



**VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 25, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

In accordance with Governor Newsom's executive orders of social distancing due to the COVID-19, the Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, as a teleconference/video conference meeting where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment via the public comments email address or live via the Zoom platform. The public streaming of the special Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Velma Lomax
Board Vice President	Mr. Matt Almaraz*
Board Member	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst. Supt. /Certificated HR	Dr. Jeff Davis
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
Asst. Supt. /Ed. Services	Dr. Antonio Castro
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve as Amended the agenda, moving item # 15.a to the beginning of the Regular Session.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Matt Almaraz. Abstain: None.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: Mr. Matt Almaraz. Abstain: None.

*Trustee Matt Almaraz was absent for the first two votes.

REGULAR SESSION - Ron Halt Classroom - 7:00 p.m.

At 7:04 p.m., Board President Velma Lomax called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Public Employment/Appointment, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b), of Petra McCullough as the new Assistant Principal of Anacapa Middle School for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve Public Employment/Appointment, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b), of Jenee Wilcox as the new Assistant Principal of Balboa Middle School for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Superintendent's Report

11.a Good News

Dr. Rice introduced Dr. Audrey Asplund, the new Principal of Buena High School for the upcoming 2021- 22 school year. Dr. Asplund thanked Dr. Rice and the Board and shared that she is honored to be joining the VUSD team.

Dr. Rice gave a shout out to all scholarship award recipients from the Rotary Clubs and Optimist Club of Ventura.

Student Board Members Ms. Dailyn Thompson (sub for Elizabeth Ferris) representing Foothill High School, Mr. Emanuelle De Jesus representing Pacific High School, and Ms. Carys Garvey representing El Camino High School, gave updates on the exciting things happening at their school sites. During this meeting, Dr. Rice presented the Student Board Members with a plaque in appreciation and recognition of excellent service. The respective principals then took a moment to thank the students for their service.

Dr. Rice shared the exciting news regarding Ventura County's COVID-19 numbers, with a positivity rate of 0.7% and a case rate of 1.5 per 100,000, moving us into the Yellow.

Dr. Rice thanked Ventura County Public Health for working with VUSD to put on a vaccine clinic at DATA Middle School this Friday, May 28.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment via e-mail or live via Zoom*:

- Brenda Holmes asking the Board to use SRO funds in other ways to help students.
- Lucky Lynch asking the Board to reallocate SRO funds.
- Allen Chinn urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Gale Naylor urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Alissa Charvonja urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Silvia Garcia Hutchins urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Helena Pasquarella urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Lauren Cohen asking the Board to remove the mask mandate for younger students during recess.
- Daniel Wilson urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Daniela Contreras urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Stephanie Sullivan urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- Lynsey requesting that the Board remove the mask mandate for the students
- Trinity Durborow asking the Board to dismantle the SRO's and invest in mental health resources.

- Nicolette Walker-Itza urging the Board to reconsider the presence of SRO's on campuses.
- *Alex Garcia urging the Board reallocate funds for SRO's.
- *Carol Peek gave a shout out to all VUSD Education Support Professional's and reminded everyone how important their positions are.
- *Daniel Wilson urging the Board to reallocate SRO funds to counseling needs.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

14.a Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Plan for Expelled Students Triennial Update June 2021-2024 (Action Requested)

Ms. Cynthia Frutos, Director of Student Support Services, shared that the VCOE Plan for Expelled Students is a county collaboration with input from every district provided, that is updated every three years. Ms. Frutos noted that the new plan includes a COVID-19 plan for student learning at Gateway School, a transition plan for students to and from Gateway, and notes a disproportionate number of students of color are expelled from districts. The entire plan can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gXS2cqtzsoleSg02YHqkYsug4QiCCtTK/view>.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Ventura County Office of Education plan for Expelled Students Triennial Update June 2021-2024.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

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

14.b Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan (Action Requested)

Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, gave an update on the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant Plan. The ELO Grant Plan explains how the local educational agency (VUSD) will use the funds it receives to implement a learning recovery program for students in at least one of the following categories: low-income students, English learners, foster youth, homeless students, students with disabilities, students at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation, disengaged students, and students who are below grade level. Within the ELO Grant Plan, Dr. Castro listed an expenditure plan for the over ten millions dollars VUSD will be receiving.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

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

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

15.a Presentation of Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20

Ms. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, introduced Mr. Taylor Ullrich, a representative of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP of Glendora California, to present a formal presentation of the Audit Report. Mr. Ullrich reported that financial statements taken as a whole *present fairly* the financial position in conformity with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principals).

CONFERENCE - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

16.a Reduction in Classified Positions/Layoff of Classified Employees, 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (Action Requested)

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the reductions of identified classified positions and authorize the issuance of layoff notices for the Classified Incumbents.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the consent items #17 - 21 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg

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

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- 17.a Administrative Recommendation to Waive Board Policy 6146.1

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

- 18.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2020-21 School Year
- 18.b Ratification of Administration's Approval of Resignations, Retirements and Release for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year
- 18.c Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year
- 18.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2020-21 School Year

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Classified

- 19.a Classified Personnel Changes
- 19.b Classified Position Changes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

- 20.a Award of Bid C4-22 Buena and Ventura High School Pool Deck Repairs
- 20.b Resolution #21-12, Implementing Prequalification of Construction Contractors Utilizing Quality Bidders Questionnaire
- 20.c Gifts to School District
- 20.d Ratification of Purchase Orders (April 28, 2021 to May 11, 2021)

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

- 21.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg attended the celebration for the English Learner (EL) students at Buena High School and recognized the hard work and dedication of the teachers and students in the program. Dr. Dannenberg also attended the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) meeting and the Eastside Community Council meeting.

Trustee Amy Callahan attended the LCAP meeting and encouraged parents and community members to please join in future meetings. Ms. Callahan attended the Special Study Session on Learning Loss and in participation of our next Special Board meeting, met with Luan Rivera from the California School Board Association (CSBA). Tomorrow, Ms. Callahan will be attending the 2021 California African American Superintendent's Association Professional Development conference in San Diego.

Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez attended the CSBA Delegate Assembly and State Board of Directors meeting. Ms. Rodriguez attended the Elmhurst Counselor Advisory Group meeting and was impressed to hear the in-class engagement opportunities that the counselor has had with the students. She attended the VUSD/College/City Liaison meeting where they discussed the Ventura College Master Plan, declining enrollment, So Cal Gas, the Sister City program, and how to build stronger relationships with Cal State University Channel Islands. Ms. Rodriguez also attended the Special Education Department Advisory Committee (SEDAC) meeting with a guest speaker from the ICANN project at Ventura College. Lastly, Ms. Rodriguez visited Foothill Technology High School this past Friday where they had an air guitar performance as well as a String Ensemble concert at Ventura High School.

Trustee Matt Almaraz attended the CSBA Delegate Assembly meeting, the first one as an elected delegate. He watched a recording of the SEDAC meeting & Teacher of the Month celebration at Sunset for Ms. Hudspeth and gave a shout out to the Chamber of Commerce. He attended the Special Study Session on May 13. Mr. Almaraz encouraged everyone to join the California Department of Education Facebook page where you can find wonderful resources. Mr. Almaraz watched a presentation from the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) that helped audience members learn about warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if you or a loved one are showing symptoms. He noted that the CDE shared the need for greater diversity in STEM education. Mr. Almaraz attended the recent Mental Health Committee meetings as well as the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA).

COMING EVENTS

- Teacher of the Month Celebration: May 27th at 3:00 p.m. – Ventura High School
- Ventura County Indian Education Honoring Celebration: May 27th at 5:30 p.m.
- Senior Award Nights:
 - Foothill: May 27th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Ventura: June 2nd at 6:00 p.m.
 - Buena: June 3rd at 6:00 p.m.
 - El Camino: June 4th at 6:30 p.m.
- High School Graduations:
 - Buena: June 9th at 3:00 p.m.
 - Ventura: June 10th at 3:00 p.m.
 - Foothill: June 11th at 10:00 a.m.
 - El Camino: June 11th at 1:00 p.m.
 - Pacific: June 11th at 3:30 p.m.
 - VACE: June 11th at 5:30 p.m.

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Fall Re-Opening
- Study Session on District Property - July
- Facilities Update - July
- Reviewing Board Policy - Naming of Facilities - July
- HR Updates

Trustee Dr. Dannenberg would like to agendize the School Resource Officers (SRO's) program. There was Board consensus to bring this back as an agendized item at a future regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Trustee Amy Callahan would like to have a Board Study Session regarding the budget. There was Board consensus to hold a Special Study Session on this topic during July. Trustee Lomax added that she would also like to discuss another Bond Measure during that time.

Trustee Matt Almaraz is interested in how our community will be able to access our facilities once we are in the yellow tier and would like additional information in a Friday Board Letter. There was Board consensus to discuss Use of Facilities at a future regularly scheduled Board meeting.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS - (No official action will be taken)

Trustee Callahan thanked the Crosby Living Trust for their \$50,400 donation.

Trustee Rodriguez thanked everyone for working so hard to make the end of the year events so fun.

Trustee Almaraz noted that CSBA President, Ms. Suzanne Kitchens, had to step down due to health reasons and shared that her family is in his thoughts and prayers. Mr. Almaraz also shared that community member, Ms. Yolanda Mowad, who has done tremendous things for nurses in our community, lost her battle with cancer he shared that her family will also be in his thoughts and prayers. Lastly, he shared that his parents just had their 18th grandchild.

Dr. Rice echoed Trustee Rodriguez regarding how exciting it has been to see all the fun events happening on out campuses. Dr. Rice shared that along with Mr. Brett Taylor, he enjoyed the wind ensemble concert at Ventura High School. He congratulated Ms. Kelly Herrera for the tremendous job she did celebrating the EL students at Buena. Lastly, he attended the Teacher of the Month celebration at Sunset where Ms. Suzanne Hudspeth was honored. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce for being a wonderful community partner.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need to go back in to Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m. to the next Regular Board meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 8, 2021.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

APPROVED



President



Secretary