



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 12, 2023
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, September 12, 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	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 Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as Amended the agenda with the following change: Items 15.a & 15.b with follow Item 14.a; item 15.h has a revised attachment.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, 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 Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 4:32 p.m.

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

REGULAR SESSION - Board Room - 6:00 p.m.

At 6:11 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 Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-32 regarding employee # 2014064 as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve agreement #2012042 as presented.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for August. The Gratitude Awards are designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were 3 submissions that will each receive a certificate of acknowledgment and an Amazon gift card.

Student Board Members Sienna Mody, representing El Camino High School, Rhea Gill, representing Foothill High School, and Mark Gabino, representing VACE, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Linda Bergfeld would like an AP Computer Science Principles Course to be classified as an applied math, art, and science elective course.
2. Douglas O'Brian would like ENGIE to engage Southern California Regional Energy Network for a potential savings of up to 12 million dollars through the Inflation Reduction Act.
3. Cheryl Collart in support of the ENGIE contract.

*Item 15.c was moved up in the agenda to proceed item #14.a, due to the Public Hearing start time.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

14.a Public Hearing: Adopt Making Certain Findings and Approve Energy Service Contract for Energy Related Improvements to Ventura Unified School District Facilities with ENGIE Services U.S.

Ventura Unified School District (District) Board of Trustees held a public hearing on September 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking public comments and adopting a resolution making certain findings, and approving an Energy Service Contract with ENGIE Services U.S. for the implementation of certain energy related improvements to District facilities in accordance with California Government Code Section 4217.10 to 4217.18. The Board of Trustees shall adopt findings that provide, and the Energy Service Contract shall require, that the cost to the District to implement the energy related improvements per this contract will be less than the anticipated marginal cost to the District of thermal, electrical, or other energy that would have been consumed by the District in absence of purchasing the energy improvements.

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Ashley Pope against bond monies being used to pay for solar and against any refunds received from the solar project being put back into the general fund.
2. Ryan Grav concerned about spending money on solar instead of items listed in the Master Plan. He would also like any refunds from the solar project to be put back into the bond fund instead of the general fund.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:08 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

15.a Resolution #23 -31 Resolution Making Certain Findings Related to Energy Conservation Services and Approving an Agreement for Renewable Electrical Generating Facilities

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-31 as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

*At 7:52 p.m., Board President Rodriguez called for a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

15.b Approval of Solar Energy Contract with ENGIE (First Reading)

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the Solar Energy contract with ENGIE as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.c 2022-23 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report and Annual GANN Limit Resolution #23-30

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the 2022-23 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report and Annual GANN Limit Resolution #23-30 as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.d "Sunshine" of Initial Contract Proposals from Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) to Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and from Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) to Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) for Collective Bargaining (First Reading)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the sunshine of initial contract proposals from Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) to Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and from Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) to Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) for Collective Bargaining as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.e "Sunshine" of Initial Contract Proposals from Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) to Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) to Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) for Collective Bargaining (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 sunshine of initial contract proposals from Ventura

Unified Education Association (VUEA) to Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) to Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) for Collective Bargaining as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.f Request for Approval of Warehouse Vehicle Purchase (First Reading)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the warehouse vehicle purchase as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.g Bond Program Manager Agreement (First Reading)

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the contract with Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC, for program and construction management service as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

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

A revised attachment for item#15.h was distributed to the Board and copies were made available to the public. A revised attachment was also posted on the VUSD website under the attachments link.

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

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.i Request for Approval of List of Qualified Architectural Service Providers for Future Measure E Bond Projects

Mr. Adam Dutter, Bond Program Manager, shared that 23 RFQs (Request for Quotes) were received; five of which were local. Mr. Dutter requested that all 23 RFQs be approved as the District may need several architects simultaneously for different projects. It would also allow the District to request RFPs (Request for Proposals) from several companies to ensure the best price.

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 list of qualified architectural service providers for future Measure E Bond projects as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

15.j Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - (First Reading)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as presented.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. None. Abstain: None.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a Update on LCAP-Funded Pilot Online Reporting System for Students and Families

Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, shared information regarding Gaggle, an online anonymous reporting system currently being piloted for VUSD secondary students and families. The program is being funded by the LCAP and addresses LCAP Goal 2, to provide a safe and secure environment for all staff and students. Gaggle allows students to make reports regarding bullying, planned fights, students in crisis, threats of violence, weapons brought to school, or other urgent situations. Trained professionals evaluate tips 24/7/365 and alert districts of reported unsafe situations. Dr. Bayless noted that this item will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting to discuss data regarding early interventions that were able to take place due to this program.

16.b Review of 2023 Summer Programs

Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Dr. Lorelle Dawes, Director of Expanded Learning, reviewed information on 2023 summer programs. Dr. Dawes reviewed the three sessions of summer school for elementary, middle, and high school students, including the types of programs offered at each level. Dr. Dawes noted that approximately 4600 students attended summer school and approximately 900 students enrolled in a total of 1725 courses for credit recovery.

16.c Biliteracy Pathway Recognitions

Dr. Soledad Molinar, Executive Director of Educational Services, noted that the California Department of Education now offers a new Bilingual Pathway Recognition called the Home Language Development Recognition. All recognitions align with State Seal of Biliteracy Seal requirements and Global 2030. Recognitions are culturally sustaining for Multilingual Learners and begin the pathway to biliteracy. VUSD will offer the Home Language Development Recognition in the 2023-24 school year. Families will be able to self-report via survey that the criteria for recognition has been met.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Staff presentation
2. Board questions
3. Public Comment
4. Board deliberation
5. Board action

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve consent items 17-20 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 17.a Overnight, Out of the Tri-County and Ratification Field Trips

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 18.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 18.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 18.c Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

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

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 20.a Notice of Completion for C3-24 Pacific Temporary Portable Improvements
- 20.b Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 20.c Ratification of Check Payments

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee James Forsythe shared that he attended the Westside Community Council Meeting, where they discussed the Compression Station.

Trustee Jerry Dannenberg shared that he attended the Bond Oversight and the Parent Advisory Committee Meetings.

COMING EVENTS

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro shared the following coming events:

- Back-to-School Nights: Aug. 30th – Sept. 28th
- Teacher of the Month Celebration: Sept. 14, 3:00 p.m. at DATA
- African American Parent Committee (AAPC) Meeting: Sept. 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Superintendent Listening Tours: Sept. 14th at Lemon Grove and 29th at Citrus Glen at 7:00 p.m.
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: Sept. 21, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting: Sept. 22, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Board President Sabrena Rodriguez shared that ArtWalk Ventura is scheduled for September 23 - 24 and noted that it is a free event.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

The Board requested additional information regarding overtime and sub-costs in a Board Memo. The Board also requested a Board study session on the budget before the December 12 Meeting.

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

Trustee Peterson shared his excitement regarding the changes the Board is making. He noted that he is thankful for the staff and their hard work.

Trustee Rodriguez shared her excitement about the changes occurring on our campuses and that we are moving to a greener economy. Ms. Rodriguez thanked Ms. Terri Allison and the facilities department for all they do and added that she is thankful for the communication with our community partners.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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 adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on September 26, 2023.

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

APPROVED



President



Secretary

