



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 13, 2024
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 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. James Forsythe, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 3 – 0 to approve as Amended the agenda with the following change: Item 18.a was moved up on the agenda to proceed item 14.a.

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

Noes: None. Absent: Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez*, Mr. Calvin Peterson*. Abstain: None.

*Trustee Rodriguez & Trustee Peterson arrived after this vote.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 4– 0 to approve to go to closed session at 4:35 p.m.

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

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

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

At 6:07 p.m., Board President Dr. Jerry Dannenberg called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Castro recognized the VUSD Gratitude Award recipients for January. The Gratitude Awards are designed to recognize exceptional VUSD teachers, employees, volunteers, students, and administrators. There were a total of 24 submissions that will receive a certificate of acknowledgment. Four individuals were randomly selected to also receive an Amazon gift card.

Dr. Castro congratulated the Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) President Ms. Carol Peek for being one of five finalists for the 2024 National Education Association's Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year award.

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

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro noted that we received a Disclosure of Collective Bargaining from Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE).

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment (P.C.):

1. Karl Chaffey shared concerns regarding a Facilitron reservation. (General P.C.)
2. Rebecca Fassett in favor of creating a revised comprehensive Arts Master Plan for all students. (Item 18.a)

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION - SUPERINTENDENT

14.a Ballot for California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly (First Read)

It was moved by Alicia LaVere, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve all four candidates as representatives to the California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly 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

15.a Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Ventura Unified Educators Association and the Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (First Read)

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

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

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

15.b Award of Bid E14-24 Buena Pool Heater Replacement (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 award of Bid E14-24 as presented.

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

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

15.c Ratification of Used Buses Purchase, Exempt from Bidding Requirements Based Upon Public Policy Exception

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 ratification of used buses purchase, exempt from bidding requirements upon public policy exemption, as presented.

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

15.d Request for Approval of Proposal to Renovate EP Foster Annex into an Expanded Learning Facility (First Read)

Director of Expanded Learning, Dr. Lorelle Dawes, shared a proposal for the E.P. Foster Annex, located at 1440 N. Olive Street. Dr. Dawes noted that the annex was built in 1966, has 13,400 S.F., and has been empty since 2021. She noted that currently, 175 students from E.P. Foster attend Expanded Learning in grades K through 5 are currently using six temporary classrooms that need to be removed. She shared that ELOP has over \$5 million of rollover money that must be used by June 30, 2024, and that they would like to use those funds to create a hub for Expanded Learning on the Westside of Ventura. Dr. Dawes shared that students could use the building before and after school and then be available for evening and weekend events through our reservation system. Dr. Dawes shared current photos of the annex and the design vision for the new Expanded Learning Facility. She noted that the construction would be conducted in three phases, with the target move-in date of August/September 2024.

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

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

15.e Request for Approval of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000 (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 as Amended with the following change: the funding source for line item #2 was changed from Special Ed to LCAP Survey.

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 State Seal of Civic Engagement (First Read)

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the criteria for the State Seal of Civic Engagement 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 Course: CTE Con Urban Sustainable Agriculture and Earth Science (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 course CTE Con Urban Sustainability Agriculture and Earth Science 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 New Course: CTE Capstone First Responders: Public Safety & Emergency Response (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 course CTE Capstone First Responders: Public Safety & Emergency Response as presented.

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

16.d Administrative Recommendation for Student Expulsion Readmission (First Read)

It was moved by Alicia LaVere, seconded by Mr. Calvin Peterson and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the administrative recommendation for student expulsion readmission for student #22-09 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 Consideration of Approval of Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA)/Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) Contract Changes 2023-2024, Benefit Contribution and Salary Schedules for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Years (First Read)

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. James Forsythe and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA)/Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) 2023-24 contract changes and the benefit contribution and salary schedules for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years as presented.

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

17.b Consideration of Approval of Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA)/Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) Contract Changes 2023- 2024, Benefit Contribution and Salary Schedules for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Years (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 to approve the Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA)/Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) 2023-24 contract changes and the benefit contribution and salary schedules for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years as presented.

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

17.c Consideration of Approval of Salary Schedule Increase for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Years Unless Otherwise Noted For the Following (First Read)

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Alicia LaVere and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the salary schedule increases for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years unless otherwise noted for the following: adult education employees, classified confidential employees, certificated hourly employees and walk-on coaches, classified management employees, certificated management employees, contracted management

employees, certificated substitute employees, and the certificated substitute incentive schedule as presented.

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

17.d Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Unified Education Association (VUEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - 2024 Summer School and 2024 Extended School Year Programs (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 VUSD and VUEA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2024 summer school and 2024 extended school year programs as presented.

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

17.e Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Ventura Education Support Professionals Association (VESPA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - 2024 Summer School and 2024 Extended School Year Programs (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 VUSD and VESPA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2024 summer school and 2024 extended school year programs as presented.

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

17.f Consideration of Revised Position - Assistant Director, Expanded Learning Programs (First Read)

It was moved by Alicia LaVere, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the revised position of Assistant Director, Expanded Learning Programs, as presented.

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

17.g Consideration of Revised Position - Director, Certificated Human Resources (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 position of Director, Classified Human Resources, 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

**18.a Site Specific Prop 28 Plans
Item 18.a was moved up in the agenda to proceed Item 14.a.**

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Greg Bayless, provided background information on the development of Prop 28 plans and noted many questions regarding Prop 28 are awaiting answers from the state. He also noted that VUSD has not yet received these funds.

VUSD Principals Ms. Deidre Monarres, Dr. Mike Wise, Ms. Courtney Johnson, and Ms. Karin Just, presented their site-specific plan, including data received from surveys sent out to their respective students and parents. Each plan included the process, outcomes, challenges, and opportunities for their respective sites.

The Board shared the following regarding the Prop 28 plans:

- The Board is concerned about the availability of the programs being offered during the regular school day, as many students may not be able to attend before or after school.
- The Board is concerned about all school sites having equity in their exposure to the arts.
- The Board shared that they would like the Arts Master Plan to be revised prior to the plans being created by the site principals, so that the sites had the vision of the district in mind when creating the plans.
- The Board would like to schedule a special board meeting to provide guidance for the Arts Master Plan.

The Board took a short recess from 7:34 p.m. to 7:43 p.m.

18.b Structured English Immersion (SEI): Proposed Programmatic Reduction

Executive Director of Educational Services, Dr. Soledad Molinar, reviewed the SEI Program at Montalvo and Sheridan Way Elementary Schools, which included current enrollment numbers per grade span. Dr. Molinar noted that due to the decline in program demand and interest, the expense of mainlining the SEI strands, and the increase in the number of combination classes, the district is proposing that for the 2024-2025 school year, SEI would be offered in grades 2-5 only, and each year moving forward the SEI program would phase out. Boundary students would be able to enroll in DLI or at a site where SEI is offered and is closest to their home address (Portola and EP Foster).

The Board requested that this item be brought back for a future conversation. There was Board consensus to accept the staff recommendations and to look into moving the timeframe up due to the low enrollment numbers.

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

19.a Ventura County Office of Education Quarter 2 Williams Report 2023-24 Fiscal Year

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Gina Wolowicz, shared the following findings from the 2023-24 Quarter 2 Williams Report:

1. Instructional Materials - All students in grades TK-12 have access to standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials in the four core subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, history/social science, science and additionally, in grade 9-12 foreign languages, health and appropriate science laboratory equipment.
2. Facilities - All classrooms and amenities are safe, clean, and functional.

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 5 – 0 to approve consent items 20 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

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

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

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

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 22.a Classified Position Changes
- 22.b Release of Probationary Classified Employee
- 22.c Classified Personnel Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 23.a Ratification of Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 23.b Ratification of Check Payments
- 23.c Donations to Ventura Unified School District and Schools
- 23.d Consideration of Cabrillo Middle School Mural

BOARD REPORTS

- Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez thanked Dr. Castro and the HR team for the amazing in-service day at Buena High School. Ms. Rodriguez noted her attendance at the following: General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Meeting, Ventura County School Board Association (VCSBA) Meeting, City/VUSD/Liaison Meeting, Mid-Town Community Council Meeting, Surplus Property Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, California School Board Association (CSBA) Board of Director's Meeting, and served as a judge at the Dancing with a Cougar Event.
- Trustee Alicia LaVere thanked staff and congratulated everyone regarding negotiations. She noted she attended a field trip with her daughter's class at Loma Vista to watch a Ventura Concert Band performance, the VCSBA Meeting, and the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting.
- Trustee James Forsythe congratulated the associations and shared that he attended the Westside Community Council Meeting.
- Trustee Calvin Peterson thanked the negotiations team. Mr. Peterson noted his attendance at the VCSBA Meeting and the VHS/BHS Girls Basketball game.
- Trustee Jerry Dannenberg thanked the negotiations and noted his attendance at the PAC Meeting.

COMING EVENTS

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro shared the following coming events:

- African American Parent Committee (AAPC) Meeting: February 15, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- District Holidays: February 16 & 19
- Special Board Meeting: February 20, 4:00 p.m.
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: February 23, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Teacher of the Month Celebration: February 28, 3:00 p.m. at Portola

Dr. Castro noted that due to change in personnel, the topic for the special board meeting on February 20 has been changed from the Historical Preservation of Washington School to the Bond Implementation Plan.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez shared that a VUSD music festival is taking place at VHS on March 23 and is free to the public.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- SBM - Bond: February 20, 2024

- SBM - CTE: March 26, 2024
- SBM - Washington School: TBD
- SBM - Arts Master Plan: TBD
- SBM - Superintendent Evaluation: TBD
- SBM - Board Self-Evaluation: TBD

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

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro thanked the negotiations team.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no reason to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. James Forsythe, seconded by Sabrena Rodriguez 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 February 27, 2024.

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

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

APPROVED *Jerry Dannenberg* President
 Antonio Castro Secretary