

**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, April 2, 2020
MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Ventura Unified School District met on Thursday, April 2, 2020, at Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, Ron Halt Classroom and via Teleconference, 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura, CA 93003. President Sabrena Rodriguez called the special meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

President:	Mrs. Sabrena Rodriguez
Vice President:	Mrs. Jackie Moran
Board Member:	Mrs. Velma Lomax – Remotely
Board Member:	Mr. Matt Almaraz – Remotely
Board Member:	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent:	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst.Supt./Business	Mrs. Betsy George
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services:	Dr. Danielle Cortes
Asst. Supt. Certificated HR	Dr. Jeff Davis – Remotely
General Counsel:	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved Trustee Dannenberg, seconded by Trustee Lomax and carried on a roll call vote of 5 - 0 to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Dannenberg, Almaraz, Lomax, Moran, Rodriguez

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Public Comments- Via Email

Mr. John Walker asked if there would be an alternative graduation date or if it will be rescheduled for our high school seniors.

REGULAR SESSION

1. **Schools Closure Update**

Dr. Rice informed the Board of Education that all the school campuses will be closed for the rest of the school year based on the recommendation from California Governor Gavin Newsom and California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond to help stop the spread of Covid-19. Student instruction will continue with Distance Learning and the programs that will be used are Edgenuity and Canvas. Teachers are working very hard to engage students and are working on customizing their curriculum to meet their classroom needs via Edgenuity and Canvas. Currently, there are 9000 students enrolled in Distance Learning and 77% of courses have been started and 23% have not. School staff in conjunction with Student Support Services are working together to reach out to the students that have not yet begun their online schoolwork.

The district is currently waiting to hear from the California Department of Education, the UCs, the CSUs, and others to provide the district guidance with regard to grades, testing, and graduation. Once the district hears back, our high school seniors will be helped by their teachers and counselors to navigate through this trying time, as they prepare to graduate from high school and get ready for college.

Ms. Betsy George and Ms. Kara Muniz updated the Board of Education on food distribution to students. It was noted that between 2500-3000 meals are being served per day. The district did a survey and it resulted that 70% of parents would prefer to pick up food once a week in an effort to help stop the spread of Covid-19. The once a week food distribution will come with its challenges such as the amount and weight of food, parents not being able to show up on that particular date, crowd control, and running out of food. Until a final decision is made, food will continue to be served five days a week, with the exception of Spring Break, at which time food will be distributed one day, Monday, April 6th, to give district staff a break.

2. **Budget Study Session/Presentation**

Dr. Davis and Mrs. Crouch updated the Board on the staff that is working remotely or that is on a rotating weekly schedule. Dr. Davis also reported that because of SB 117 all staff that is scheduled to be working are being paid their full salary. Board President Rodriguez thanked Eric Reynolds and the Technology Department for helping the staff that is working remotely.

Ms. Betsy George presented budget scenarios that showed the budget shortfall for VUSD. This is due to declining enrollment, increasing cost of health and welfare benefits, staff step salary increases, and no cost of living increase. In order to balance the budget immediate reductions need to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved Trustee Moran, seconded by Trustee Lomax and carried on a roll call vote of 5 - 0 to go to closed session to discuss conference with labor negotiators and public employee performance.

Ayes: Dannenberg, Almaraz, Lomax, Moran, Rodriguez

Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:00 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Almaraz, seconded by Trustee Moran and carried on a roll call vote of 5-0, that the Board adjourn to the next regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Ayes: Dannenberg, Almaraz, Lomax, Moran, Rodriguez

Noes: None. Absent: None Abstain: None

APPROVED

_____President

_____Secretary