there was Board consensus to change the Board of Education's regular meeting start time to 6:00 p.m. and the opening procedure/closed session start time to 4:30 p.m. Dr. Castro requested Board input on

when this new practice would begin. There was Board consensus to begin this practice at the August 29, 2023 Board meeting.

Dr. Castro suggested that except for LCAP and Budget adoption meetings, the notice of public hearing(s) no longer be added to Board agendas. He noted that VUSD will continue to comply with all legal requirements governing Notice of Public Hearing publication. Dr. Castro stated that this is especially important as the majority of months, we now only have one Board meeting scheduled. There was Board consensus to move forward with this change beginning at the August 29, 2023 Board meeting.

Lastly, Dr. Castro shared a new agenda structure based on previous Board discussions and recommendations to staff. There was Board consensus to move forward with the new structure for all agenda items: Staff presentation, Board questions, public comment, board deliberation, and board action if applicable. Public comment on non-agenda items during a regularly scheduled Board meeting will be heard at the beginning of the agenda during the public comment section.

16.b Renaming of Board Appointed Committees

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro noted that ad hoc committees are time-bound, unlike standing committees. To implement best practice, Dr. Castro shared that the Employee Workforce Housing is designated as an ad hoc committee and will be added to the previous list created by the Board.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

17.a Update on Secondary Independent Study Plan, ECHS and FLEX

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, reviewed data from the 2022-23 CAASPP Dashboard for Independent Study (IS) programs. Dr. Bayless noted that there are currently 492 VUSD students enrolled in IS via Homestead, El Camino High School (ECHS), and through the FLEX program. He added that additional students are enrolled in IS at Pacific High School (PHS) and through Home Hospital. Dr. Bayless reviewed the history behind the FLEX program and compared FLEX to the program at ECHS. Dr. Bayless shared that the proposed IS plan moving forward is to return to ECHS as the primary VUSD IS option, as it is a better fit for students taking honors, A/P, or community college classes; ECHS offers more curricular options, and ECHS has teachers, counselors, and admin that are highly IS trained. Dr. Bayless proposed that the FLEX program continue but be reserved more for specialized placements like home hospital types. Lastly, he noted that PHS and Homestead would remain unchanged.

17.b Update on VUSD and State of CA Ethnic Studies High School Graduation Requirement

Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Ms. Sarah Gluck-Perez, Teacher on Special Assignment, gave an update on the ethnic studies graduation requirement. Dr. Bayless shared that the ethnic studies graduation requirement will be embedded into U.S. History courses beginning in the 2024-25 school year. He added that this course is being piloted in preparation for next year.

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

18.a Supplemental Early Retirement Presentation

Ms. Rachael Sanders from Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS), reviewed the Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP) process and steps, the proposed plan eligibility, the proposed plan design, and benefit option choices. Ms. Sanders noted that if the Board approves a contingent plan offering to designated eligible employees, it will create a 45-60 day enrollment window. Interested employees would submit an irrevocable letter of resignation during the enrollment period, and then a fiscal analysis would be conducted to determine the savings (or cost) to the District. Based on the results of the fiscal analysis, the Board would then decide if the plan proceeds or is canceled. It was noted that if the plan is canceled, the offer and resignation letters would be rescinded.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

19.a Ventura County Office of Education Quarter 4 Williams Report 2022-23 Fiscal Year

Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, noted that there were no visits conducted in Quarter 4.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

20.a The Personnel Commission: The Board of Education's Appointment Process

Ms. Andrea Crouch, Director of Classified Human Resources, shared that Ms. Anne Campbell's term of office as the Board's Appointee to the Personnel Commission will expire at noon on December 1, 2023. Ms. Crouch noted that plans need to be put into place for the Board to select who its appointee will be for a new term, starting at noon on December 1, 2023, and ending at noon on December 1, 2026. Ms. Crouch reviewed a timeline for the appointment process and a timeline if no recruitment is conducted and the Board chooses to reappoint Ms. Anne Campbell to a new term. There was Board consensus to move forward with reappointing Ms. Anne Campbell at a future Board Meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve consent items # 24.a and 25.a as presented.

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

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent items 21 through 23, and items 24.b through 24.d as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 21.a Overnight, Out of the Tri-County and Ratification Field Trips
- 21.b Administrative Recommendation for Education Code Section 51241 (Permanent Exemption from Physical Education) VUSD Local Graduation Requirement

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 22.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments for 2023 Summer School and Extended School Year Assignments
- 22.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 22.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 22.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments Through Various Education Codes

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 23.a Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 24.a Ratification of Purchase Orders, Contracts, and Checks - LIMITED
- 24.b Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 24.c Ratification of Check Payments
- 24.d Donations to Ventura Unified School District and Schools

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

25.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee James Forsythe noted that he, along with Trustee Dannenberg, attended an X Games event at ATLAS School.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez, along with Trustee Peterson, attended a San Buenaventura Historical Preservation Society meeting held at Washington School. Ms. Rodriguez also noted her attendance at the Ventura County School Board Association planning meeting on August 28.

COMING EVENTS

- VUSD All-Staff Celebrate Event: August 22 at BHS Stadium, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
- First day of school: August 23
- Back-to-School Nights: August 30 – September 28
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting: September 1, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- Labor Day: September 4 – District Closed
- African American Parent Committee (AAPC) Meeting: September 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting: September 21, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: September 22, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

No additional future board items were added to the previous list:

- PLA/CWA - TBD
- Surplus Properties - TBD

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

Trustee Amy Callahan shared that she will resign as Board Member in Trustee Area 3 as of September 1, 2023. Ms. Callahan shared that her decision was based on prioritizing her family.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez noted that an application process for Trustee Area 3 would begin shortly and shared that two Board Members will be needed to serve on an ad hoc committee for the Board Vacancy. Trustee Dannenberg and Trustee Forsythe volunteered to participate in this ad hoc committee.

CLOSED SESSION


There was no need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT


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 adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on August 29, 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