



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
November 14, 2023  
ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, November 14, 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 Calvin Peterson, seconded by Alicia LaVere 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.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion to go to Closed Session**

It was moved by James Forsythe, seconded by Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 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, Ms. Alicia LaVere  
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

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

At 6:00 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. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve an agreement with employee Reference #118 as presented.

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

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

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro congratulated the VUSD Attendance Awareness Poster contest winners: Autumn Ma from ATLAS, Mia Rohde from Elmhurst, Sanvi Kumar from DATA, and Izzy Medina from Balboa. Each student will receive a framed copy of their poster, and a copy will be displayed at their respective schools, and in the Student Support Services Department at the District office.

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for October. The Gratitude Awards are designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were 12 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Four individuals were randomly selected to also receive 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**

**12.a Ventura County Office of Education 2022-23 Unaudited Actuals**

Correspondence was received from the Ventura County Office of Education, which included the Unaudited Actuals Financial Report and a letter to Board President Sabrena Rodriguez regarding the approval of the 2022-23 Unaudited Actuals.

**Public Comments**

The following individuals gave a general public comment:

1. Barbara Beltran Walker thanked the student board members and encouraged them to work with the seniors to plan grad night early.
2. Adela Trainer, representing the Ventura County Chapter of the League of Women Voters, thanked the Board and encouraged continued participation from principals and teachers.
3. Maxwell Chandler in favor of a PLA/CWA.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**14.a Consideration of Supplemental Novels Recommended by the Supplemental Text Recommendation Committee (Full-Committee Review - First Reading)**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the supplemental novels as presented.

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

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

**14.b Resolution #23-34, Continued Funding Application for State Preschool Program 2024-25 (First Reading)**

It was moved by Alicia LaVere, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-34, certifying the approval of the Governing Board

to enter into a contract with the California Department of Education to provide child care and development services and to authorize designated personnel to sign contract documents for fiscal year 2024-25.

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

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

**14.c Request for Board Approval of Proposed Changes, Deletions or Additions to Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Exhibits related to Educational Services, Human Resources, Business Services, and the Superintendent's Office. (First Reading)**

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the proposed changes, deletions or additions to Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Exhibits related to Educational Services, Human Resources, Business Services, and the Superintendent's Office as presented.

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

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

**14.d Approval of Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Waivers (First Reading)**

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 Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Waivers as presented.

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

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

**14.e Request for Approval of the Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) Supplementary Retirement Plan for Ventura Unified School District**

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mr. Ahsan Mirza, noted that the supplemental retirement plan will yield a \$15,920,285 cost savings over five years.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) supplementary retirement plan for Ventura Unified School District as presented.

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

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

**14.f Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - (First Reading)**

It was moved by Ms. Alicia LaVere, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Ventura Unified School District and Ventura Unified Education Association Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

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

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

**14.g 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 5 – 0 to approve to approve the contracts exceeding \$25,000 as presented.

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

## CONFERENCE ITEMS

### CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

#### 16.a 2023 CAASPP and VUSD Literacy Initiative Update

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, gave an overview of 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>-grade testing scores for ELA, Math, and Science, including the differences that exist between students with a disability and low socioeconomic status from 2019 through 2023 with the exception of 2020. Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro noted that the state instructs districts to not compare pre-covid testing scores with post-covid testing scores, as the testing blueprint has changed.

Dr. Soledad Molinar, Executive Director of Educational Services, and Ms. Gladis GarciaDiaz, Reading Intervention Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) shared information on the VUSD Literacy Program. Ms. GarciaDiaz shared that universal screeners are given to all K-5 grade students three times per year, and that progress is monitored for growth and achievement. She noted that the state's goal is to have all students reading by the third grade. Lastly, she shared that the District is providing training to K-2 grade teachers through the California Reading and Literature Project (CLRP) run by Cal Lutheran University.

**The Board took a short recess at 7:52 p.m. and returned at 8:00 p.m.**

### CONFERENCE – BUSINESS SERVICES

#### 17.a Joint Use Agreements

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Mr. Ahsan Mirza, and Director of Risk Management, Mr. Eric Reynolds, discussed the possibility of entering into joint use agreements to open our schools to community members when students are not present. They noted concerns including liability of the District and staff concerns.

The Board requested information regarding Facilitron, including what revenue has been produced and whether we are maintaining our costs. The Board suggested looking at other Districts regarding Joint Use Agreements to see what is working for them and to reach out to staff to see how they feel Joint Use Agreements on their campus. The Board also requested to have Legal Counsel involved in a future discussion to weigh in on the issue.

### CONFERENCE - SUPERINTENDENT

#### 18.a Board Appointed Committees and Board Meetings Dates/Structure for 2024

The Board The Board of Education led a discussion regarding which committees they would like to be involved with in 2024. A final draft will be brought back to the December 12, 2023, Board of Education meeting for final approval.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Staff presentation
2. Board questions
3. Public comment
4. Board deliberation

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items #'s 19 to 23 as presented.

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

**CONSENT - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

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

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated**

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

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified**

- 21.a Classified Personnel Changes
- 21.b Winter Recess Leave for Classified Employees
- 21.c Classified Position Changes

**CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES**

- 22.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 22.b Ratification of Check Payments
- 22.c Ratification of Change Order #2, C2-24 Juanamaria HVAC
- 22.d Award of Bid E2-23 JV Softball Field Site Improvements

**CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT**

- 23.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

**BOARD REPORTS**

Trustee James Forsythe shared that he attended the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Meeting and noted that several students were in attendance.

Trustee Calvin Peterson shared that he attended site visits with Dr. Castro and Trustee Rodriguez on Halloween. Trustee Peterson also attended the Fall Festival at Mound and the Ventura County School Board Association (VCSBA) Meeting.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez attended SEDAC, the State of the Region at the Regan Library, the Bond Oversight Committee Meeting, and the VCSBA Executive Team Meeting. Ms. Rodriguez also participated in the VEP Grant Reader Forum, the Buena High School play, and a New West Symphony Performance.

**COMING EVENTS**

- LCAP Advisory Committee Meeting: Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m.
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Meeting: Nov. 30, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: Dec. 1, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Teacher of the Month Celebration: Dec. 5 at 3:00 p.m. at Poinsettia
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting: Dec. 8 at 9 a.m.
- Budget Study Session: Dec. 8 at 12 p.m.

**FUTURE BOARD ITEMS**

None.

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

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg noted that he would have some time restraints over the next few weeks as he assists with his family.

Trustee Alicia LaVere thanked the staff for their thorough reports.

Trustee James Forsythe thanked staff and teachers for all they do.

Trustee Calvin Peterson thanked staff and teachers for all they do.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez thanked the staff for their hard work since the beginning of the year.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no reason 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 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on December 12, 2023.

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

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

APPROVED



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President



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Secretary