



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 8, 2023  
ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The Special Board of Education meeting was held on Friday, December 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. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Vice President	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
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

At 12:00 p.m., Board President Sabrena Rodriguez called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

**REGULAR SESSION - Board Room**

**Public Comments**

None.

**CONFERENCE ITEMS**

**CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES**

**8.a Budget Study Session**

Board Members and District Staff participated in a study session regarding the 2023-24 Ventura Unified School District budget. Mr. Ahsan Mirza, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, noted that VUSD is requesting a positive certification. Mr. Mirza stated that the District would maintain its 6% reserve funding, enough to cover one month of employee salaries in case of unforeseen economic circumstances. He shared that the state has been funding us at a much higher ADA rate of 14,746.25 than our actual ADA of 13,340.58, as they have been taking an average of the prior three years. He noted that pre-COVID, VUSD's ADA was 96-97%; however, it is currently 91%.

Mr. Mirza reviewed General Fund Revenues, distinguishing between unrestricted and restricted expenditures. He noted that the LCFF COLA projections for the 2024-25 SY is 3.94. However, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) suggests it will be much lower at 1.27%. This difference in COLA can potentially reduce the 2024-25 revenues by approximately \$5.1

million. He added that we will need to wait until the Governor's Budget is out to be certain. Mr. Mirza shared that the Certificated retirement system Cal STRS percentage rate is staying the same; however, the Classified retirement system Cal PERS is continually trending upward.

Two scenarios were presented to the Board for their consideration. There was Board consensus to use the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant to cover the costs of the PARS plan. There was consensus to use the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (LREBG) to cover the costs of positions funded by ESSER III funds that will expire at the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year, pending the positions directly work with students. The Board requested information on positions funded by the ESSER III Grant broken down by grade level in a future Friday Board Letter.

There was a Board acknowledgement that the TWI or SEI Program at Montalvo and Sheridan Way has phased itself out due to lack of enrollment. The Board asked that communication go out to parents as soon as possible, letting them know this will begin in the 2024-25 SY.

Lastly, the Board requested information on cost savings as a result of bond expenditures.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 2:00 p.m.

Ayes: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Mr. Calvin Peterson\*, Ms. Alicia LaVere

Noes: None. Absent: Mr. James Forsythe. Abstain: None.

\*Trustee Peterson arrived at 1:00 p.m.

#### Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

No action was taken during closed session.


### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on December 12, 2023.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Mr. James Forsythe. Abstain: None.

APPROVED

  
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President

  
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Secretary