

**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

The Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District met on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 in the Albert Einstein Room located at 255 W. Stanley Avenue, Suite 100 Ventura, California. President Sabrena Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Those in attendance:

President:	Mrs. Sabrena Rodriguez
Vice President	Mrs. Jackie Moran
Board Member:	Mrs. Velma Lomax
Board Member:	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent:	Dr. Roger Rice

President Rodriguez led the pledge of allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Dannenberg, seconded by Mrs. Moran and carried on a roll call vote 5 – 0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Dannenberg, Almaraz, Lomax, Moran, Rodriguez

Noes: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Public Comment

Ms. Deborah Meyer-Morris regarding the proposed California Department of Education Ethnic and Social Justice Studies curriculum that leaves out the Jewish as an ethnic group.

REGULAR SESSION

Academic Achievement and Student Outcomes

District staff from the Educational Services Division provided the Board with information taken from the the state Dashboard system as to student outcomes noted in the state's new accountability system. The areas for discussion: Priority 4: Student Achievement, English Language Arts; Priority 5: Student Engagement; and Priority 6: School Climate.

Priority 4: Student Achievement, English Language Arts:

Between 2015 and 2019 “all student” elementary rates have increased, and generally have exceeded the state and county’s overall rates. The Hispanic/Latino and (EL) English Language rates have also exceeded the county and states. The (SED) Severely Emotionally Disturbed, and (SWD) Students with Disability group rates have not shown an increase and are lower than the county and state.

In the secondary level, the 5-year “all student” trend rates have increased. The White and Hispanic/Latino rate have exceeded those of the county and the state, the SED, EL and SWD student group rates were lower. In 2019, 11 grade “all student” rates rebounded back to 2017 levels after a substantial decline in 2018. The 6th grade “all student” grade level rate declined substantially, and only one SED middle school student group increased, and thus concerning achievement gaps in these student groups persist.

The Education Service department highlighted the current programs and actions in place to improve “all student” achievement. They included curriculum guides, professional development for elementary teachers and increase in use of instructional strategies that reach all students. In

the secondary level, the goal is to improve course placement, protocols, procedures, with on going professional development and to enhance summer ELA skill development support programs.

Priority 5: Student Engagement:

The data shared with the board represented the four-year cohort graduation rate only, and did not include the DASS one-year graduation rate used for alternative schools like Pacific High School. VUSD's "all student" and student groups (e.g. SWD, EL White, etc.) graduation rates have consistently exceeded those of the county and state during the last three years. However, significant differences in the graduation rates among VUSD's student groups and large disparities between the "all student" rate and the student group rates exist, which parallels the disparities in the state.

A list of current programs and actions were shared to include; summer session/offerings, piloting new online/digital coursework platform for credit recovery, ethnic studies/social justice, focus on social emotional learning initiatives and SAP counseling programs. The next steps for improvement include expansion of credit recovery course access at comprehensive high schools during the school year, expand alternative education options, improve math interventions during the year to prevent F's, professional development for the special education faculty.

Priority 6: School Climate:

The data shared with the Board in regards to school climate reflects a steady decline in suspensions, and a major decrease in defiance suspensions. Overall, it is believed that the decrease in suspensions is due to staff professional development, alternatives to suspension, and restorative practices. However, it was noted that the data reflects that the Hispanic/Latino students are suspended at a much higher rate. VUSD will continue the work to create positive school culture, focus on social emotional learning, develop educational options, and continue the emphasis on social justice and alternatives to suspension.

Long Range Facilities Master Plan

Mrs. Betsy George, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Department led the continued discussion, from the July 23, 2019 Board study session on the Long Range Facilities Master Plan. A map (attached to official minutes) was provided to the Board listing all district property owned to include vacant and leased. Also, the Board received the list of surveyed school and site improvement project needs in the amount of \$450,237,322. The Board was asked to review the list of school site project improvement needs and provide their priority input to Mrs. George.

Mrs. Rodriguez noted that air conditioning projects included the much needed East end schools and also some West end schools. Dr. Dannenberg noted his support for projects related to the health, safety, and security needs. Mrs. Lomax noted needs for the Sunset roof, drinking fountains, parking asphalt repairs, and the snack bar at Ventura High School. In regards to the Health needs, Board member Almaraz expressed concerns regarding the school emergency first aid supplies. Mrs. George responded to the question regarding school solar panel shade structures and noted that there is no significant cost savings.

Dr. Rice noted that in regards to the vacant or leased property options, those could potentially be used for alternative education, innovation lab, teacher housing, community use and other possible educational needs. However, there are concerns with those that are restricted to city and government codes.

CONSENT

It was moved by Mrs. Lomax, seconded by Mr. Almaraz and carried on a roll call vote 5 – 0 to approve consent item #1 - #2 as presented.

Ayes: Dannenberg, Almaraz, Lomax, Moran, Rodriguez

Noes: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

1. **Overnight and Out of the Tri-County Fieldtrip**

Foothill Technology High School requested permission to send 21 students and 3 chaperones from their Boys' and Girls' Cross Country team to travel overnight and out of the tri-county to a team camp to be held at Jalama Beach County Park in Lompoc, CA Santa Barbara County. The trip will take place on August 12-13, 2019.

2. **Ratification of District's Approval of Resignations & Retirements for Certificated Personnel**

Last Name	First	School	Position	Effective	Last Work Day	Reason
Wantz	Melissa	Cabrillo MS	Teacher	8-2-19	6-14-19	Other Position
Harvill	Lisa	Foothill HS	Asst. Principal	8-31-19	8-30-19	Retirement
Avila	Aurora	Sheridan Way	Counselor	7-31-19	6-13-19	Other Position

ADJOURNMENT

At 4 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Moran, seconded by Dr. Dannenberg and carried on a roll call vote of 5 – 0, that the Board adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

Ayes: Dannenberg, Almaraz, Lomax, Moran, Rodriguez

Noes: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

APPROVED

_____ President

_____ Secretary