



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

**Call to Order**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, December 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	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Board Vice President	Mr. Calvin Peterson
Board Member	Mr. James Forsythe
Board Member	Ms. Alicia LaVere
Board Member	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
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 as Amended the agenda with the following change: item 15.a was amended to include a fifth bid from Leonida Builders Inc. in the amount of \$440,000.

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

There was no action taken in closed session.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for November. The Gratitude Awards are designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were a total of 14 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Four 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 Emily Sehati, representing Ventura High School, gave brief updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites.

### Correspondence

#### **12.a Ventura County Office of Education**

Ventura County Office of Education completed the annual Williams Settlement report for the 2022-23 fiscal year, determining students have sufficient instructional materials, school facilities are clean, safe, and functional, teachers have proper classroom assignments and certifications, and accuracy of the School Accountability Report Card.

### Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment regarding non-agendized items:

1. Ariel Montejano regarding the need for additional prep time for Foothill High School teachers.
2. Barbara Brown would like to partner with VUSD to plant trees provided by a grant at VUSD schools on Arbor Day 2024.
3. Kathy Bremmer is in support of planting trees on VUSD campuses.
4. Nancy O'Rode is in support of planting trees on VUSD campuses.
5. Christy Weir would like to partner with VUSD to plant trees on Arbor Day 2024.
6. Anne Garo would like the PARS retirement incentive deadline extended due to being displaced from her current position.
7. Stephen Schafer read information regarding the history of Washington School.

The following individuals gave a public comment on item 15.a:

1. Tim Garcia in favor of the location of the sand volleyball courts at VHS.
2. Aleta Marquez in favor of the location for the sand volleyball courts and requesting that the Bond team work with the Athletic Director's and Coaches to see the needs of each program before the Special Board Meeting on January 18.
3. Artie Maidman in support of the sand volleyball location.
4. Spencer Noren in support of the sand volleyball location.
5. Eric Sletten in support of helping the sport of sand volleyball grow as it will provide an opportunity for our students to play in college.
6. Dave Richard in favor of the Board approving the sand volleyball court installation at VHS.
7. Shannon Richard in favor of the Board approving the sand volleyball court installation at VHS.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **14.a Annual Organizational Meeting of the Governing Board - Election of Officers**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Dr. Jerry Dannenberg as the President of the Board of Education until the next annual Organizational Meeting to be held in December 2024.

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

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

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Mr. Calvin Peterson as Vice-President of the Board of Education until the next annual Organizational Meeting to be held in December 2024.

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

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

**14.b Presentation to Outgoing Board President, Mrs. Sabrena Rodriguez**

The Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro, recognized the outgoing Board President, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

**14.c Selection of Dates and Times of Regular Scheduled 2024 Board of Education Meetings**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2024 regularly scheduled meetings as presented.

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

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

**14.d Certification of School Board Representation for the County Committee on School District Organization**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve James Forsythe as the School Board Representative to vote in the election for members of the County Committee.

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

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

**14.e Board Representation of Board Appointed Committees**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as Amended, the Board Appointed Committees list with the following change: James Forsythe was added to DELAC.

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

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

**15.a Award of Bid E5-24 Sand Volleyball Court Installation at Ventura High School**

This item was amended to include a fifth bid from Leonida Builders Inc. in the amount of \$440,000. It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as Amended to award E5-24 Sand Volleyball Court Installation at Ventura HS to J & H Engineering General Contractors, Inc, in the amount of \$431,700.

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

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

**ACTION - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**16.a Approval of Supplemental Novels Recommended by the Supplemental Text Recommendation Committee - Full-Committee Review**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Alicia LaVere 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, Alicia LaVere

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

**16.b Request for Consideration of New Courses - Film 1: Intro to Film - The Art of Storytelling; Honors Film 2: American Film and Media with Special Projects; and Applied Algorithms: Makerspace (First Read)**

It was moved by Alicia LaVere, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the new courses as presented.

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

**16.c Request for Consideration of Revised Course; CTE Con Design Tech (DTech) Survey (First Read)**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the revised course as presented.

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

**ACTION - HUMAN RESOURCES - CERTIFICATED**

**17.a Approval of Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Waivers (First Read)**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Provisional Intern Permits and Waivers as presented.

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

**ACTION - HUMAN RESOURCES - CLASSIFIED**

**18.a Revisions to Exempt Salary Schedule (First Read)**

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the revisions to the exempt salary as presented.

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

**ACTION - BUSINESS SERVICES**

**19.a Certification of Signatures (First Read)**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Certification of Signatures as presented.

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

**19.b Resolution #23-35, Authorizing Participation in the California's Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) Public School Bus Set- Aside 2024-25 (First Read)**

This grant requires VUSD to destroy four diesel buses that will be replaced with four electric buses. The grant total is 1,380,000, and the total approximate cost of the buses will be \$1,800,000. Mr. Arie Wiberg, Director of Transportation, noted that he is applying for a second grant to cover the difference in cost.

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Resolution #23-35, authorizing participation in California's Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) Public School Bus Set-Aside 2024-25 as presented.

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

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

**19.c 2023-2024 First Interim Financial Report (First Read)**

Mr. Ahsan Mirza, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented an overview of the first interim report. A Positive Certification was requested.

It was moved by Mr. Calvin Peterson, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the 2023-24 First Interim Financial Report as presented.

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

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

**19.d Request for Approval of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000 (First Read)**

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the contracts exceeding \$25,000 as presented.

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

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

**CONFERENCE ITEMS**

**CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**21.a State Seal of Civic Engagement Introduction**

Dr. Greg Bayless, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Service, introduced Ms. Carlie Donick, Civic Engagement Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), to discuss the State Seal of Civic Education. Ms. Donick noted that the State Seal of Civic Engagement is a formal recognition by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for California students in grades 11 and 12 who demonstrate excellence in civics education and participation, an understanding of the United States Constitution, and the democratic system of government. Ms. Donick shared that student eligibility is based on five statewide criteria adopted by the State Board of Education in September 2020.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

It was moved by Alicia LaVere, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve consent items 22 - 25 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**

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

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated**

- 23.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year

- 23.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 23.c Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2023-24 School Year
- 23.d Approval of Administration's Recommendation of Employment Status Changes for the 2023-24 School Year

**CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified**

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

**CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES**

- 25.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 25.b Ratification of Check Payments
- 25.c Donations to Ventura Unified School District and Schools
- 25.d Disposition of Obsolete and Surplus Items

**BOARD REPORTS**

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez attended a Prop 28 training at the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) and attended the California School Board Association (CSBA) Annual Education Conference (AEC).

Trustee Alicia LaVere attended site visits with Dr. Castro, the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Meeting, and the CSBA AEC.

Trustee James Forsythe attended the CSBA AEC.

Trustee Calvin Peterson attended the CSBA AEC, the Anacapa Middle School Pachanga event where he served as a judge for the tamale and the salsa contests, and attended the BHS vs. OHS Boys' Varsity Basketball game.

**COMING EVENTS**

- African American Parent Committee (AAPC) Meeting: December 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.(date was amended)
- FTHS presents Elf the Musical, December 13, 14, & 15
- Winter Break: December 25 – January 5 (No School)
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting: January 12, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**FUTURE BOARD ITEMS**

No new items were added.

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

Trustee Rodriguez noted the importance of advocating for education funding at the local and state levels and wished our families a peaceful holiday season.

Trustee Forsythe thanked the Board and staff for being so welcoming throughout his first year as a Board Member.

Trustee Dannenberg thanked all classified and certificated staff members and wished them happy holidays and a happy new year.

Superintendent Castro noted that he recently met with County Superintendent Dr. Cesar Morales, who acknowledged the VUSD Board's work to address the budget deficit.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no need to go back into closed session.


**ADJOURNMENT**


It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting to be held on January 23, 2024.

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

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

APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_ President

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

