



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. This meeting has been scheduled from 5:30–8:30PM at the Ventura College Wright Center (4667 Telegraph Rd, Ventura, CA 93003) as follows:
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 5:31pm

II. ROLL CALL

Chairperson, Peggy Maryanski, addressed the Committee and the public regarding the resignations of members and the addition of an alternate.

Those in attendance were:

Toni Badone
Stephanie Caldwell
Sara Cameron
Maruja Clensay
Amy Coccia

Jorge DeLeon
Evaristo Escoto
Oscar Gomez
Kathryn Heller
Kevin Herrera
Kristin Ippolito
Melanie Lindsey
Sandy Lomeli Harrison
Peggy Maryanski
Kathlyn Mundo-Garrafa
Andrea Rodriguez
Candace Schmidt
Emmanuel Velazquez
Annette Walters
Monica West
Stacey Whitaker

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
Arie Wiberg
Victoria Cortez

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the amendment of changing all roll-call votes to include Candace Schmidt.

Motion made by: Melanie Lindsey

Motion seconded by: Stacey Whitaker

Voting: Unanimously Approved

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals gave public comment:

1. Ashley Pope: Encouraged the committee to consider the district as a whole and balance school preservation with student opportunities.
2. Laura Ricchiazzi: Highlighted Lincoln's enrollment potential, cost efficiency, facility condition, and strong community needs.
3. Craig Rohlring: Highlighted Lincoln's small-school environment, positive family experiences, transfers, and cost efficiency.
4. Dr. Nate Carroll: Highlighted Will Rogers' enrollment, financial efficiency, transfer students, and dual-language program.
5. Mary Carmen Hernandez: Highlighted Will Rogers' enrollment, transfers, diversity, and dual-language program.
6. Maria Archiga: Highlighted Will Rogers' strong enrollment, popularity, and two-way immersion program.
7. Sabrina Clifford: Highlighted Will Rogers' strong community, cultural diversity, and dual-immersion program.
8. Daniel Flores: Encouraged consideration of Will Rogers' language-acquisition trajectory and two-way immersion program in the evaluation.
9. Tasha Salas: Highlighted Lincoln's importance to families and students receiving special and counseling services.
10. Ashten O'Malley: Highlighted Junipero Serra's available capacity, balanced demographics, and ability to accommodate additional students.
11. Michelle Glenn: Highlighted Serra's available land, capacity, and potential to support students from other schools.
12. Darcy Duffy: Encouraged protecting neighborhood and K-8 schools while considering student placement and opportunities.
13. Brinda Shaw and Jessica Toren: Highlighted Poinsettia's strong academic performance, recognition, and student growth.
14. Guadalupe Alpuche: Highlighted Sheridan Way's student needs, Title I resources, dual-language program, and walkability.
15. Eric Berquist: Encouraged consideration of future housing development and potential enrollment growth in the Juanamaria area.
16. Jessica Tong: Highlighted ATLAS' strong performance and encouraged consistent application of the evaluation criteria.
17. Andrea Chavez: Encouraged a consistent, thorough process supported by accurate data and sufficient deliberation time.

18. Kim Prillhart: Highlighted Foothill's educational opportunities and encouraged consideration of enrollment and financial impacts.
19. Felix Rodriguez: Highlighted Sheridan Way's strong community needs and the importance of accessible neighborhood schools.
20. Diana Hernandez: Encouraged consideration of federal funding opportunities to support Sheridan Way.
21. David Hernandez: Highlighted ATLAS' approximately 68% capacity utilization and the variety of programs using its classrooms.
22. Chrystal Tipping: Highlighted ATLAS' strong enrollment and potential future growth in the area.
23. Katherine Peik: Encouraged consideration of alternatives to closure and the long-term educational impact on underserved communities.
24. Andrea Taylor: Highlighted Foothill's strong outcomes, educational opportunities, and family choice.
25. Scott Corwin: Highlighted the specialized nature of Will Rogers' two-way immersion program and encouraged review of projected savings.
26. Merrill Whatley: Highlighted Foothill's strong academic reputation, college preparation, and educational opportunities.

V. CONSENT

i. Consideration of committee minutes.

Approval of the minutes with amended ranking scores for Second Round School Prioritization for Clubs group.

Motion made by: Stephanie Caldwell

Motion seconded by: Toni Badone

Voting: Unanimously Approved

VI. CONFERENCE

i. Scoring and Ranking of School Sites

The Committee adopted a school-by-school process. Each group discussed one campus for approximately five minutes, stated whether it should remain under consideration, and briefly explained its reasons. The Committee completed discussion of a portion of the working list.

	Hearts	Clubs	Diamonds	Spades
ATLAS	off	off	off	on
Elmhurst	on	-	off	off

EP Foster	on	on	off	-
Juanamaria	on	-	on	off
Junipero Serra				
Lemon Grove				
Lincoln				
Mound				
Pierpont				
Poinsettia				
Portola				
Sheridan Way	off	off	-	-
Will Rogers				

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee agreed to be polled for availability to schedule additional meeting(s).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM.