



MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME TO THE VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CLOSURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The School Closures Advisory Committee meetings, proceedings, and deliberations will be open to the public. Meetings have been scheduled from 5:30-8:30PM at the District Office in the Christa McAuliffe Room (Education Service Center, 255 W. Stanley Ave, Ventura, CA) as follows:

March 19, 2026
April 23, 2026
May 21, 2026
June 18, 2026
July 16, 2026
August 20, 2026
September 17, 2026

The School Closures Advisory Committee may consider and act on an agenda item in a different order or an item may be considered earlier or later than the estimated time. Additionally, discussion of the agenda items may be postponed to a future meeting. Any individual with a disability, who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in a School Closures Advisory Committee meeting, or any individual requiring an interpreter, may request assistance by emailing VUSDschoolscommittee@venturausd.org or by contacting the Business Services Office, 255 W. Stanley Ave., Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93001; (805)641-5000 ext. 1202.

POSTING INFORMATION

The agenda for regularly scheduled School Closures Advisory Committee meetings will be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting. The School Closures Advisory Committee Agenda is posted at the following locations:

Ventura Unified School District, Education Service Center (Always)
255 W. Stanley Avenue, Suite 100, Ventura, CA, (Guard shack)

This serves as the main posting location pursuant to the Brown Act, Government Code §54954.2(a)

District Webpage: <https://www.venturausd.org/about/committees/school-closure-committee>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were:

Stephanie Caldwell

Sara Cameron

Maruja Clensay
Kevin Corse
Jorge DeLeon
Evaristo Escoto
Oscar Gomez
Kathryn Heller
Kristin Ippolito
Melanie Lindsey
Sandy Lomeli Harrison
Peggy Maryanski
Sarah McLaughlin
Kathlyn Mundo- Garrafa
Carol Peek
Andrea Rodriguez
Sydney Traub
Emmanuel Velazquez
Annette Walters
Monica West
Stacey Whitaker

Absent:
Kevin Herrera
Jeanette Park

VUSD Support Staff:
Dr. Antonio Castro
Dr. Ahsan Mirza
Anthony Ramos
Marieanne Quiroz
Victoria Cortez

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Approval of the agenda.

Motion made by: Stephanie Caldwell
Motion seconded by: Sarah McLaughlin
Voting: Unanimously Approved

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals gave a public comment:

1. Ben Kohn raised concerns about academic performance, graduation rates, declining enrollment, CAASPP results, and fiscal issues. He also noted that his children have left the district.
2. Amber Thompson emphasized the importance and impact of the committee, highlighting the need for responsible stewardship, partnership, and collaboration. She shared that she is a parent of two and a candidate for School Board Trustee Area 4.

3. Ryan Denton discussed the committee's impact on families, noting he is a Lemon Grove parent. He raised concerns about data accuracy, demographics, enrollment trends, future staffing needs, and class sizes, and requested clarification on Homestead.
4. Darcy Duffy expressed concern about the timeline for potential school closures. As a parent of two in the district, she also raised concerns about enrollment data, special day class program changes, and school capacity. She encouraged reviewing LCAP data, grades 6–8 trends, and thinking creatively.

V. CONFERENCE

i. Introductions and Purpose of Committee

The committee members and staff introduced themselves and shared why they are interested in serving on this committee.

ii. Presentation of Meeting 1 and Discussion of Scoring Criteria and Methodology

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ahsan Mirza presented information regarding the School Closures Advisory Committee, including its responsibilities, roles, group norms, code of conduct, expectations, compliance with the Brown Act, and an overview of the school sites under consideration for closure.

Anthony Ramos, Legal Counsel, provided a more detailed update on the Brown Act and Form 700 requirements.

The Scoring Criteria, developed by School Services of California, was also presented to the committee. There was consensus on the scoring methodology.

Dr. Castro advised the committee that the School Board has given direction to exclude Buena High School and Ventura High School from the closure process, and they will not be considered for closure.

Dr. Mirza reviewed the unduplicated percentages and the ethnic and race percentages of each school.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

i. Selection of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Committee

Three members were nominated for the position of Committee Chairperson: Jorge DeLeon, Peggy Maryanski, and Sydney Traub. Following three rounds of voting, Peggy Maryanski was appointed as Chairperson.

Motion made by: Stacey Whitaker

Motion seconded by: Jorge DeLeon

Voting: Unanimously Approved

One member, Sydney Traub, was nominated for the position of Vice Chairperson of the committee. By vote of the committee, Sydney Traub was appointed to serve as Vice Chairperson.

Motion made by: Carol Peek

Motion seconded by: Peggy Maryanski

Voting: Unanimously Approved

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff shared the dates for the following two meetings held on 4/23/26 regarding the demographics and 5/21/26 regarding facilities.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Motion made by: Sarah McLaughlin

Motion seconded by: Stephanie Caldwell

Voting: Unanimously Approved