

VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA
December 12, 2017
Education Service Center – Einstein Room
255 W. Stanley Ave., Suite 100
Ventura, CA 93001

The Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District as allowed per Government Code 54956.5 and requirements of the Brown Act noticed need for an emergency meeting. Vice President John Walker stated that due to the devastating impact of the Thomas Fire to the community, public facilities, endangerment of public health, and most important the safety of its students and employees, the meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Attendance Taken:

President:	Velma Lomax - Absent
Vice President:	John B. Walker
Board Member:	Mary Haffner
Board Member:	Jackie Moran – Late to meeting.
Board Member	Sabrena Rodriguez
Superintendent:	David C. Creswell
Deputy Superintendent:	Mr. Richards
Assist. Supt. Certificated HR:	Jeff Davis
Legal Counsel	Anthony Ramos

Vice President Walker led the pledge of allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Haffner, seconded by Mrs. Rodriguez and carried on a roll call vote 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Rodriguez, Haffner, Walker and Moran

Noes: None. **Absent:** Lomax. **Abstain:** None.

Public Comment - None

SPECIAL EMERGENCY SESSION – Einstein Room

Discussion/Action

It was moved by Mrs. Moran, seconded by Mrs. Rodriguez and carried on a roll call vote 4-0 that the powerful Thomas Fire, a crippling disaster has impacted, impaired the public health and safety to the residence of the County of Ventura, to include the students and staff of the District.

Ayes: Rodriguez, Haffner, Walker and Moran

Noes: None. **Absent:** Lomax. **Abstain:** None.

Superintendent noted needed discussion of discretionary items including consideration of school opening on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 related to the Ventura Unified School District emergency situation, commonly referred to as the Thomas Fire, involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, endangerment of public health, and/or safety, as allowed by Government Code Section 54956.5

Superintendent Creswell updated the Board on the recent developments and impact of the Thomas Fire. He noted that many homes have been destroyed or damaged in the upper Poli/Foothill areas displacing many into temporary living arrangements or into shelters.

What we do know at this time:

- State of Emergency Declared for Ventura County.
- The fire cannot be contained due to strong wind-driven movement and intensity critical.
- Eight school sites under area of mandatory evacuation.
- Like VUSD, many schools throughout the Ventura County continue to remain closed.
- Air Quality throughout the City impacted by the fire, and breathing masks have been made available to county residents.
- The Casitas Municipal Water District warned City residents to boil tap water before drinking/cooking for areas of upper Ojai Valley, Casitas Springs, Foster Park and the City of Ventura.
- Schools and buildings smell of smoke and outside areas contain ash and debris.
- Communication was made with the Santa Rosa Unified School District regarding protocol and procedures they took during their devastating fire.
- Volunteers from the facilities department working to inspect all sites and clean as determined.
- Due to Power Outages Food and Nutrition Services to determine the ability to feed students.
- Transportation may need to reroute pick-up & drop-off locations near the destroyed fire areas.
- Human Resources is looking into the possible shortage number of teachers and support staff who cannot return to work, and preparing for manpower coverage.
- A district committee, to include counselors and psychologist working with District personnel to plan a reentry procedure to help students and staff with emotional and social support.
- A needs assessment survey form created that will help gather information to determine needs of students and staff impacted by fire.
- Prior to opening any school, recommendation is to hire environmental hygienist to provide district with expert opinion as to the air quality and cleanliness in all sites and determine the positive or negative impact to the well-being of all.

Superintendent Creswell felt strongly that there is very little upside and a huge downside in opening schools. He noted constant communication with the Ventura County Fire Marshall, Ventura Police Department, and County Emergency Agencies.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Haffner and carried on a roll call vote 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Ayes: Rodriguez, Haffner, Walker and Moran

Noes: None. **Absent:** Lomax. **Abstain:** None.

APPROVED

_____ President

_____ Secretary