



MEETING MINUTES

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**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:

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 Web page: <https://www.venturausd.org/about/committees/school-closure-committee>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:33pm

II. ROLL CALL

Those in attendance were:

Toni Badone
Stephanie Caldwell
Sara Cameron
Amy Coccia
Jorge DeLeon
Evaristo Escoto
Oscar Gomez
Kathryn Heller
Kevin Herrera
Kristin Ippolito
Melanie Lindsey
Sandy Lomeli Harrison
Peggy Maryanski
Sarah McLaughlin
Carol Peek
Andrea Rodriguez
Emmanuel Velazquez

Annette Walters
Monica West
Stacey Whitaker

Absent:
Maruja Clensay
Kathlyn Mundo-Garrafa
Sydney Traub

School Services of California Vice President:
Brianna García

VUSD Support Staff:
Dr. Antonio Castro
Dr. Ahsan Mirza
Dr. Greg Bayless
Joseph Burnell
Ryan Hughes
Karin Just
Deidre Monarres
Marieanne Quiroz
Eric Reynolds
Marina Verdian
Neil Virani
Victoria Cortez

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Approval of the agenda.

Motion made by: Melanie Lindsey

Motion seconded by: Stephanie Caldwell

Voting: Unanimously Approved

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals gave public comment:

1. Darcy Duffy, a parent, teacher, and former student asked the committee to prioritize neighborhood access, preserve K–8 choices, and maintain Foothill Technology High School, emphasizing the importance of minimizing disruption to students, families, and established programs.
2. Ashley Pope, a parent, resident, and student advocate encouraged the committee to balance equity and access with the need to right-size the district through meaningful consolidation, so that limited resources can be redirected toward stronger programs, staffing, innovation, and opportunities for students.

V. CONFERENCE

i. Follow Up Items from Fiscal Meeting

The Committee requested data regarding traffic collisions and crime in the vicinity of school sites. The Committee was provided with a link to the web map displaying traffic collision and crime data, as well as supporting documentation from the Transportation Injury Mapping Systems (TIMS).

VI. CONSENT

i. Consideration of committee minutes.

Approval of the minutes.

Motion made by: Stephanie Caldwell

Motion seconded by: Toni Badone

Voting: Unanimously Approved

ii. Scoring and Ranking of School Sites

The Committee was divided into four groups (Spades, Diamonds, Clubs, and Hearts) to identify and prioritize elementary schools for continued consideration. Each group selected a spokesperson to present its recommendations and the factors considered.

First Round of Prioritization:

Group	Preliminary Elementary- School Prioritization
Spades	1. Lincoln; 2. Pierpont; 3. ATLAS; 4. Mound; 5. Elmhurst; 6. Lemon Grove; 7. J. Serra
Diamonds	1. Sheridan Way; 2. ATLAS; 3. Will Rogers; 4. Juanamaria; 5. Poinsettia
Clubs	1. Sheridan Way; 2. Will Rogers; 3. J. Serra
Hearts	1. Mound; 2. Lincoln; 3. Poinsettia; 4. Will Rogers

Second Round of Prioritization:

After the initial discussion, the groups conducted a second, more focused round of prioritization using the reduced list, with Will Rogers already identified as a school to recommend.

Group	Second Round- School Prioritization
Spades	1. Lincoln; 2. Pierpont; 3. ATLAS; 4. Mound
Diamonds	1. Sheridan Way; 2. ATLAS; 3. Juanamaria; 4. Poinsettia
Clubs	1. Sheridan Way; 2. Junipero Serra; 3. Elmhurst
Hearts	1. Mound; 2. Lincoln; 3. Poinsettia

The Committee agreed to resume elementary school deliberations on September 17, 2026, using the reduced list and seeking further consensus. Staff will provide middle and high school data in advance, and the elementary analysis may be revisited following those discussions.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM.