



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 10, 2023
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, October 10, 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
Board Member	Ms. Alicia LaVere
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 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:01 p.m.

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

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

REGULAR SESSION

At 6:03 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro introduced the new Trustee for Area 3, Ms. Alicia LaVere. Ms. LaVere took a moment to introduce her family and shared her excitement for her new role.

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for September. The Gratitude Awards are designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were a total of 35 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Five individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Student Board Members Divina Miranda, representing Buena High School, Dan Mendoza, representing Pacific High School, and Scott Vreeland (sub), representing Ventura High School, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Pedro Toscano in support of the CWA.
2. Josc Arias in support of the CWA.

Item 15.b was moved up in the agenda to proceed 14.a due to the time of the public hearings.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

14.a PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks or Instructional Materials or both for the 2023-24 School Year

The public hearing regarding the sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials or both for the 2023-24 school year opened at 6:30 p.m. and closed at 6:31 p.m. There were no public comments.

14.b PUBLIC HEARING - Regarding the Board of Education's Appointee to the Personnel Commission

The public hearing regarding the Board's appointee to the Personnel Commission opened at 6:31 p.m. and closed at 6:32 p.m. There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

15.a Resolution #23-33 Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks or Instructional Materials or both for the 2023-24 School Year (First Reading)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-33, regarding the sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials or both for the 2023-24 school year as presented.

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

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

*Trustee Peterson left the meeting for another obligation and returned at 7:00 p.m.

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

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro noted that some contracts were marked “**confidential”, so no attachments were included. Dr. Castro shared that each of these contracts signifies a different student and covers various expenses such as transportation, tuition, counseling services, speech and language services, or other additional needs.

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Alicia LaVere 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. James Forsythe, Ms. Alicia LaVere

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

15.c Board of Education's Appointee to the Personnel Commission (First Reading)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve Ms. Anne Campbell as the Board of Education's Appointee to the Personnel Commission. Ms. Campbell will begin her three-year term beginning on December 1, 2023 at noon through December 1, 2026 at noon.

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

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

15.d California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Accreditation for New VUSD Teacher and Administrator Induction Programs (First Reading)

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Gina Wolowicz, shared that VUSD's teacher induction program is currently run by the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). Ms. Wolowicz noted that VUSD would like to build our program to focus on our District's priorities and to reduce costs, as the program through VCOE is \$150,000 over the course of two years, not including the cost of mentors.

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve VUSD to pursue California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Accreditation for new VUSD teacher and administrator induction programs as presented.

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

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

CONFERENCE ITEMS

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

16.a 2023 Student Academic Performance Update

Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented recent academic performance metrics data. Dr. Bayless noted that CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) & ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) data will be released to the public on October 18, so that data will be brought back to a future Board meeting for discussion. Dr. Bayless reviewed RFEP (Reclassified Fluent English Proficient) rates from 2017-2023 and gave an overview of ELOP (Expanded Learning Opportunities Program). He noted that informal research is underway to determine if/how ELOP impacts students' academic performance, social-emotional/mental health well-being, and attendance. For secondary students, Dr. Bayless noted there was positive growth in some underrepresented student groups in Advanced Placement enrollment, COVID-era levels of high D/F rates are declining, the number of CTE (Career Technical Education) Pathways Completers are increasing, and Dual Enrollment has increased. Dr. Bayless also noted a decline in overall A-G rates and that a student group achievement gap still exists.

At 7:42 p.m., President Rodriguez called for a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

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

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Gina Wolowicz, noted that no complaints were filed for the quarter ending September 30, 2023.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Staff presentation

2. Board questions
3. Public comment
4. Board deliberation
5. Board action

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items 18 to 21 as presented.

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 19.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 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 Assignments Through Various Education Codes

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES Classified

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

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 21.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 21.b Ratification of Check Payments

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Jerry Dannenberg shared that he attended the Bond Oversight Committee Meeting, where the committee discussed writing a letter to the Board asking that any refund from the solar project be put back into the bond fund instead of the general fund. Dr. Dannenberg also attended the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting and was impressed by a presentation on Literacy from Ms. Gladis Garcia-Dias, a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA).

Trustee Calvin Peterson shared that he attended a field trip to Sa'aliyas Ranch and was very impressed with the students' engagement.

Trustee Rodriguez noted her attendance at the Special Education Parent Workshop regarding IEP Basics, the Arts Collaborative first annual gathering where they discussed Prop 28, and the first of three Prop 28 meetings by VCOE. Ms. Rodriguez shared that she visited Santa Barbara Unified School District's After-School Program, where students receive free tutoring/mentoring, and a snack and dinner are also provided, all paid out of LCAP funds. Lastly, she shared that she was appointed to the California Artificial Intelligence Task Force for a two-year term.

COMING EVENTS

- African American Parent Committee (AAPC) Meeting: Oct. 11, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Sa'aliyas Ranch Family Farm Festival: Oct. 14, 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting: Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m.
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting: Oct. 19, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: Oct. 20, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting: Nov. 3, 9 a.m.
- Teacher of the Month Celebration: Nov. 7, 3:30 p.m. at Buena HS

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

There was Board consensus to add a presentation regarding Literacy to a future Board agenda. Dr. Castro shared that it would be included in the next data update from Dr. Bayless.

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

The Board and Superintendent thanked the staff and the unions for their hard work.

Trustee LaVere thanked everyone for helping her in the onboarding process.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on November 14, 2023.

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

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

APPROVED  President
 Secretary